

# *canadian bridge digest*

CANADIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION  
FEDERATION CANADIENNE DE BRIDGE



NOVA SCOTIA  
NOUVELLE-ECOSSE



YUKON



TERRE-NEUVE  
NEWFOUNDLAND



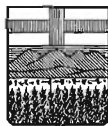
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND  
ILE DU PRINCE-EDOUARD



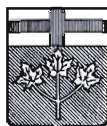
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# Canadian Bridge Digest

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Jill  
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# Editor's Notebook

It's been a long time since I opened my mouth and changed feet ... so here goes. There's been a lot of discussion lately about novice players, psyching, alerts, conventions and professional bridge players. Let's assimilate them in some sort of orderly fashion.

First, novice players are here to stay. As soon as one graduates to the intermediate level, along comes a new novice. So, it's about time we made some compromises to accommodate them. One thing I've always believed is that it should be permissible to terminate someone who psyches against a new player, or one with less than twenty points. Permissible, hell, it should be mandatory. How are we to distinguish such players you ask? Well, I have an answer to that, too. Blue dots. Novice players should be permitted to place blue dots beside their name on the convention card. In this manner players would be alerted to the fact that their opponent has less than twenty points and psyching against such players is unethical and disciplinary action could result. Personally, I like Edmonton's Mike Chomyn's philosophy on the subject. To quote Mike "I only psych against players who are better than I am". Ergo, he rarely psychs.

Next, conventions and alerts. The most humungous annoyance for me is when questioning an alert and the opponent replies "Jupiter Swiss", "Martian Diamond or Pluto Pre-empt". What I want is the meaning of the bid not the planet where it originated. Now, to my favorite subject, the professional bridge player. I met one once who was very nice. One thing which must be thoroughly understood is that the person who hires the professional becomes in fact, his employer, and therefore responsible for the actions of said professional at the table. If belligerent or ungentlemanly actions occur it is up to the employer to either discipline his employee, or terminate his service. How many of us would let our employees speak to us in a discourteous manner??? Pay masters therefore must exercise their responsibilities.

In closing, may I add this to that ... remember good humor makes many things tolerable, some even enjoyable ...

Know how to tell a pseudo expert from a real one?

Ruined another one of my jokes, eh ...

Yes, as a matter of fact I do. A Pseudo Expert is one who opens his mouth and closes his mind.



# Flags and Scrambles

(by Eric Kokish, George Mittelman and Allan Graves)

Hello out there. We've been locked in this cellar for two weeks. Just the three of us. No fourth, you see. Wouldn't have mattered, really. No deck of cards either. Still, we three are lovers of the game. Bridge, that is. What do three bridge lovers do when they're locked in a cellar? They talk about bridge, of course.

Continued from last issue

## THE MAJOR-MINOR CAMPAIGN: REQUIREMENTS

Once opener fails to SUPERFLAG responder's major, responder is faced with a borderline decision on many hands: should he introduce a minor suit or simply continue with 3NT over opener's transfer "acceptance" to 3M (M=H/S)? The danger in bidding beyond 3NT with a marginal hand is usually only too clear- 3NT might have been the last plus. To settle for 3NT, however, might be to preclude a slam or better game in the minor suit. We had hoped to be able to spell out some firm rules for responder to follow in close cases but we soon realized that many of these decisions are personal things. In a pinch each of the following hands might well transfer to the major and bid the minor ...

(a) S -                      (b) S Q10874  
H K108765                  H 3  
D 43                          D 2  
C QJ765                      C KJ9872

(c) S 108752                (d) S 3  
H K                            H KQ432  
D Q109754                  D 54  
C 3                              C K10942

(e) S K108543              (f) S KJ972  
H 32                            H Q87  
D K984                        D K1065  
C 5                              C 3

(g) S 7                      (h) S AJ762  
H AQ1042                  H 4  
D 754                        D QJ95  
C K764                      C Q76

(i) S Q10865                (j) S 3  
H K104                        H QJ972  
D KJ65                        D 652  
C 9                              C AQ87

(k) S K2                    (l) S 43  
H Q10982                  H AJ1053  
D A1074                      D K1095  
C 64                            C 75

As we said earlier, we feel that 5332 hands are best handled with something like CONFI or perhaps even Baron (search for suits upwards). We feel that 5422 hands are in the same family and should usually be left out of his major-minor adventure. Still, most pairs have not adopted CONFI (it seems intimidating although it certainly is not complicated) and so 5422 hands are part of the present sample. We can state from the outset, though, that 5422 hands like (k) and (l) should usually contain at least 3 controls (or lots of extra highcard content and good intermediates). 5431 hands should come close to 3 controls or 10 HCP or at least contain decent texture. With ten cards in two suits responder should try to hold at least 2 controls with a kicking queen. With eleven cards in his suits the requirements are virtually non-existent. We must remember, after all, that the major-minor sequence is not a clear slam try. The best game is often at issue. With a hand like (c) responder might just transfer to spades and bid 3NT but who's to say that this course of action will work out better than the more "natural" development, i.e. showing both suits?

Once opener doesn't SUPERFLAG the major, responder, with a marginal hand, is really only concerned with game or **slam**

**in the minor or slam in a fragment suit** if he owns one. His decision to bring the minor into the game is based on risk versus gain. A tricky but profitable exercise is to mentally construct two fairly normal 2NT openings that will produce a very good slam. If you can do that, by all means bid your minor with a clear conscience. So often it will be no more than the “right” minimum that you will require for slam. Many of these minimums will require something like Ax or Kx in the major and some length in the minor or 5-card length in a three-card fragment, certainly reasonable to hope for. Remember that opener needed a relatively specific hand to love the major immediately. There are still plenty of very good hands left for him to hold in support of another suit.

Another consideration, and one that goes the other way, is this: even by settling for 3NT rather than four of the minor at this juncture, a good minor suit slam might still be reached if opener expresses some interest in the major over 2NT, viz:

S A953	S 64
H AQJ	H K 10743
D AJ	D 73
C KQ62	C A1063

These hands provide an excellent play for 6C and we will later suggest that the slam should be reached even after the auction beings:

2NT	3D
3H	3NT

### THE BASIC FLAG-SCRAMBLE FRAMEWORK

Once we’ve eliminated the SUPER-FLAGS we are left with only **four** basic major-minor sequences. Three of these are essentially similar:

- (1) 2NT-3H (2) 2NT-3H (3) 2NT-3D  
 3S-4C 3S-4D 3H-4C


One of the four sequences is anomalous, as we shall see a little later:

- (4) 2NT-3D  
 3H-4D

Once responder has shown a major and introduced a minor, opener’s next bid will often be crucial. He wants to be able to express a favourable opinion toward the minor, the major (although limited by his failure to use a SUPERFLAG) and perhaps toward notrump. He’d like to be able to say: ‘I’d rather not get too high if you (responder) don’t have much extra’ on a variety of hands- fair support for either or both suits and no fit at all. He’d like to be able to say: ‘I’ve got a good hand but I’m not sure where we’re going.’ What we propose to do here is suggest a scheme of bids for opener over responder’s 4C or 4D that will enable him (opener) to get his desired message across. We feel that we can do just this with a network of FLAGS and SCRAMBLES.

Let’s start with one of the three “similar” sequences above and explore opener’s various options in the light of our suggestions for FLAGS and SCRAMBLES...

- (1) 2NT-3H  
 3S-4C  
 4D(a)
- (a) **The “cheapest” bid by opener is a SCRAMBLE** - a hand not rich in controls or not blessed with a “proven” fit, tentatively no desire to proceed beyond 4S (perhaps a 5-2 fit). If opener SCRAMBLES and bids again he shows preference for a given strain without much enthusiasm for slam, i.e. less than the values for a FLAG.
- 4H(b)
- (b) **The next available bid by opener is a FLAG for responder’s major** - given the failure to SUPERFLAG for the major, opener can still have a good hand in support of the major (**usually** with only 3-card support). We suggest these requirements: **6+ “working controls** (ace = 2, king in one of responder’s suits = 1) **or 5 “working” controls plus 2 key queens in responder’s suits.**
- 4S(c)
- (c) **The next available bid by opener is a**



**SUPERFLAG** for responder's minor - this needn't be as good a hand as a major suit **SUPERFLAG** since responder has already shown strength by introducing a new suit. The "super" element here is the requirement of a "slammish" holding in responder's major, i.e. at least ace or king doubleton, together with a 4-card fit for the minor and at least 6 controls (usually 3 aces or compensating fillers).

5C(d)

(d) **Raising the minor is a FLAG for that suit without a high picture in responder's major.** There must be 6+ controls (usually more) and by inference very good trumps. Note that with "lesser" minor suit support types opener may SCRAMBLE and pull to 5 of the minor.

4NT(e)

(e) We call this one the "fitless" FLAG - opener has a good hand with lots of controls, perhaps a personal source of tricks, but no "known 8-card fit." This encourages responder to keep bidding with a real 2-suiter or say, 5431 pattern since he will buy a prime hand opposite. With a hand that looks "slow" and might not produce 4M on a 5-2 fit, opener first SCRAMBLES and then pulls to 4NT. With some "slow" notrumps, opener will indeed settle for game in the major and hope to SCRAMBLE it home.

This is the basic structure but there's a lot more. As we'll see later we suggest that opener can go beyond 5 of responder's minor. That however, we consider more than a "simple pleasure".

Sequences (2) 2NT-3H and (3) 2NT-3D  
3S-4D 3H-4C

work exactly the same way, opener using each of the five bids through 5 of responder's minor to SCRAMBLE and then FLAG in the same progression. 4NT always constitutes the "fitless" FLAG; the cheapest bid is always the SCRAMBLE; the next suit FLAG without a high picture

in the major; the penultimate non-notrump bid is always the minor suit **SUPERFLAG**. Please note that it is of no significance that opener sometimes actually bids the major to FLAG it and sometimes doesn't. **What is relevant is the order of the available bids between 4 of the minor and 5 of the minor.** We thought originally that it might be a useful memory aid to FLAG the major by bidding it but we found that we sometimes needed the extra step provided by the scheme that we're presenting to you. Since there are only five cipher bids available in each sequence and since they have a common thread in three of the four cases, we decided to go with the present scheme. Please accept it as is.

We mentioned above the sequence (4) 2NT-3D 3H-4D is not quite the same as the other three. This is because the first available bid, 4H, can be passed by responder if used as a SCRAMBLE. After all, hearts is his main suit. We realized that we still required a SCRAMBLE that would not get us beyond 4H, the most probable game once 3NT had been passed. Finally we concluded that 4H had to be retained as the SCRAMBLE, awkward as this seemed. In this one major-minor sequence opener can no longer SCRAMBLE and then convert to 4NT ("slow" notrump) or to 5D (SCRAMBLE for the minor). This then is the scheme:

(4) 2NT-3D  
3H-4D  
4H(a)  
4S(b)  
4NT(c)  
5C(d)  
5D(e)

- (a) SCRAMBLE, but remember that responder will often pass it.
- (b) FLAG for hearts, responder's "known" major.
- (c) Still a "fitless" FLAG. We feel that this is a vital hand to show.
- (d) **SUPERFLAG** for diamonds, high doubleton in the major, etc.
- (e) This is the key point of departure in this

sequence. It seems to us that there might be a wide variety of hands that would prefer to play 5D rather than 4H. Since 4H can be passed there's very little choice here: 5D or 4H. We think that 5D here is not quite the FLAG that would be in (1) (2) and (3) above. Rather 5D might better be described as a diamond GROPE. Of course most of these hands will contain weak doubleton hearts and so they will generally fit our minor suit FLAG standards. We merely wish to point out that responder should make allowances here.

Let's take sequence (2) of our basic scheme and work with some illustrations...

(2) 2NT-3H  
3S-4D  
?

Let's give opener the following hands:

- |                 |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| (a) S A3        | (b) S AQ5            |
| H AQ7           | H K54                |
| D KJ8           | D AQ7                |
| C AQ964         | C AJ106              |
| 4H SCRAMBLE     | 4S: S FLAG           |
| (c) S A2        | (d) S 65             |
| H A87           | H AK76               |
| D AQ76          | D AQ76               |
| C AK54          | C AK6                |
| 5D: D SUPERFLAG | 5D: D FLAG<br>(only) |
| (e) S A5        |                      |
| H AK5           |                      |
| D K98           |                      |
| C AK65          |                      |
|                 | 4NT: "fitless" FLAG  |

If we stopped right here we feel that we'd be well ahead of the "standard" players. In fact this is as far as we're going to bring you in our SIMPLE PLEASURES section. We've got a whole lot more for you but that will come later. Stay tuned.

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## *Nova Scotians Win Rookie Pairs*

Two 37-year old school teachers from Halifax NS blazed a scorching trail to victory in the fourth annual Grand National Rookie Pairs event. Russell Boyle and Kent Ritchie had a 206 in the afternoon and a 213 in the evening to lead the 26-pair field by 59 matchpoints.

Actually, Kent Ritchie is a **former** junior high school teacher in a small community in Nova Scotia who now works for the Sackville Recreation Department. Russell Boyle is head of the math department at Halifax West High School.

Boyle and Ritchie qualified at the Halifax Bridge World which they describe as "a new club ... a very good club" where a dozen tables turned out for the Grand National Rookie qualifying. They used to play a bit of bridge when they were a lot younger -- 10 or 12 years ago. In fact, they

still play the same forcing club (Schenken) system that they favored in those days.

Once they found out they had qualified for the Minneapolis final they started playing two or three times a week -- even called Memphis to find out what they were allowed to play. Russell says, "We wanted to make sure about things so we could do a good job." They got a lot of support from people in the area too. "They were encouraging us all the way. They would call us 'the Minneapolis pair' and would encourage us to make sure that we would get out and play." Ritchie and Boyle did a lot of cramming and claim they have learned a lot of bridge in the last month or so. As Kent says, "Things that we don't normally look at, like balancing ... and where is everyone else going to be at duplicate? Where is the field going to play?"

We've learned a lot ...”

Russell points out that every slam they bid was made and Kent recalls, “one or two of them shouldn't have ...” and then continues, “I think some of the better things we did during the day were on defense. We just played steady defense rather than made any exceptional plays. We just didn't give away too many tricks.”

The Rookie champions were especially deadly on slam hands. They bid three during the final session and made all three -- one of them doubled. Here's one where their slightly unorthodox bidding ideas paid off.

Board 17  
Dir: North  
Vul: None

S 87  
H 95  
D KJ1054  
C 9852

S KQJ962  
H AJ103  
D 2  
C A10

S 4  
H KQ64  
D AQ963  
C K74

S A1053  
H 872  
D 87  
C QJ63

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
	<b>Boyle</b>		<b>Ritchie</b>
Pass	1D	Pass	1H!
Pass	3H	Pass	4NT
Pass	5D	Pass	6H
All Pass			

Boyle had a good-looking hand, but it wasn't strong enough to open a Schenken Club, so he tried 1D. Most folks would respond 1S with Ritchie's hand, but he bid 1H to learn whether his partner held four hearts. He struck gold -- Boyle leaped to 3H to show a hand in support of hearts just short of a 1C opener. Ritchie, with all that concealed strength, Blackwooded and had to settle for the small slam when he learned their side was off an ace.

North made the attacking lead of the DJ, and Boyle took the ace -- he felt he didn't need the finesse and he was right. He carefully pulled only two rounds of trumps before testing the spades. If the spades broke badly, he wanted to be able to ruff two of them, and he hoped that if North had the SA he wouldn't have a third trump to lead. But South made things easy by rising with the ace. Bidding and making the slam was worth 11 or the 12 possible matchpoints.

## *A First For Canada*

Canada has finally won its first Gold Medal in World Play. This exciting event happened when Diana Gordon and George Mittelman won the Mixed Pairs event in Biarritz. Congratulations from all of Canada.

We hope to feature an article on this pair in the next issue of the Digest.

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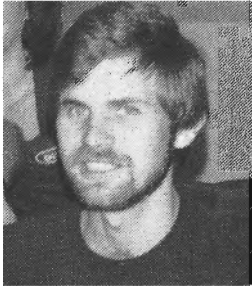
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# Hear it from the experts

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## THE BALANCING ACT



By Gord McOrmond

### Editor's Note:

Gord's list of credits is extensive. To name a few:

- 3rd in '82 National Men's Board A Match Teams
- represented Canada in the '82 World Championships (Open Pairs and Teams)
- won the '82 District GN Pairs Championships
- represented B.C. on 4 occasions in the CNTC
- won the '78 District GNT Championships
- played in the finals of the '78 Riesenger Teams
- numerous Sectional and Regional wins.

Although Gord admits to enjoying his pairs wins, he shows his true class as a gentleman when he says he is really proud of his team victories. Teamwork is one of his greatest attributes, as evidenced by the track record of his team.

One area of competitive bidding that has not been adequately discussed by the majority of duplicate players in Canada (or North America for that matter) is balancing after an opening bid and two passes. Auctions beginning with 1H P P ? often lead to even practiced partnerships playing in ridiculous contracts. Why is this area of bidding underdeveloped by most partnerships? Probably the main reason is that great codifier of partnership system, the A.C.B.L. convention card doesn't have a space for it and so the out of sight, out of mind principle applies.

However the topic is a complex one and even if I felt that I had all the answers (I don't even have all the questions) I wouldn't have enough space in this article to completely cover the subject. Instead, I will attempt to outline the various problems of bidding in this position and suggest possible solutions that might help the reader design his or her own balancing structure. To simplify the discussion I will assume for all example hands that no one is vulnerable and it is matchpoints.

1.) The balancer in fourth position must be prepared to bid upon many hands that he would not consider making a call upon in direct seat. This principle is common to balancing in general, however, it is especially important in fourth position because partner only had one opportunity to get into the auction and so is very likely to have concealed values.

2.) Your balancing structure should be able to describe a wide range of notrump hands. As a minimum all notrump hands with a strength from 10 to 20 HCP should be describable below the two level (2NT or lower). One structure that might handle most of these hands is:

- a) 1D P P 1Nt 10 to 13 HCP
- b) 1D P P X  
P 1H P 1Nt 14 to 16 HCP
- c) 1D P P 2Nt 17 to 18 HCP
- d) 1D P P X  
P 1H P 2Nt 19 to 20 HCP

In a) and c) the notrump bids might surprise some of you. (more about these later). In sequences b) and d) in response to your double partner bids at the two level (inconsiderate person that he is) and the loss of bidding space makes it doubly difficult to describe your range at a safe level. Occasionally you will find yourself muttering a short prayer and jumping to 3Nt on a flat 19 or 20 count (good luck).

3) Try not to balance higher than the one level on minimum strength flat hands.

You can't afford to balance higher than 1Nt on the majority of hands because so often this is the optimum contract. After 1S P P ? holding xxx Ax xxx KQJxx I recommend you call 1Nt not 2C. Don't be concerned about your lack of spade stoppers as partner is likely to hold help, besides you're only at the one level. It is the importance and frequency of balancing with 1Nt that makes it totally impractical to play it with a strong range (like 15-17 HCP) or to promise stoppers in the opponent's suit.

4) Doubles although shaded in strength should still imply support for the unbid suits. The old fashioned style of doubling to show an opening hand is not effective and I would not recommend it. Since the balancing double can be lighter than normal it is a good idea to make your constructive responses a little stronger than normal. For example 1D P P X

P 2H ... might show 10-12 HCP rather than the usual 9-11 HCP. A jump to the three level is even more risky and should promise close to an opening bid as well as a good suit. A common penalty situation that should be discussed is 1C P P X  
XX P ... this pass should be strictly for

penalties, to play it with other meaning makes it impossible for your partner to penalize the opponents in this sequence.

5) Overcalls should have the usual meaning but may be lighter than normal. Once again the balancer must try to protect partner's values and find bids on hands that he would pass in direct seat. If you normally overcall on 9-17 HCP hands consider reducing it to 7-15 HCP for balancing seat. Notice that this means a double followed by a suit bid doesn't promise as good a hand as it would in direct seat. Responses to the balancing overcall should be beefed up. Responder must try not to punish partner for balancing by bidding too high.

6) Consider changing jump overcalls from preemptive to constructive. There's not too much point in preempting the opponents when they have already announced that they don't have the strength to keep the auction open. A more sensible alternative is to play jump overcalls in these sequences as constructive. A single jump overcall like 1H P P 2S might show a good six card spade suit and 13-15 HCP and a double jump to 3S might be constructive with seven spades.

7) Try a natural 2Nt balancing overcall. For reasons already mentioned a preemptive 2Nt (unusual for the minors) is not that valuable in this position, besides as shown in section 2 the natural and strong 2Nt is required to fill in the range of balancing notrump hands. If you feel that you just can't describe a two suiter with out an artificial bid you might try broadening the meaning of a fourth seat cue bid to show any two unbid suits (as opposed to Michael's Cue which keys around the major suits).

8) Bid more aggressively than usual to games. When the opponents have been so helpful as to tell you where most of the outstanding cards lie (with the opening bidder) you will find that game contracts (especially 3NT) are much easier to play.

For one thing the strong opponent will continually find himself endplayed and secondly you will know where to place the high cards and should be able to come up with spectacular and successful lines of play.

9) When you can't stand to defend try not to balance with a double. Usually it is rare for a takeout double to be converted to penalties; this is not the case after a double in balancing seat. The doubler must be cognizant of the possibility partner is making a trap pass. Holding KJxx Qxxxx --- Kxxx I would balance with 1H rather than a double of 1D. Unfortunately if you go around bidding a suit everytime you balance with a void you will end up misdescribing many hands. Change the example hand to KJxx Qxxx -- Kxxxx and it might be better to balance with a double.

10) When the opponents have opened a minor, don't balance unless you have a clear call. Too often opener has a strong notrump hand with 18-19 HCP (too strong to open INT) and will thank you for your balance by bidding INT or finding a major suit fit. Both of these occurrences are likely to cost you matchpoints. Often you will do better on these auctions to pass; especially if your opponents' are playing five card majors and frequently open short minor suits.

11) For the most part I've covered what I intended to however, there are many areas of balancing situations that I haven't touched upon. Since the objective of this article is to get the reader thinking more about this overlooked area of bidding I would like to leave him with a few more auctions (no solutions) to discuss with partner:

e) 1C P P 3C                      g) 1C P P 3N  
 f) 1C P P X                        h) 1C P P X  
     2C X                                P 1S P 3C



Next time you're at the bridge table and such a situation arises, remember the object of the game is to arrive at the right contract.

# TOURNAMENT TRAILS



By George Retek

Sincere congratulations are in order to:

1. George Mittelman and Diana Gordon our first World Champions, who won the Mixed Pairs event in Biarritz.
2. Eric Kokish, Peter Nagy, Eric Murray, Sammy Kehela, George Mittleman and Allan Graves who won the bronze medal for Canada in the Rosenbloom Cup competition at Biarritz, (Doug Andrews n.p.c.).
3. Russell Boyle and Ken Ritchie from the Maritimes, who won the Rookie Grand National pair event in Minneapolis with a 67% score.
4. Nick Gartaganis, Zygmunt Marcinski, Gordon Crispin, Voytek Pomykalski, Ross Taylor and Keith Balcombe (Coach: Eric Kokish), our CNTC Champions who had represented Canada at the recent international trials in Minneapolis where they performed magnificently in the round robin stage (defeating two powerful teams, consisting of several world champions - while losing to another two) and were only one victory away from going to the 1983 Stockholm Bermuda Bowl. Unfortunately in the semi-final we met the eventual winner Aces, who proved to be awesome. All the participants of this keen but friendly competition behaved in a true gentlemanly fashion. Our team has gained the respect and admiration of many observers.


Bridge Bolt


If you want to be a good bridge player, have a lot of imagination. If you want to be a great one, sprinkle the imagination with knowledge.

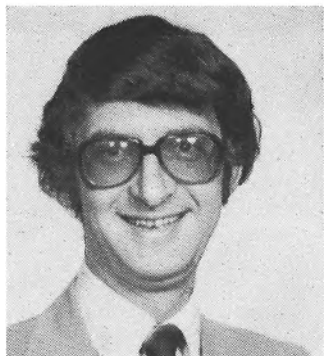
# Canadian Bidding Contest

## November Honour Roll

The Atlantic provinces scored a one-two sweep in the November contest. Only seven readers (out of 112 entries) broke the 500 mark:

1.	Bob Griffiths	Moncton, NB	570
2.	Rashid Khan	Charlottetown, PEI	540
3.	Dan McCaw	Scarborough, On	530
4/5/6.	Richard Bickley	Stettler, AB	510
	Linda Howard	Saskatoon, SK	510
	Jacques Vallerand	St-Sauveur, PQ	510
7.	Joseph Seigel	Thornhill, ON	500

Congratulations to Mr. Griffiths, who wins a bridge book (the superb "Partnership Defense in Bridge", by Kit Woolsey) and has been asked to join the expert panel for the February contest.



by Allan Simon

### February Panel

*With no summer holidays or mail strikes to louse up our communications, there were no vacancies on our panel for a change. As usual, let's meet the experts in alphabetical order:*

**GREG CARROLL** (Toronto) reached the limelight when he and his similarly precocious teammates placed third in the 1982 Canadian National Team Championship (CNTC) in Regina.

**CONNIE DeLISLE** (Vancouver), who has represented Canada nationally (1978 Mixed Pairs Olympiad) is one of the top

players in British Columbia. Playing with Rhonda Betts, she qualified for the 1982 CNTC finals.

**DOUG DESCHNER** (Red Deer, Alta.) is justly famous throughout Alberta, not only for his mile-long string of tournament victories, but also for his lightning-fast play. Yes, Doug is to bridge what Tim Raines is to baseball.

**NICHOLAS GARTAGANIS** (Montreal) was magnificent as the captain of the Cinderella team that won the 1982 CNTC in Regina by one IMP. Nick did not come from nowhere; his prior credits include two double Regional victories.

**DIANNA GORDON** (Toronto), and her partner George Mittelman, became the first Canadians to win a world bridge championship when they captured the Mixed Pairs in Biarritz last fall. At the time, Dianna had already established her reputation as one of the leading woman players in the world with placings in the top ten at three previous Olympiads.

**BOB GRIFFITHS** (Moncton, N.B.) joins the panel by virtue of his victory in the November contest. He refers to himself as a 'mysterious Easterner' and we'll have to leave it at that.

**HOWARD HUFF** (Thunder Bay, Ont.) has a low-key attitude toward the game, but impressed everybody at the 1980 CNTC

finals when he and his teammates scored victories over many better know squads.

**SAMI KEHELA** (Toronto). The greatest.

**RASHID KHAN** (Charlottetown, P.E.I.) is one of PEI's leading players' he recently placed second in the Open Pairs at a Toronto Regional. In a pure coincidence, Rashid almost qualified for this panel as a reader-solver, placing second in November.

**GIL LAFRENIERE** (Regina, Sask.) participated in the 1982 CNTC final in his home town. He is one of many outstanding players in Regina, which has become one of Canada's top bridge centres.

**JACQUES LALIBERTE** (Quebec City) is a two-time Grand National Pairs finalist and a consistent qualifier for the final stages of our major team contests.

**FRANK MARKOTICH** (Toronto) placed second at the 1980 CNTC finals; a winner of numerous Regionals, he represented Canada at the 1982 Open Pairs Olympiad in Biarritz.

**DUNCAN SMITH** (Victoria, B.C.) is a perennial contender at the CNTC finals, having qualified every year since the event's inception. He enters only one Regional a year, yet already has five wins to his credit.

## FEBRUARY SOLUTIONS

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

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

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

Scoring:

Action	Panel votes	Points
Pass	10	100
7H	2	50
7C	1	50
6H	0	30

*Our Canadian Bidding Contest partner, cleft North, is a heavy cross to bear. In this particular problem, he has invented a new torture for us. There are two possible meanings to his bidding sequence -- he has either a yard of diamonds and wants to play the hand at six diamonds, or he is*

*interested in a heart grand and is inquiring as to trump quality. It is safe to say that we will get precious few matchpoints if we guess wrong.*

*Our panel voted overwhelmingly for the yard-of-diamonds theory. Here are their thoughts:*

**LALIBERTE**: Pass. My partner must have S:AK H:8 D:AKQJxxxxx C:x.

**MARKOTICH**: Pass. If this was some sort of grand slam try in hearts, then there were better ways for partner to bid the hand. For example, he could have tried a direct or delayed (via transfer to 5NT) six clubs, which shouldn't be natural since he could have bid a suit of his own (forcing) over two hearts.

**DeLISLE**: Pass. Partner has a self-sufficient suit. Cannot be grand slam force -- partner could have transferred via five spades - five notrump - six diamonds.

*I am almost swayed by the fancy sequences suggested by Markotich and DeLisle, but count me among the dissenters. If North the Nerd has a self-sufficient suit as in Laliberte's example, he should have jumped to 4NT straight over one heart. Fortunately, I have on my side a man whose vote alone is worth as much as the rest of the panel combined (and I know no panelist will feel insulted by this comment, such is their respect for Sami).*

**KEHELA**: Seven hearts. Without prior agreement, I would interpret North's machinations as an inquiry about the quality of the heart suit. If he had wanted to play in diamonds he could have trotted out Blackwood at his first turn.

*One of the biggest upsets in Regina was the victory of a young Toronto team over GRAVES; among the swings was a contract of five diamonds doubled, fulfilled by Greg Carroll in one room, while Kehela went down in the other. And now, once again, Carroll one-ups Kehela:*

**CARROLL**: Seven clubs. Partner needs three top heart honours. He has pulled out the dreaded super grand slam force. I expect him to hold something like: S:A H:xxx D:Axxx C:AKQJx. Seven clubs gives me a chance to avoid the com-

munication problem of seven hearts if he does hold this.

*Wow! The kid is right, you know. Before leaving this problem, you'll want to read Deschner's comment. Remember, I told you he plays fast? And in bidding contests, he bids fast. (His completed questionnaire was in my mailbox two days after I mailed it out).*

DESCHNER: Pass. He who bids Blackwood sets contract. How else do we play in diamonds? If partner has heart support he could imply it with a cue bid. *He also reads fast, I think.*

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

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

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
-	1H	1S	?

Scoring:

Action	Panel votes	Points
Double	8	100
Pass	4	60
2C	1	30
1NT	0	20

*Shame on the three panelists (and dozens of readers) who forgot we play negative doubles and submitted answers like:*

GARTAGANIS: Two clubs. I assume I can't make a negative double, which would have been my first choice.

*However, just because we play negative doubles doesn't mean our problems are over. In fact, partner's hand was: S:Qx H:AKxxxx D:A9x C:Ax. If you make a negative double, West will bid three spades; and partner will now probably try four hearts, and land in the wrong game contract, since five clubs makes on the lie of the cards.*

*No aspect of bidding is more in need of innovation than how to show a moderate hand, but with a good suit, after an overcall of partner's opening bid. Some partnerships are experimenting with non-forcing free bids. Personally, I predict the answer will be found in an extension of lebensol over two-level overcalls. If all this confuses you (or even if it doesn't), the panel's comments are unlikely to help:*

DeLISLE: Double. Yuk! I hate it, but pass leaves me badly placed over a re-opening double. I would have to bid three clubs, which should show a better hand.

DESCHNER: Double. Goodlooking king of spades sways decision. Could be a misfit but don't want to be shut out.

SMITH: Pass. Conservative, but double or two clubs is too risky, with no fit guaranteed. Would probably bid two clubs at matchpoints, or if playing against anyone from Vancouver.

*Now was that nice, Duncan? Readers who think there is a Montreal-Toronto rivalry, or Calgary-Edmonton, or Fredericton-St. John, should learn there is nothing to compare with a good Victoria vs. Vancouver brawl.*

HUFF: Pass. I am going to have another chance, and partner will have heard my original pass. I know I'm alone on this one. *Why so gloomy, Howard? In fact, you have distinguished company:*

KEHELA: Pass. A matter of style (and upbringing). Twenty years ago, I would have bid.

*To repeat a point made earlier: This hand proves that, given the current state of art, some problems defy solution.*

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

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

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

\*weak

Scoring:

Action	Panel votes	Points
5H	4	100
4NT	4	90
6C	2	80
5C	2	70
Pass	1	50
5NT	0	40

*The panel voted by a 12 to 1 margin to pull partner's double. This was the easy part. The tough part comes in deciding how to send the following message, all in one bid:*

*"I think we have a slam, but I'm not sure where. I have a very fine diamond suit, and good club support as well. Please place the contract." In a tie-breaker, five hearts was adjudged the winner:*

**GRIFFITHS:** Five hearts. This is not a hand I want to defend -- prospects look too good for a minor suit slam.

**CARROLL:** Five hearts. If East has one of my regular preempts at this vulnerability (10xxxx) and partner has KQxx, I'll apologize later. Partner's most likely shape is 4-3-1-5. I hope his clubs prove adequate. *Four notrump attracted votes as well, but two were Blackwood and two "Unusual for Minors". For these pairs, the remainder of the auction could prove entertaining.*

**GORDON:** Four notrump. Showing clubs and longer diamonds. Partner with good clubs and either spade ace or diamond king will bid a slam.

**KHAN:** Four notrump. If partner bids five diamonds (one ace), I will play it there. If partner shows two aces, I will bid six clubs.

**LAFRENIERE:** Four notrump. If partner shows one ace: six clubs. Two aces? Five spades, then six clubs. Partner should be 4-3-1-5.

*I held the South hand at an Edmonton sectional; at the time, I selected five notrump (assigning the same meaning Gordon gives to four no, but minus the Blackwood ambiguity), thoroughly confusing poor partner. For the last five years, I have been submitting this hand to experts. Hoping to find someone who'll agree with me. I now finally admit defeat. When the Bridge World's panel tackled the problem, six clubs was the consensus choice.*

**DeLISLE:** Six clubs. Partner's hand lacks diamond values. Probably S:AJxx H:xxx D:x C:AKxxx.

*Why does everybody give him 4-3-1-5? In fact, he was 3-4-2-4. Over five notrump he properly bid six diamonds, but they took the save in six hearts. I chose to lead the singleton king of spades. Partner, bless him, overtook with Axx, and returned a spade for me to ruff.*

*Next, a call for restraint:*

**KEHELA:** Five clubs. North's double is not encouraging.

*Finally, a very conservative choice:*

**LALIBERTE:** Pass. Out of respect for partner; he can see the vulnerability.

*It is unfair to criticize Mr. Laliberté when he has no chance to respond, but I must point out that, sure, partner can see the vulnerability. But he can't see your hand and he is counting on you to do your share of the thinking.*

(D) **IMPS**, both vul., South holds:

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

West	North	East	South
1C	Dbl.	Redbl	?

Scoring:

Action	Panel votes	Points
Pass	11	100
2C	2	40
3C	0	20
INT	0	20

*Nowadays, hardly anybody plays penalty passes in this sequence any more. Most panelists realize partner will pull; then South will try two clubs, to play.*

**GARTAGANIS:** Pass, after which I rescue my partner by bidding two clubs. My original pass can be interpreted as either no preference for any of his suits or let's play one club redoubled. In either case when I subsequently rebid two clubs, partner should pass muttering to himself "let him dig his own grave".

**GORDON:** Pass. Will bid clubs (natural) next. These actions merit discussion as to what a direct two clubs and three clubs mean.

**KHAN:** Pass. Three clubs over redouble would be a premature action. If partner bids, say, one heart and next hand doubles, I will venture two clubs and hope!

*That's the problem right there. Particularly if partner rescues himself to one spade, and gets doubled there, and now we run to two clubs, might this not sound to him like a plea to choose between the two remaining unbid suits? If so, how do we get to play the hand in two clubs?*

LAFRENIERE: Two clubs. To play. Pass does not show clubs.

DeLISLE: Two clubs. If we choose an immediate pass, the problem will now begin. Two clubs should be natural, otherwise, why cue bid if we're known to be broke.

*I suspect most experts would interpret a direct two clubs as a strength-showing bid, implying that one opponent is monkeying around.*

*My recommendation, based on a suggestion by Alan Bell of Los Angeles, is to bid one notrump! Of course, I'll get doubled. But when I now remove to two clubs, partner will get the message and pass.*

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

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

West	North	East	South
-	1H	2D	?

Scoring:

Action	Panel votes	Points
4H	6	100
2S	3	80
3D	2	70
4D	2	60
2H	0	40
3H	0	30

*The two most famous panelist, GORDON and KEHELA, selected four diamonds, to show a heart fit and diamond shortness. A nice convention, but the convention card supplied along with the questionnaire did say "no splinters, please". Panelists who wanted to make a strong bid, yet not violate the constraints of our simple bidding system, now have the floor:*

GRIFITHS: Three diamonds. I may regret it if partner goes overboard, but it will help partner more than a four heart bid if LHO bids a large number of diamonds.

CARROLL: Three diamonds. Nice shape; shame about the points.

SMITH: Two hearts. Tactically, this bid should give us the best chance to buy the hand in some number of hearts. There is a lot of merit in a bid of two spades, so much

so that I will change my bid from two hearts to two spades. The two spade bid should help partner more later in the auction.

*If you're never met Duncan Smith, I hope the preceding paragraph gives you an insight to the personality of this delightful individual.*

GARTAGANIS: Two spades. Not many points but lots of playing strength. Conceivable that we are laydown for six hearts. Going slowly allows more opportunity to determine the potential of the two hands.

LALIBERTE: Two spades. If partner has the right minimum, slam is possible. For example S:x, H:AKxxx, D:xxx, C:AKxx. *And now let's hear from the leapers to game:*

HUFF: Four hearts. Behold the man who never dreams! At IMPs two spades.

MARKOTICH: Four hearts. Not ideal with two first-round controls, but best in the long run for both defensive and offensive reasons. Two spades (or four diamonds) overstates the hand.

DESCHNER: Four hearts. Let the opponents find their vulnerable save (that probably makes). My problem may occur when five diamonds doubled comes back to me.

LAFRENIERE: Four hearts. Aware I may be missing a slam opposite the right minimum but no way of showing diamond void, spade suit and good hearts.

*The reader from London, Ont., who suggested this problem writes that partner held S:Q10 H:AKxxx D:xxx C:Axx. Only a spade finesse (which works) was needed for seven, yet nobody in the field bid past four!*

(F) Matchpoints, neither vul., South holds:  
S:Q74 H:642 D:9842 C:J107

West	North	East	South
Pass	1S	1NT	Pass
2C	2H	3C	3H
Pass	4H	5C	Pass
Pass	Db!	Pass	Pass
Pass			

*North leads the Ace of hearts (promising*

the king) and dummy tables:  
S:AJ H:J95 D:Q1073 C:AKQ2

Which heart do you play to trick one?

Scoring:

Action	Panel votes	Points
Two	10	100
Six	3	70
Four	0	40

*This one is also from real life. The bidding occurred as given, and in response to a howl of protest over South's three-heart bid we asked the panel to assume the hand was dealt at a Christmas party game. They had come to kibitz, but shortly after bidding three hearts, South fell off his chair and was unable to continue. Our expert kibitzer was requested to fill in and defend the hand.*

*Seriously now, I'm sure we've all made worse bids. After all, as Duncan Smith points out, how do you argue with a bid that stampedes the opponents into a probable phantom? We'll just have to make sure we beat them two tricks, for plus 300, since most North-Souths will probably play a major suit partial, scoring 140 or 170.*

*We desperately want partner to shift to a spade; if he lacks the heart queen, the shift must come at trick two!*

HUFF: Two of hearts. Immediate spade shift in case LHO owns the Qx of hearts. Otherwise this Christmas party will have a bowl full of hemlock. I'm going to put this drunk back at the table and go to another party.

GORDON: Two of hearts. This serves the purpose of giving count and saying I can stand the obvious switch? The only obvious switch is spades, both partner and I know that. Everybody at this table was drunk!

SMITH: Deuce of hearts. Suggesting tolerance for a shift and here a spade would be the obvious shift from partner's point of view. With no spade queen, I would play the heart four at trick one, to be followed by the six.

MARKOTICH: Deuce of hearts. I do not play that this is a suit-preference signal

situation. (Maybe it should be since partner probably expects me to have four). If I have diamond cards there's no problem of beating the hand, and if I don't, a spade shift is mandatory. Partner should be able to see that diamonds (or hearts!) represent threatened discards for spade losers.

*Back to real life. Really the hand was played in May, and nobody was drunk. North held S:K10xxx K:AKQxx D:Ax C:x. In response to South's heart deuce, he shifted to Ace and another diamond, neatly obliterating a heart trick. The perpetrators of this debacle asked me to have the panel adjudicate the fault. So there you have it, guys. South can't bid and North can't defend. Actually, North had some articulate supporters:*

GARTAGANIS: Six of hearts, which should be interpreted as a spade shift. Partner is likely to try and beat this hand three tricks if he visualizes a diamond ruff. Although the winning defense should be obvious to him, it can't hurt to help him out!

GRIFFITHS: Six of hearts. After the auction, I don't see how to encourage a spade, short of playing the spade seven at trick one.

KHAN: Six of hearts. My partner would never believe that I have three hearts! If I play the deuce, he may switch to diamonds.

## MAY CONTEST

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

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

The reader with the highest score will receive: fame; a bridge book; and an invitation to join the expert panel for the following contest: Readers are also requested to submit problems which might be suitable for future contests.

## MAY PROBLEMS

(A) IMPs, East-West vul., South holds:  
S:J108542 H:A643 D:- C:KJ3

**West North East South**  
- 1D Pass 1S  
Pass 2C Pass ?

(B) Matchpoints, both vul., South holds:  
S:A8 H:A63 D:KQ754 C:A83

**West North East South**  
- - 3C ?

(C) IMPs, North-South vul., South holds:  
S:64 H:J854 D:J532 C:AK7

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

(D) IMPs, neither vul., South holds:  
S:A543 H:10 D:A97643 C:K7

**West North East South**  
- - - 1D  
Pass 1S 4H 4S  
Pass 5C Pass 5D  
Pass 5H Pass ?

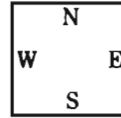
(E) Board-a-Match teams, North-South vul., South holds:

S:AQJ9 H:Q D:A92 C:KQJ98  
**West North East South**  
- Pass 3D 3NT  
Pass 4H Pass Pass  
Dbl. Pass Pass ?

(F) IMPs, neither vul., South holds:  
S:Q987 H:AQ964 D:6 C:K97

**West North East South**  
- - - 1H  
3H\* Dbl. 3NT Pass  
Pass Dbl. Pass Pass  
Redbl Pass Pass Pass

\*shows solid minor and asks for heart stopper  
Which card do you lead?



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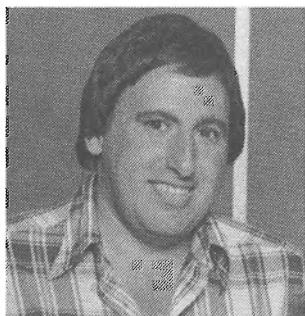
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# What Makes Sami Run



By Eric Kokish

It was the best of times it was the worst of times. It was the penultimate round of the never-ending Swiss Teams and Canada faced Sweden in a crucial match. It was all about a bronze medal, you see. Gold and myrrh and frankincense were now beyond reach.

NS Vul  
S Deals

North  
3  
K76  
KJ92  
KJ1082

West  
AKJ98  
J4  
75  
7653

East  
Q76  
10952  
A643  
Q4

South  
10542  
AQ83  
Q108  
A9

All the world's a Swiss. The players were Anders Morath, West Jorgen Lindquist, East, Eric Murray, North, and Sami Kehela, South. The match was unbearably close, it seemed. See how they bid ...

South	West	North	East
1D	1S	2S	3S
P	4S	5D	(all PASS)

Of no small import was South's choice of opening bids. For the first (and surely the last) time in his young life, South elected to open in a three-card diamond suit, preparing to avoid an uncomfortable rebid over, say, 1H-P-2C. But more uncomfortable still was the fate that awaited the brave Canadian warrior. Before you could say, "Bob's your uncle." South found himself at the wheel in 5D, a contract not to be the subject of one of your most pleasant dreams.

West led the ace of spades and switched to the jack of hearts, never expecting a three-card trump holding in the hand of the high priest of **Acol Sauvage**. Declarer won and tried queen of trumps and eight of trumps to dummy's jack, East ducking twice without a flicker (some of the trouble with this ducking without a flicker business is that it is often the second best play, but time is very precious in the heat of battle). Deciding that the trumps were probably 4-2 from the bidding and early play, declarer called for a new horse. Ace of clubs and a club toward dummy. If clubs were 4-2, the finesse would do no good since the handling would prove to be impossible. Were they 4-2 after all? East seemed to hold three spades and four diamonds and very probably held four hearts if West's bidding could be given any credit. That left two clubs. Only queen and one would do declarer any good. So ... king of clubs. Good. But it was not quite over yet. If all was as it seemed to be, it was vital to cash two more high hearts before torturing East with a barrage of club winners. So, queen of hearts, king of hearts, and now clubs. East could ruff or not ruff but declarer's only remaining loser was that elusive ace of trumps.

600 to Canada. 1 IMP to Sweden since Sundelin-Flodquist had bid and made 4H at

the other table after South had opened with one heart. But Kehela's magnificent effort had kept Canada close. Sweden won the match by 3 IMPs to knock Canada out of first place in the Swiss for the first time in seven rounds, but there was still one round to be played. As fate would have it, the

Swedes faced the new leaders; BARBONE-Garozzo-Porcino-Lumina-Franco-DeFalco, in the final round and they came through with a big victory to help the Canadians to overtake Barbone and capture the bronze medal. Thank you Sweden. Thank you Sami.

## — *Championship Fever* —

By David Colbert, Weston, Ontario

Representing Canada in the recent WBF Championships was a thrill I will always remember. Perhaps the most enjoyable part of it all (besides going to Europe and playing in the Open Pairs) was how well organized and big league the CBF arrangements were on our behalf ... regarding entries, expenses, travel and communications.

This treatment as a VIP of Canadian Bridge made me feel all the worse for our relatively poor showing at the table. With more experience in high pressure events, hopefully our performance will improve.

Naturally I have a few hands to pass on the readers.

E W vul. (we sat E W)  
Dealer West

	North
	S AK87
	H 5
	D AK7
	C K10543
West	East
S 52	S 10964
H AKQ1083	H J96
D 4	D J8532
C A876	C J

South  
S QJ3  
H 742  
D Q1096  
C Q92

West	North	East	South
1H	X	2H	P
3H	X	P	4D
P	4S	P	P
P			

Score 100 for us via a ruff. (The tap would have been the superior play). Another average board.

### The Famous Grand Slam

West  
S KQ9543  
H AQJ32  
D A8  
C --

East  
S AJ82  
H K1087  
D 753  
C 84

West	North	East	South
1S	P	2S	P
3H	P	4H	P
5NT	P	6S (1)	P
7H	P	P	P

(1) 6 spades shows Ace or King of Spades with an extra spade. The only makeable grand. Other pairs bid it also, but it was worth 318 out of 360.

Once again, thanks to the CBF for making it all possible.

# Continuation of Canada's Top Master Point Holders

NUMBER	NAME	CITY	POINTS
101	Mr. Robert Wobick	Lethbridge AB	2,053.52
102	Mr. G. Sekhar	Winnipeg Mb	2,032.30
103	Mr. M. Strebinger	N. Vancouver BC	2,026.42
104	Mr. J.B. Pritchard	Edmonton Ab	2,017.41
105	Mr. D. Piafsky	Hampstead PQ	2,006.67
106	Miss D. Gordon	Toronto On	1,999.82
107	Mr. Peter E. Herold	N Vancouver BC	1,996.77
108	Mr. J.A. Priebe	Mississauga On	1,970.58
109	Mr. J.J. Aceti	Sudbury On	1,964.22
110	Mrs. F.C. Cimon	Laval PQ	1,956.99
111	Mr. A.J. Altay	Downsview On	1,954.77
112	Mr. B. Pauls	Winnipeg Mb	1,949.40
113	C.A. Swanson	Vancouver BC	1,941.75
114	Mr. E.R. Shepherd	Hamilton On	1,930.30
115	Mr. R.B. Dwyer	Dorval PQ	1,929.21
116	Mr. H. Bork	Hamilton On	1,926.45
117	Mr. E. Viires	Montreal PQ	1,906.26
118	Mr. S. Unger	Thornhill On	1,895.55
119	Mr. R. J. Hart	Toronto On	1,883.99
120	Mr. E. Stark	Vancouver BC	1,883.53
121	Mr. B.J. Johnston	Ancaster On	1,877.90
122	Mr. B. Rapson	Dartmouth Ns	1,861.67
123	Mr. F. Markotich	Scarborough On	1,859.49
124	Mr. S. Viswanathan	Calgary Ab	1,852.77
125	Mrs. G. Skeel	Edmonton Ab	1,852.51
126	Mr. D. Clark	Kingston On	1,852.32
127	Mrs. A.K. Boivin	Montreal PQ	1,851.25
128	Mr. M. Kirr	Hamilton On	1,843.70
129	Mr. M. Caley	Ottawa On	1,826.64
130	Mr. D.H. Rankine	Edmonton Ab	1,819.54
131	Mr. J. Odowd	Hamilton On	1,801.17
132	Mrs. A.L. Strebinger	Burnaby BC	1,798.88
133	Mr. J.G. Stewart	Halifax NS	1,790.28
134	Mr. A. McDonald	Ottawa On	1,789.10
135	Mr. P.D. Cannell	Toronto On	1,785.56
136	Mr. D.H. Smith	Victoria BC	1,764.14
137	Mr. G. Chapman	Acton On	1,751.49
138	Mr. A.G. Skeel	Edmonton Ab	1,748.87
139	Mr. B.R. Nilsson	Lethbridge Ab	1,748.57
140	Mr. C. Lindsay	Vancouver BC	1,747.79
141	Mr. M.A. Philippas	Montreal PQ	1,743.56
142	Mr. D.W. Dobson	Halifax NS	1,739.79
143	Mr. M. Cafferata	Toronto On	1,738.44
144	Mr. M. Roche	Toronto On	1,728.09
145	Mr. G.B. Maser	Halifax NS	1,724.13

## Continuation of Canada's Top Master Point Holders

NUMBER	NAME	CITY	POINTS
146	Mr. H. Beaulieu	Sherbrooke PQ	1,698.95
147	Mr. M.A. Wilson	Vancouver BC	1,682.23
148	Mr. H.L. Stewart	Halifax NS	1,680.44
149	Mr. R. Wigdor	Markham On	1,678.55
150	Mr. T.M. Marsh	Whiterock BC	1,675.34
151	Mr. J.N. Lang	Calgary Ab	1,673.81
152	Mr. J.M. Norton	Burlington On	1,672.19
153	Mr. M.E. Yudin	Montreal PQ	1,664.00
154	Mr. D. Di Felice	East York On	1,661.49
155	Mr. Lauren Miller	Vancouver BC	1,658.27
156	Mr. G. Julien	Kenogami PQ	1,655.14
157	Mr. Keith R. Balcombe	Oshawa On	1,654.93
158	Mrs. M.E. Scott	Saskatoon Sk	1,641.95
159	Mrs. B. Callaghan	Halifax NS	1,639.30
160	Mr. P. Godin	Montreal PQ	1,633.71
161	Mr. W. Lebovic	Toronto On	1,633.24
162	Mr. J. Gowdy	Toronto On	1,630.50
163	Mr. M.J. Kenny	Cote St. Luc PQ	1,630.08
164	Mr. D.J. Oulton	Lwr Sackvle NS	1,623.87
165	Mr. B. Nelles	London On	1,619.85
166	Mr. M.T. King	Toronto On	1,614.34
167	Mr. A. Ballantyne	Vancouver BC	1,613.46
168	Mr. J.A. MacGregor	Halifax NS	1,611.27
169	Mr. W.A. Wallace	Falcon Brdg. On	1,610.83
170	Mr. J. Landeryou	Lethbridge AB	1,602.78
171	Mr. R. Hanson	Montreal PQ	1,592.40
172	Mr. J. Beasy	Halifax NS	1,591.06
173	Mr. John W. Rayner	Mississauga On	1,585.23
174	Mrs. D. Jaskela	Quesnel BC	1,581.65
175	Mr. D. Lindhorst	Cambridge On	1,579.13
176	Mrs. J.I. Turnbull	Vancouver BC	1,574.41
177	Mr. J.D. Lloyd	Ajax On	1,573.73
178	Mr. J. Hurdle	Vancouver BC	1,573.11
179	Mr. I.A. Litvack	Willowdale On	1,572.98
180	Mr. R. Dalton	Mississauga On	1,572.10
181	Mr. P. Roy	Sherbrooke PQ	1,561.76
182	Dr. Don A. Brazeau	Vancouver BC	1,558.81
183	Mr. G. Charney	Toronto On	1,552.81
184	Miss C.C. Thorpe	Toronto On	1,552.11
185	Mr. M. Instance	Ottawa On	1,551.00
186	Mr. L.E. Harris	Sudbury On	1,548.28
187	Mrs. T. Lesperance	London On	1,543.24
188	Mr. S.E. Cooper	Toronto On	1,528.56
189	Mr. J. McAvoy	Victoria BC	1,522.86
190	Mr. D.A. Brock	Brampton On	1,522.61

# Isn't Bridge Fun

Reprinted from The Kibitzer

by (Honest) Abe Paul

## Hand 1

Playing in a limited game many years ago I picked up the following hand, as dealer, in South position:

♠ K  
 ♥ A Q x  
 ♦ Q x x  
 ♣ K Q 9 x x x

The bidding proceeded as follows:

South	West	North	East
1C	Pass	1D	Pass
3C	Pass	4C	Pass
4H	Pass	P!	Pass

I had heard of a gadget called cue bid, but unfortunately, my partner had not. Being mathematically inclined, he realized the value of playing in a major suit at match points, and decided to take his chances at a four heart contract. The opening lead was the Jack of Spades, and partner tabled this dummy:

♠ A x x x  
 ♥ K x  
 ♦ A x x x  
 ♣ J x x

I thanked partner and led three rounds of trumps, followed by the King of clubs. LHO won the Ace, and triumphantly drew "my" last trump. At this point I was able to claim the balance for +650. The complete hand:

♠ J 10 9 x	♠ Q x x x
♥ J x x x	♥ 10 x x x
♦ K x x	♦ J 10 9
♣ A x	♣ 10 x
♠ K	
♥ A Q x	
♦ Q x	
♣ K Q 9 x x x	

All the match points. I guess nobody was able to find the superior contract of three no-trump from the South hand!

## Hand 2

Shortly thereafter, my partner picked up the following:

♠ A K Q J 10 x x x  
 ♥ K J x x x  
 ♦ —  
 ♣ —

He opened one spade, and the auction proceeded as follows:

South	West	North	East
1S	Double	3D	5C
6S	Double A	Pass	7C
7S	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

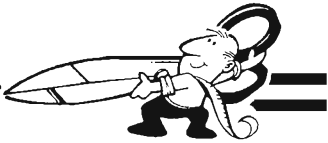
The double of 6 spades was alerted as a negative slam double, showing no defence. Since this was pulled to 7 clubs and since we were playing against two of Sudbury's finest, partner deduced that they were either making 7 clubs, or that I had the required values to make 7 spades. This was the complete layout:

♠ 8 x	♠ x
♥ x x	♥ 9 x
♦ K Q J 10 9 xx	♦ x x x x
♣ x x	♣ K Q x x x x
♠ 9 x	♠ A K Q J 10 x x x
♥ A Q 10 x	♥ K J x x x
♦ A x	♦ —
♣ A J x x x	♣ —

In spite of their conventional understanding, West could not restrain himself over 6 spades. He appeared to be rewarded with an even bigger penalty against the grand slam. He attempted to cash the Ace of Diamonds, which now established the six diamond tricks in the dummy. No need to panic. There was no entry to dummy, unless someone held the singleton 9 of spades. Partner cashed the Ace of Spades. Fortunately for the good guys, the opponents were playing one additional gadget: if you have no interest in a ruff, high-low in the trump suit. West dutifully played the 9. His last trump was now drawn with a small spade to the 8, and declarer pitched all his hearts on the established diamond suit. +2470! On their way to the next table, the east-west pair decided to drop these two conventions from their repertoire.



# Letters To the Editor



## To The Editor:

I write in commendation of Doug Andrews, Director from Zone 6.

As the CBF representative in Biarritz, he was efficient, sympathetic and correct in every way.

In the thankless task of captaining our team, he was the soul of tact and patience. His was a flawless performance.

Yours truly,

S.R. Kehela  
Toronto, Ontario

## To The Editor:

In your note to John Cunningham's letter (Nov. Digest) you said "Questions never confound me, although answers sometimes do" Not wishing to confound you, I will merely ask questions.

- 1) What did John Cunningham hope to achieve with his letter?
- 2) Did he hope to gain stature by

denigrating his betters?

- 3) Did he want Allan Simon to write a letter of apology to Terrence Reese, and to members of his fan club?
- 4) By referring to W.H. Auden, was Cunningham trying to impress readers with his knowledge of literature?
- 5) Finally, was his letter an illustration of that gratuitous rudeness of which so many players complain?

Yours truly,

W.B. Cunningham (no relation)  
Sackville, N.B.

## Editor's Note:

I cannot improve on what Omar Khayyam said in the Rubaiyat "Myself when young did eagerly frequent Doctor and Saint, and heard great argument About it and about: but evermore Came out by the same door where I went".

# Laws, Axioms, Dicta and Other Truisms

By R.H. Paterson

There is no explanation so absurd that your partner will express it.

Nobody cares what brilliance you displayed at the bridge table last night except you.

By playing bridge 3 times a week you may eventually become a life master and play bridge 5 times a week.