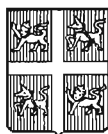


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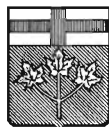
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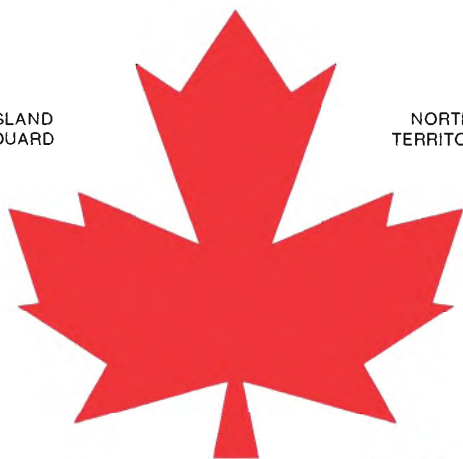
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CHIMO

Donna Pfafsky writes to say that she found fellow Montrealer Eric Kokish's article *Tempus Fugit* (Part I) - which is concluded in this issue - refreshing. She would like to see most articles at a similar level. What about it readers? Would you prefer more emphasis on bridge techniques in our Canadian magazine or would you put emphasis on other areas such as stories about clubs and members. A reader survey appears in this issue and a fast response (for which a prize is offered) is requested. The survey also asks readers to name their favourite article/author for 1977. Any comments will be welcome but please remember to clip and return the survey page.

Bob Brooks

COMING CANADA-WIDE GAMES

Wednesday, March 15 — Continentwide Charity Game
Monday, May 1 — Canada-wide Olympiad Fund Game
Tuesday, May 16 — Continentwide International Fund Game
Friday, July 21 — Continentwide Olympiad Fund Game
Monday, November 20 — Continentwide Charity Game

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Zone 3 - Gary Mugford, Bramalea

Zone 4 - Maybe next issue.

Zone 5 - Alvin Baragar, Edmonton
Mike Wiss, Saskatoon
W.B. Parsons, Red Deer

Zone 6 - The Vancouver Sun
Lynne Brooks, North Vancouver
Bob Brooks, North Vancouver
Henry Smilie, Vancouver

Free to Digest Readers

The British Bridge magazine "Popular Bridge Monthly" has just offered Canadian Bridge Digest readers a complimentary copy of their magazine. All that they require is for you to write them at 480 Mansfield Road, Sherwood, Nottingham, England. Obviously they would hope you would become a subscriber, but writing for the complimentary copy would not obligate you in any way.

The magazine is of high quality being edited by Joe Amsbury who has conducted Bidding challenge in another British monthly for many years. It is well worth writing for the free copy. A subscription available through Bridge World magazine at 39 West 94th St., New York 10025 is U.S. \$15.00 but why not write to the British address for a free copy before you decide. I think it will be worth your time.

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CBF Denies Responsibility for Published Article

- Alvin Baragar
CBF Executive Secretary

The Montreal Bridge League publication "Melange de Bridge" is a dynamic and exciting contribution to bridge literature, however, an unsigned contribution on the letterhead of the Canadian Bridge Federation purporting to be "the considered position of the CBF" must be challenged. The submission of Mr. Kokish (CBF Zone 2 Director) as presented in Melange de Bridge was discussed by the Directors of the CBF in Halifax. The Directors decided that a third all-Canadian ACBL district is desirable and decided to solicit the support of the affected Units in requesting the formation of a redistricting committee to consider the matter. No action was taken on the other suggestions made by Mr. Kokish and the other Directors. The CBF hopes that these misunderstandings will be cleared in the next issue of Melange.

Canadian Units Win ACBL Awards

The ACBL, using the July 10 computer cycle, has analyzed the percentage change in paid members from 1976 to 1977. Canadian Units took the top two places from 49 units in the AAA class (units over 1000 members) and the top 3 places from 109 units in the AA class (units having 300 to 999 members). The top units in the AAA class were Vancouver (Unit 430) and Ontario (Unit 166). The top units in the AA class were Quonta (Unit 238) Northern Alberta (Unit 391) and Saguenay (Unit 199).

The odds against taking these top 5 places is almost 200,000 to 1 so what caused this performance. Only a cynic would say that Canadians renewed early to take advantage of the dollar exchange rate and we shall know the truth when the October figures are available. I prefer to think that it is due to the hard working efforts of our membership chairmen and perhaps we have greater stability with Unit officials.

ACBL 1977 Summer Championships

Chicago, Ill. July 15-24, 1977

by Lynne Brooks, N. Vancouver

Congratulations to those who achieved overall standings in the following championships.

Master Mixed Teams

Karen Allison, Downsview, Ont.

Spingold Teams

Joseph Silver, Montreal, Que.

Eric Kokish, Montreal, Que.

Fred Hoffer, Montreal, Que.

Peter Nagy, Montreal, Que.

Individual

Bruce Dwyer, Quebec

Denis LaFrance, Charlesbourg

C.S.N.C. Open Pairs

Flight A:

Rene Lawand, Waterloo, Ont.

Marion Wright, Cambridge, Ont.

Bruce Gilligan, Regina, Sask.

Peter Cronin, Toronto, Ont.

Kate Thorpe, Scarborough, Ont.

Marlys Bugzynski, Mississauga, Ont.

Rina Adams, Oakville, Ont.

Flight B:

T.R. Greer, Agincourt, Ont.

Sheila Forbes, Toronto, Ont.

C.S.N.C. Mixed Pairs

Flight B:

D.M. Burke, London, Ont.

Robert Lebi, Montreal, Que.

Flight C:

Barry Senensky, Winnipeg, Man.

C.S.N.C. Unmixed Pair Mixed Swiss Teams

M. Rosenbloom, Montreal, Que.

Bruce Clark, Downsview, Ont.

R. Clark, Downsview, Ont.

C.S.N.C. Swiss Teams - Flight A

Norm Coombes, Hamilton, Ont.

David Lindop, Toronto, Ont.

S. Unger, Toronto, Ont.

Marg Gupta, Toronto, Ont.

C.S.N.C. Swiss Teams - Flight B

Doug Owen, Montreal, Que.

Kon Black, Winnipeg, Man.

Alan Schwartz, Montreal, Que.

C.S.N.C. Women's Pairs - Flight A

Kate Thorpe, Scarborough, Ont.

Sheila Forbes, Toronto, Ont.

C.S.N.C. Golder Master Pairs

Robert Lebi, Montreal, Que.

Mike Cafferata, Toronto, Ont.

C.S.N.C. President's Pairs

K.G. Kinlin, Toronto, Ont.

Illinois State Silver Trophy Open Pairs

Flight A:

Francine Cimon, Montreal, Que.

Francois Gauthier, Montreal, Que.

John Carruthers, Scarborough, Ont.

Michael Roche, London, Ont.

Illinois State Silver Trophy Open Pairs

Flight B:

Kevin Conway, Kirkland Lake, Ont.

Jerry Aceti, Sudbury, Ont.

Bob Todd, Winnipeg, Man.

Barry Senensky, Winnipeg, Man.

Special Pairs

A. Feingold, Ottawa, Ont.

Bruce Dwyer, Dorval, P.Q.

Executive Open Pairs

Bev Bernick, Willowdale, Ont.

Joan Klap, Don Mills, Ont.

Special Board a Match Teams

John Carruthers, Scarborough, Ont.

continued on page 10

Tempus Fugit [Part 2]

Eric Kokish, Montreal

A. Double your Cue-Bids, Double your Fun

1. After a strong two-over-one response

The forcing 1NT response to an opening 1H or 1S bid is the catch-all, limiting, mark-time device common to most systems based on 5-card majors. New suit responses at the two-level are, with certain exceptions, reserved for hands strong enough to force to game. The following scenario will be familiar to partnerships embracing Kaplan-Sheinwold, Precision, Roth-Stone, or Walsh principles.

West	East
1H	2D
2H	3H
?	

East's 3H is forcing and confirms a true fit (3+trumps). He considers his hand better than a semi-balanced minimum opening bid (he would have bid 4H). West may be minimum but may equally possess extra values in a flawed hand that made any other rebid impractical. Note that "standard" systems would require responder to improvise with a new suit before supporting hearts in order to establish a comparable force. Granted that early definition of this nature is advantageous, some accurate decisions will often be required before such sequences terminate successfully. Since both partners might well have hidden reserves of strength, they should have every opportunity to express these values before the auction gets too high.

What does West need in order to make a "slam try" in this sequence? If such a move would be below the level of game (one progressive bid will always be available), West needs only solid well-placed values. If an economical second move is available, no additional strength is necessary. It is only when West considers moving beyond game that he should have lots

of "extras". East, who has already shown a good hand, should generally adopt a similar approach. If East is ashamed of his hand, he probably should have bid 4H rather than 3H at his previous turn.

Would a black-suit cue bid by West promise first-round control? Although one would like to answer; Yes, this approach is restrictive and even dangerous. There will often be too much pressure on East to risk the 5-level in search of the missing control, and some good slams will be missed. Discovery of controls, regardless of their quality, at a low level will solve some difficult later problems.

Would the partnership (always/usually/sometimes) cue bid first-round controls before second-round controls? If a player intends to bid beyond game, he will generally wish to adopt this scheme to clarify the nature of his controls. In many cases, however, it will be expedient to admit to owning a particular control while the bidding is still at a low level. In our example above, it will usually be best to allow West to show his spade control cheaply (regardless of its nature) if he is not strong enough to bid beyond game after a return cue-bid from East. This will become even more attractive with the introduction of a few simple relay techniques.

In our sequence: If West bids 4C, does he say anything about spades? If West bids 4D instead, does he say anything about either/both black suits? If West bids 4D, must East bid beyond game with a spade and/or club control? If West bids 4D and East 4H, what does West need to keep on bidding? In order to answer these questions with any confidence, it is essential to define West's cue bidding philosophy and the expectations of East and West following any cue bid made by the partnership. Having touched on the requirements for a forward-going move earlier, a few additional principles will make a fairly complex area more manageable.

Initially, cue bids will simply indicate possession of either first or second round control of that suit. The order in which controls are shown is a matter of discretion, but when a player bypasses a cue bid or fails to allow partner the opportunity to cue bid a particular control, his partner is free to draw appropriate inferences. Into this framework, I propose to add the following.

With a major suit so strongly agreed, a bid of 3NT by either partner should no longer have any "natural" connotation. Remember that East could have simply raised 2H to 4H; since he thought there might be bigger things available, it is more than reasonable that 4H will be a satisfactory contract. Why should we use 3NT in a different way? To save bidding space, to mark time, to add a new element to cue bidding technique.

Let's return to our example auction and see how these principles work:

1H 2D; 2H 3H; 3S 3NT; 4C

West's 3S simply promises some early control of that suit. East's 3NT is a relay, offering West a cheap cue bid in clubs. West shows his second black control without wasting any bidding space. Note that a 4D bid by East might have left West in a difficult position. The 3NT bid made things easy.

1H 2D; 2H 3H; 3NT 4C; 4D

West's 3NT is a relay, a forward move denying spade control. East takes this cheap opportunity to show a club control. West cuebids diamonds in return. Note the difference between this sequence and the one that might have occurred had West's first cue bid been 4D. Note also that West might have a club control himself but would welcome a cue bid from partner nonetheless.

Note that East's 4C in this sequence IMPLIES a SPADE control because West denied one in principle. This sort

of inferential cue bidding can be invaluable in close cases.

1H 2D; 2H 3H; 4D

West's space-consuming 4D promises not only diamond control, but also CLUB control. Why? Because West would always give East a chance to cue bid clubs by relaying with 3NT if West were interested in that suit. SPADES, however, represent West's area of concern.

1H 2D; 2H 3H; 3S 4D

This time East promises both club and diamond controls for exactly the same reasons as above. Note that it is far easier for both partners to sign off or accept signoffs if cue bidding obligations have been met. Here West might bid 4H and East might pass, both partners minimum for their bids with all controls shown.

1H 2D; 2H 3H; 3S 4H

Strange! East could have bid 3NT to allow West an easy continuation. He refuses to cue bid a red suit. Yet he can't be trying to sign off (see earlier rationale). My suggestion is to use 4H here as a sort of SUPER cue bid, showing FIRST ROUND control of both minors.

1H 2D; 2H 3H; 3S 4S

Even more SUPER. First round control of all side suits.

1H 2D; 2H 3H; 4C 4H; 4S

4C theoretically denies spade control. East must sign off if HE, too, has no spade control. So what's 4S? First round control of clubs and specifically a singleton spade. Why not spade King? With that card, West should continue instead with 4NT over 4H (guarded King of the key suit - in this case, spades).

With a little thought, none of these inferential sequences is overly difficult. Nothing is artificial. Perhaps the most delightful thing

about this approach to slam bidding is the degree of flexibility left to the individual partners. Should you make one cheap try? Should you show a control now or later? Do you have anything left over that you haven't shown? The possibilities are certainly intriguing and if nothing else, you will certainly improve your judgment. Some examples follow:

a.	West	East	West	East
	Kxx	Ax	1H	2D
	AKQxx	J10x	2H	3H
	Kx	AQJxx	3S(1)	3NT(2)
	xxx	Qxx	4D(3)	4H (4)
			P (5)	

- (1) 3S showed some control.
- (2) 3NT relayed (but didn't deny club control).
- (3) 4D showed diamond control but did deny club control.
- (4) An unconditional signoff.
- (5) Note that 5H is probably too high.

b.	West	East	West	East
	Kxx	Qxx	1H	2D
	AKQxx	J10x	2H	3H
	Kx	AQJxx	3S(1)	4C(2)
	xxx	Ax	4D(3)	4H(4)
			5H(5)	6H(6)
			P	

- (1) Some control.
- (2) East could instead bid 4D, showing both controls; or 4H, showing both first round minor controls, but he wants to find out about DK if possible.
- (3) West shows some diamond control.
- (4) In East's judgment, his hand is worth no further move.
- (5) West's 5H is "telling", not "asking". He shows good trumps, no black Ace, and certainly the "right" diamond control (i.e. not a singleton).
- (6) East, with the club Ace (not King or singleton) and great diamonds, can make a sound decision.

c.	West	East	West	East
	xxx	Qxx	1H	2D
	AKQxx	J10x	2H	3H
	Kx	AQJxx	4D(1)	4H(2)
	Kxx	Ax	P (3)	

- (1) 4D shows both minor suit controls, denies spade control.
- (2) East knows that there is a spade flaw. His signoff is unconditional.
- (3) West has no trouble passing accordingly.

2. After a Forcing Major Suit Raise

The preceding principles and others can be easily applied to auctions that begin:

1M-3M or 1M-2X
2Y-2M (forcing)

or 1M-2NT (where 2NT is a forcing raise).

Dealing with the last case, the use of 2NT as a forcing raise was suggested by Oswald Jacoby and this treatment bears his name today. While not everyone's cup of tea, the device is useful insofar as it keeps the bidding low and establishes a powerful trump fit soon enough to set an efficient slam-bidding campaign in motion.

In response to the 2NT major suit raise, opener rebids as follows: With a side suit singleton, he bids that suit; with a void, he jumps in that suit (wherever feasible); with balanced hands, he jumps to game with minimum values; he rebids this suit at the 3-level with extra strength; he rebids 3NT to show 18-19 HCP. Variations exist but the battleground should be familiar.

1H 2NT; 3S 3NT

3S shows shortness (usually singleton).

3NT is a relay, offering West the opportunity to cue bid club control. Note that East might relay with either bad clubs - xxx; or good ones - AQxx (where the King is important).

1H 2NT; 3H 3S; 3NT

3H shows a balanced hand with extra values.

3S shows some control.

3NT by West is once again a relay, as in the preceding case.

1H 2NT; 3H 3NT

Here East denies spade control (in theory) but shows some interest in continuing. He might choose this route simply because a cue bid of his own could leave partner poorly placed. Again there is room for common sense.

1H 2NT; 3H 4D

East denies spade control but logically shows controls in both minors since he didn't relay with 3NT to allow West a cheap opportunity to show club control.

1H 2NT; 3D ?

3D shows a singleton.

A continuation by East has the following meanings:

3H is a relay to give West the easiest opportunity to cue bid spades.

3S should show first-round spade control because 3NT is available to show second-round control of spades.

4C is a SUPER cue bid, showing first round controls in both black suits. Why? Because East could have shown any spade control expediently and West could have given him, or could have been given, a chance to show the club Ace in return via one of the relay sequences.

4D is even more SUPER. First-round control of all side suits.

After 1S 2NT; 3H ? West has the following rebids.

3H shows a singleton.

3S and 3NT by East both waste no bidding room. Both bids are, in effect, relays. I suggest that one of the bids (preferably 3S for emphasis) be reserved for hands with VERY GOOD trumps. Further this should be precisely the message that East wishes to convey. Note that East can elect to send this message or not at his discretion and that his definition of very good trumps is also quite flexible.

4C carries the primary message; I am interested in diamond control and I have first-round club control since I didn't use either (1) or (2)

to give you room to show it. East could use 4D if he wished to show controls in both minors.

4H is another SUPER variation similar to one in the previous section dealing with 2/1 responses. First-round control of both minors.

The emphasis, as in the preceding section, is on cue bidding controls economically and taking advantage of the many inferences that seem to flow from this flexible approach.

Discovery of a useful treatment, such as the ability to show very good trumps above, is just one of the nice things that can happen when you begin to get into the meat of the subject. But even the incorporation of the basic concept that 3NT is a mark-time device will be a big improvement over existing non-agreements.

3. To Replace Blackwood

Many meanings have been assigned to bids of 4NT in slam sequences and most treatments have their advantages. Certainly Blackwood is indispensable in its proper context and some variation appears in everyone's arsenal.

In certain situations, most notably in cue bidding sequences, Blackwood is neither practical nor feasible. In many such situations it would be a mistake to assign any conventional meaning to a bid of 4NT because the most efficient use of the bid would be to have it mean absolutely nothing. The DI slam treatment comes closest to this apathetic interpretation and perhaps the treatments suggested here will fall under that blanket.

If you had to ask yourself, "What does that 4NT bid mean?", you could only conclude that partner didn't want to sign off just yet, so he shrugged his shoulders and bid something convenient. Here are some examples from real life.

<u>West</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>
Ax	KQ10x		1D	P	1H
AQ	xxxx	2C(1)	P	4C(2)	P
xx	x	4H(3)	DBL	4S(4)	P
AKxxxxx	Qxxx	4NT(5)	P	6C(6)	A11 P

- (1) Definitely worth a bid of some sort.
- (2) Preemptive (a maximum).
- (3) Slam try.
- (4) A cue bid (in keeping with our principles).
- (5) I'm still interested but I'm out of room.
- (6) I think I've got what you need (stiff D, etc.)

<u>West</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>East</u>
AQxxx	KJ10x	1S	3H
Kxx	AQJ10x	4H(1)	4S(2)
KQ	Ax	4NT(3)	5D(4)
xx	xx	5S(5)	P (6)

- (1) The raise always shows a good hand for hearts.
- (2) Real (4-card) support and forcing.
- (3) This medium has no message.
- (4) No club control.
- (5) No slam.
- (6) Too bad.

<u>West</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>East</u>
KQx	AJ109xx	1H	2S(1)
A109xxx	Kx	3S	4C
QJx	Kx	4H(2)	4NT(3)
x	Axx	5C(4)	5H(5)
		6S(6)	P

- (1) Not everyone's choice.
- (2) Denying diamond control in theory.
- (3) Still interested, therefore East has diamond control.
- (4) Some club help...Do you have DA or void?
- (5) No, but I have heart help and I can't bid slam with my indifferent trumps.
- (6) Not to worry....

<u>West</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>East</u>
xxx	Ax	1H	2D
AKQxx	J10x	2H	3H(1)
Kx	AQJxx	4D(2)	4S(3)
Kxx	Qxx	4NT(4)	5D(5)
		6H(6)	P

- (1) Forcing.
- (2) No spade control, but both

minors OK.

- (3) A forced bid, since East has that spade guard.
- (4) That's nice..What else is new?
- (5) Good diamonds too.
- (6) That information pleases me.

Note that East's 4S promised first round control. With guarded King, he would bid 4NT. With singleton he would cue bid a side control.

D. Some System Toys

1. To Play the Right Partscore After Your 1NT Opening

This gadget works best with systems that allow responder to check for a major suit fit and still escape to a minor suit at the 3-level if no fit exists.

Corollary conditions are:
Opener must bid hearts first with both majors and responder can use Stayman without a major simply to invite game in notrump or arrive at a minor suit partial. The treatment works this way:

<u>West</u>	<u>East</u>
1NT	2C
2H (1)	
	2NT(2)
	or <u>2S</u> (3)
P (4)	
3S (5)	
2NT(6)	
<u>3C</u> (7)	
	3NT(8)
	P (9)
	3D(10)
	3S(11)

- (1) Four hearts, perhaps four spades as well.
- (2) Invitational; specifically denies four spades.
- (3) Invitational AT BEST; exactly four spades; maybe long minor.
- (4) Exactly four spades; minimum values.
- (5) Exactly four spades; non-minimum values.
- (6) Fewer than four spades; non-maximum notrump.
- (7) Fewer than four spades; maximum notrump.
- (8) 3NT over West's 3C means that

- East was inviting with 2S.
- (9) East had four spades and long clubs with his 2S bid.
- (10) East had four spades and long diamonds with his 2S bid.
- (11) East had a poor 5-card suit and now that West has announced game-going values with his 3C bid, East gives him a choice of games. This sequence might alternatively be used with all balanced hands with 5-card spade suits by pairs not using transfer bids.

This innovation allows the partnership to stop at 2S (rather than 3S) when it is feasible to do so. It caters to weak and intermediate responding hands with exactly four spades and a longer minor suit. It enables the partnership to find a fit in either major where the spade fit might otherwise be lost, viz:

<u>West</u>	<u>East</u>
1NT	2C
2H	3C or 3D
?	

If East cannot bid 2S along the way to 3C or 3D, West will not know if he should correct to 3S. Even if this sequence promises four spades, the partnership is a level higher.

2. Quantitative Four-Bids

If Texas Transfers are not your "bag" you might consider this scheme:

<u>West</u>	<u>East</u>
1NT	4S (1)
	4H (2)
	4D (3)
<u>4H</u> (4)	4S (5)
	4NT(6)

- (1) 5-card spade suit, balanced pattern 14+ to 16- points.
- (2) 5-card heart suit, etc.
- (3) 5-card minor suit, etc. West can find out which by using
- (4) 4H as a relay.
- (5) 5-card club suit.
- (6) 5-card diamond suit.

NB Cheapest bid = Cheapest suit.

These hands are often difficult to describe accurately and this method provides the ability to do so

quite simply. West should be able to sign off in 4NT or continue to slam in notrump or suit. A useful corollary is worth mentioning:

If West accepts the slam try with fewer than two Aces, he should take the precaution of showing his Aces at the 5-level as in Blackwood: 5C=0 5D=1.

3. The Relay Back to Notrump

Many pet notrump structures feature the ability to use the same bids twice (in keeping with Section B of this article). This is accomplished in the following way: A bid of 2S (for example) over 1NT forces opener to rebid 2NT. Now responder can make all the bids that he could also have made directly over the 1NT opening. This method can, of course, be used profitably over 2NT, etc.

In this less-than-brief treatise I have attempted to point out that space-saving bids can be invaluable and that the possibilities of incorporating such devices with natural methods are not beyond our capabilities. Many of these ideas can be applied without resorting to ANY changes in approach or system.

With a little effort we should be able to convince ourselves that time is really on our side.

continued from page 4

Extended also to those following who achieved overall positions in single session side games.

Henry Smilie, Vancouver, B.C.
 Peter Deschenes, Hull, P.Q.
 Jean LaLonde, Quebec City
 Jocelyn Bernier, Quebec City
 Donald Farrell, Longueville, P.Q.
 F. Farrell, Yarmouth, Nova Scotia
 J. Aceti, Sudbury, Ont.
 Dave Woods, Sarnia, Ont.
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 Adolph Feingold, Ottawa, Ont.
 Bruce Dwyer, Dorval, P.Q.
 Frank Markotich, Scarborough, Ont.
 Ken Murray, Willowdale, Ont.
 J.N.A. Zeller, Mississauga, Ont.
 Bryan Culam, Cambridge, Ont.

ACBL Chicago Meetings

- Henry Smilie, Vancouver

I attended four of them:

1. At the Membership meeting, approval of certain housekeeping amendments to the A.C.B.L. Constitution was given. Life members may have to pay for services received from the League in future.
2. At an open Charity meeting, a very successful year was reported. Local charities seem to loom larger in the U.S. than here.
3. At the Goodwill Committee meeting, a review of the history of the Committee was presented. Comment was made about a lack of response to letters sent to Canada.
4. At the Board of Governors meeting, it was reported that the League's insurer was corroborating in the defence of the law suit arising out of the Houston trials; for the

first trimester the League's cash flow was \$39,583.00 in the red (two bits per paying ACBL member).

Plastic duplicate boards had been developed. "Alerts" were discussed. A motion in favour of more programs to promote bridge among retirees was passed.

I made a motion that the A.C.B.L. be requested to procure minutes of World Bridge Federation meetings, both Board of Governors and Executive Committee, and publish them in the Bulletin. It did not carry. Some one else, however, then made a less sweeping motion on the subject which did carry. Percy Bean pointed out that I represented a dual district and that the subject was of greater interest to Canadians.

As for my prowess at the bridge jousts, I have documentary evidence in proof thereof - "Certificates of Excellence". To earn one you must triumph in a section in a side game.

Bridge to P.E.I.

by Jack King, PEI

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
		Pass	1C=Precision
4S	Pass	Pass	5D
5S	Pass	Pass	X
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Two-Tricks Man

Swiss Teams, North-South vulnerable.

	10	
	654	
	1073	
	KJ6542	
AQJ97643		85
KQJ3		9872
--		J852
Q		1093
	K2	
	A10	
	AKQ964	
	A87	

At both tables, the bidding took a fast and furious turn when West pre-empted in spades. At table I this was the auction:-

West thought highly of his hand for he expected to lose at most three tricks and soldiered on. When East could not cover any loser, the contract went down one for minus 100.

At table 2, West did not view his hand as a 3-loser hand! and the bidding subsided at 5D. On the heart King lead, the declarer had no difficulty in making all the tricks for plus 640.

When asked why he did not take the sacrifice at the cheap 5S, West meekly replied, "I have two tricks on defence!" Too bad partner like in the first case could not produce a trick. Yes, the two-tricks man still took his two tricks and earned himself a nickname.

The Third Opponent

Peter Hollander, Montreal

In a recent issue of the ACBL bulletin there appeared an article by Jeff Rubens in which the virtues of showing respect for partner were extolled. We were advised to be mindful of his problems and to be alert to assist him in solving them. This outlook is somewhat unrealistic as it ignores two essential psychological factors. Partner's point of view, if in fact he has one at all, may be quite different from what you imagine it to be. Furthermore, the mental exertion required to assess a problem from across the table is beyond the capability of most people.

The second point is easy enough to see. Bridge is a tough exercise from one position and delving into partner's problems is an attempt to play two hands. Counting, inferential counting, analyzing auctions and card combinations are difficult enough tasks without doubling the effort.

What of partner's viewpoint? On occasion I have been so curious as to inquire why partner may have done a certain thing. Sometimes I am admonished to go to the next hand. More often there is a cold stare or supercilious grin. The answer is clear. No explanation is forthcoming,

as none exists. When all is said and done, it is rather difficult to analyze a mind that is utterly blank and to solve a problem which partner cannot even see.

There is, however, a way to circumvent these distressing difficulties. Partner must be seen as what he often is, an obstacle. He is in effect a third opponent capable of inflicting fatal damage. He must, of course, be shown all suitable outward courtesy and one must always have available a comforting excuse for a given action. Diplomacy, tact and an occasional apology can usually obscure even the most heinous array of bridge crimes. Partner is lauded when he does something right or perhaps when he neglects to do something wrong, but nothing is allowed to interfere with your control of the situation. The keys are to take precipitous action when needed and to take care to neutralize partner or at least to diminish the risk of his getting in the way.

Never castigate him for passing your penalty double, supporting your bid or returning your suit, even when something else was painfully obvious. In the long run you will be well served to discourage him from using his judgment. Always be bold and decisive, making it attractive for partner to pass rather than to think and strike on a lethal course of action. Remember that the lead need not run up to the stronger hand merely up to the stronger player. Ideally, partner is passive and almost always dummy rendered, so to speak, hors de combat. He will be as effectively out of the hand as someone at another table.

Why should one bother to understand partner and take his worries on one's shoulders, when it is so much more simple and effective to ignore him? Why, after all, should one permit anything so altruistic and naive as trust or respect to get in the way of a beautiful partnership?

[Peter might discover that if he ever does consider partner's problem it may be that he (Peter) is the third opponent in partner's eyes - Editor]

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The Inimitable Porky Rabbit

by Mike Wiss, Saskatoon

Every club has one, a player who is to Bridge what schizophrenia is to the brain, a player who can plumb from the depths of his soul an overbid not even the Hideous Hog would contemplate, and proceed to play the hand like Garozzo, a player who on the following board can inexplicably get cold feet in the middle of a delicate auction, and ruefully watch game make grand.

Witness this hideously artful exhibition by Saskatoon's Porky Rabbit, playing in a Mixed Swiss event at the recent Edmonton Regional with a nervous partner who needed only a few Goldies to "go over", and had been missing with a remarkable consistency matched only by her mis-play of the cards. A win in this, the final match, would place them in the overall.

Fate, in a clever disguise as the God of the Cards, waited until the final board of the match to make his appearance. The Good Guys, naturally, were behind, and this is what P.R. picked up as dealer:

S. AQx
H. KQ1098
D. KJ97
C. x

With the vulnerability irrelevant P.R. opened One Heart, and bid Two Diamonds over his partner's response of One Spade. He was somewhat taken aback when the next bid he heard was conventional, none other than that overused gimmick Mr. Blackwood dreamed up one day, and intended to be utilized only by certified Hogs and those whose suits had been previously supported. P.R. sighed and dutifully responded Five Diamonds, as he responded Six Hearts to the ensuing bid. It was then his partner decided to settle in Six No-Trump! Talking to himself, P.R. reasoned that she could not be searching for Queens, and must have a four-card suit somewhere besides Spades. Knowing a pass could not be right, he therefore snorted

and trotted out Seven Diamonds! Partner passed, and after some deliberation LHO led a small trump, greeting this dummy:

S. K9xx
H. Ax
D. A10x
C. AJxx

P.R. shook his head and stared disconsolately at the dummy for some moments, finally deciding the trump lead against this auction was from fear of leading anything else. He let it ride to his hand, winning with the seven as RHO played small, tending to confirm his hypothesis. LHO played another small trump on the lead of the nine to the Ace, and pitched a small club on the ten of trumps as it was overtaken by the Jack. The King of trumps left LHO in a progressive quandary as this was the entire hand:

S. K9xx
H. Ax
D. A10x
C. AJxx

S. J10xx
H. Jxxx
D. xx
C. KQx

S. xx
H. xx
D. Qxxx
C. xxxxx

S. AQx
H. KQ1098
D. KJ97
C. x

Why LHO chose not to lead the club King and leave P.R. with a guess in the trump suit will never be known. The Card God isn't talking....

How True

Someone once played a perfect bridge game:
His bidding and defence put others to shame;
Unmakeable contracts he doubled with glee
And sacrificed only when a profit he'd see.
Did he win fame and world renown?
Oh, no! His partner (that dolt) let him down.

Ruth Holland

Corporate Bridge Club

- W.B. Parsons M.D., Red Deer

September 10 was a big day in the Central Alberta Bridge Club at Red Deer when acting Mayor Alderman Ethel Taylor cut the cards to mark the official opening of the new club rooms. Turn-out was excellent with 23 tables in play.

A few months earlier, when the club's lease was about to expire, the building was put up for sale. Thirty of the club's members got together and formed a company called High Card Holdings and raised enough capital to purchase the building. The club rooms were moved to the basement and \$30,000.00 was spent in developing a very attractive area with full carpeting, good lighting, and tasteful decorations. There is accommodation for 25 tables.

With a real estate office on the ground floor and apartments above, the investment carries itself so the rent to the club is modest.

The Club, which has operated for 15 years, has about 100 members and has produced 5 Life Masters, the most recent being Al Payne who achieved that status at the Summer Regional in Calgary.

The Hotshot

Gary Mugford, Bramalea

I would like to suggest a more stringent enforcement of conventions at tournaments. The number of players using illegal conventions, particularly in Novice events, is too large; it is so disconcerting to a novice who faces opponents owning convention cards loaded with esoteric conventions. Most newcomers to duplicate would be too embarrassed to show their ignorance by asking questions and might not realize that rules were being broken. The "hot-shot" gadget-users obtain advantages equivalent to players having private agreements. The hotshot players suffer eventually since they rely heavily on the gadgets rather than on improving their bidding judgment. Greater restrictions on the novice players' use of conventions until well past the 20 masterpoint level would improve the general calibre of bridge at the intermediate level.

The foregoing may appear that I suffered at the hands of such players but the fact is that I was one of the hotshots that graduated to Master Class without developing judgment. I always regret this and simply wish to warn others not to follow the same route.

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READER SURVEY

There has been some indication recently that the contents of the Canadian Bridge Digest should be reviewed. Accordingly, readers are asked to indicate which type of material they would prefer to read. Following is a list of subjects which appear throughout a year. You are asked to circle a number opposite each subject named to indicate your interest.

1 = little interest, 3 = average interest, 5 = high interest

The list is not exhaustive and you may add other items of interest to you

Subject	Interest					Subject	Interest				
	Lo				Hi		Lo				Hi
CBF policies	1	2	3	4	5	Tournament analysis	1	2	3	4	5
Minutes-CBF meetings	1	2	3	4	5	Canadian performance	1	2	3	4	5
Financial statements	1	2	3	4	5	Tournament placings	1	2	3	4	5
Charity announcements	1	2	3	4	5	Directors rulings	1	2	3	4	5
Club news	1	2	3	4	5	Bridge hands	1	2	3	4	5
Member news	1	2	3	4	5	Play/Defence	1	2	3	4	5
Member letters	1	2	3	4	5	Bidding	1	2	3	4	5
Membership statistics	1	2	3	4	5	Book reviews	1	2	3	4	5
Obituaries	1	2	3	4	5	Other (name)	1	2	3	4	5

Article Types Preferred

1st

2nd

3rd

What is your opinion of present content (judge from several issues rather than only one)?

Circle appropriate number Bad Good
1 2 3 4 5

Articles in French appear infrequently. Should the allocated space and frequency of these articles be increased? No Greatly

Circle appropriate number 1 2 3 4 5

Could the appearance stand improvement? No Yes

Circle appropriate number 1 2 3 4 5

Name your favourite Canadian Bridge Digest article and author for 1977 (Canadian Bridge Digest appeared in the February, May, September and November ACBL Bulletins).

What suggestions do you have to improve our National Bridge Magazine?

Following are my own vital statistics (optional).

Approximate masterpoints _____ ACBL membership _____ years
Unit Number (if known) _____ City/Province _____
Can understand French language: Yes ☐ No ☐
Ordinary member ☐ : Unit official ☐ : Club owner ☐ : Director ☐
Address for prize: _____

The first identified return from each Zone will receive a gift of a recent bridge book. Those on an advance mailing list of the Digest will be excluded.

PLEASE CUT OUT THIS PAGE AND RETURN BY DECEMBER 15TH TO: R.C. Brooks, CBD Editor, 2692 Bendale Place, North Vancouver, B.C., V7H 1G9.

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