

# *canadian bridge digest*

CANADIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION  
FEDERATION CANADIENNE DE BRIDGE



NOVA SCOTIA  
NOUVELLE-ECOSSE



YUKON



TERRE-NEUVE  
NEWFOUNDLAND



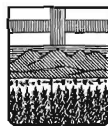
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND  
ILE DU PRINCE-EDOUARD



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
TERRITOIRES DU NORD-OUEST



QUEBEC



ALBERTA



ONTARIO



NEW BRUNSWICK  
NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK



MANITOBA



BRITISH COLUMBIA  
COLOMBIE BRITANNIQUE



SASKATCHEWAN



# Canadian Bridge Digest

ISSN 0317-9281



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Published quarterly.

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Savage**



Issue XLVII Vol. 16 Issue 1

Deadline for next issue  
is March 10, 1985

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## CANADIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION

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## Editor's Notebook

### *Canadian Bridge Federation*

#### *Dates to Remember for 1985*

*February 18 — Canada Wide Game - COPC 186 Qualifier*

*March 8 - 9 — COPC National Finals - Montreal*

*April 30 — Deadline for CNTC Zonal Competition*

*May 8 — International Fund Game - COPC 186 Qualifier*

*June 8-12 — CNTC National Final - Montreal*

*July 2-6 — CLTC National Final - Halifax*

*August 2 — International Fund Game - COPC '86 Qualifier*

*October 24 — Canada Wide Game - COPC '86 Qualifier*

Ron, I've decided that  
I'm too impatient, so  
I'm going to do something  
about it.

That's good Jill. What have  
you got planned?

I'm going to learn patience ...  
and I'm going to learn it  
**right now!!!**

FROM THE DESK OF  
GEORGE RETEK  
DIRECTOR OF DISTRICT I

## Next Stop - Montreal

Prior to summarizing the actions taken by the Board of Directors at our meeting held in San Diego between November 12-15, 1984, I wish to emphasize that the moment our District has been waiting for is drawing very close. The **next** North-American Championship will be held in our own **MONTREAL** starting March 8, 1985.

Here are some highlites of the San-Diego Meeting -

### I Financial

1. Based upon the unaudited August 31, 1984 financial statements prepared by management, income over expenses for the eight month period ended is \$77,000; that is quite similar to the 1983 figures. The increase in membership fee allowed the ACBL to absorb the increase in expenses. However, the preliminary budget anticipates a deficit of approximately \$100,000 for 1985.

A settlement had been reached with our previous insurance companies. I find it quite ironic (and unfortunate) that we had to pay additional legal fees of appr. \$100,000 to collect the amount of \$300,000 that was lawfully due to us. Death, taxes and legal fees somehow will never end.

2. I have been appointed as Chairman of our Finance Committee for the coming year by our new popular president, Mrs. Chris Wilson. I will work closely with our new treasurer Herb Smith of San Francisco for improving our administration.
3. ACBL management has negotiated **cheaper than supersaver** fares with American Airlines for the Las Vegas 1985 Summer NAC apparently without

the usual restrictions.

### II Tournament regulations

1. It has been suggested that starting with 1986, a new event, the Red Ribbon Pairs will be held at the Summer NAC for the winners of Flight B & C events. Final details will be decided upon at the next meeting.
2. Section master point awards at split Regionals shall be reinstated from 80% to 100%.
3. The request of the CBF to have Canada represented at the Venice Cup competition, starting 1987, was deferred to the next meeting. Presently it is questionable whether this request will be dealt with favourably.
4. Augmentation for International Teams from now on will be by specific action of the ACBL Board of Directors.
5. Instead of the present one day 0-50 masterpoint tournaments, units will be allowed one annual **exquota Sectional Tournament** from one to three day duration **limited to** players having less than 20, 50 or 100 masterpoints or any combinations thereof.
6. Units are encouraged to appoint a person to coordinate and promote bridge activities for players holding less than 100 masterpoints.
7. At senior citizen tournaments the sponsoring organization may hold open side games (local rating) that are unrestricted to age.
8. Appeal Committee members please note that from now on a player convicted of offence must submit (after (s) he was found guilty, but

before sentence is pronounced) his (her) own disciplinary history to the committee on a form supplied by Management. The completed forms will be sent to Memphis for verification and any substantial misstatement shall constitute an offence.

9. Club managers should read carefully the revised club plan for masterpoint awards. Bonus factors can now be earned for novice play, teaching programs, handicap games and new member enrollment. The masterpoint limit for rating games was increased from 1.00 to 1.70.
10. Item IV G of the 1985-86 GNP conditions of contest is amended to: The top 35% of the pairs and ties in the entire field shall qualify for the District final.

### III Miscellaneous

1. Mrs. Ruth McConnell (recently elected as ACBL rep. to the World Bridge Federation together with Ed Theus) requests that each District appoint a Historical Coordinator. Should you know of any person who is interested in the history of bridge and our league, then please advise me.
2. Appointments and Elections -
  - a. Joan Stephens, Joe Silver and Stan Tench will represent our District for the next three years at the ACBL Board of Governors.
  - b. Dave Treadwell is the 1985 Honorary Member of ACBL.
  - c. Maxianne Berger is the Canadian liaison person for the new organization, Forum for Women in Bridge.
  - d. Zyg Marcinski, Howard Cunningham and Rollande Makerewicz had been named to the Goodwill Committee of the ACBL.
  - e. Maurice Gauthier and Moe Deschamp will continue to be our Charity Committee members.

### IV MONTREAL SPRING '85 NAC

1. The Hon. Andree Champagne, Minister of Youth accepted to be the Honorary Patron of our NAC.
2. A complete schedule of the NAC program appeared in the December 1984 Bulletin.
3. Special thanks are in order to our major financial sponsors, Air Canada, O'Keefe and Rothmans'.
4. There will be an extensive Novice Program during the NAC. It can be successful only if we encourage as many novices as possible to attend. They will be entertained by world famous experts, many of them volunteering their services.
5. Montreal will be the center of the Bridge World for a few days. Scheduled activities:

Meetings by the ACBL Board of Directors

Meetings by the CBF Board of Directors

Visit by WBF President J. Ortiz-Patino

Meeting by the District One delegates

Voting for the Board of the newly

incorporated Montreal Bridge League

March 3-5 First ever Bermuda-Canada-

Mexico playoff, to qualify the winner

for the 1985 Bermuda Bowl. Come and

cheer for the Canadian Team!

March 6-7 Grand National Pairs Final

March 8-17 NAC

March 8-9 First ever Canadian Pairs

Championship Final

### IV Tournament Results

Poland won the Open and U.S., the ladies Team Olympiad held in Seattle. The Canadian Ladies Team finished 5th and our Open Team finished 7th in the Swiss Plate event following the round robin tournament. Congratulations!

SEE YOU ALL - IN MONTREAL!



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# CBF UPDATE

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By Michael Kenny

Dear Canadian Bridge Players

I am writing this in early December and I hope you are receiving it in early February. Otherwise, you can disregard the first 'date to remember' on the CBF ad in this digest.

The Holidays are behind us and we are well into the business of the New Year and the first thing I would like to do is welcome aboard two new CBF Directors. David Lindop and Doug Cannell are the new representatives for Zones III and IV. They will be replacing Karen Allison and Helen Shields respectively. Both ladies have made their marks and will be missed. Neither Zone could do better than the choice they made.

It also seems right to clean up some business left over from the last Update at this time. The International Fund Game advertised for May 17 has been rescheduled for Wednesday, May 8, 1985. Please take note of this change as this game carries COPC qualification.

Also, the Canadian Ladies' Team Championship Final dates have been set for the 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 of July, 1985, at the Hotel Nova Scotia, in Halifax, N.S. Starting times each day will be noon and 7:30. The National Coordinator is ...

Ms. Helen Colter  
P.O. Box 2100  
Fredericton, N.B.  
E3B 4Y6

... Your Zone Director should have all the information you require, but if necessary, Helen can supply what you need.

The first ever Finals of the Canadian Open

Pairs Championship is coming up on us fast. Qualified players from every Canadian Unit are reminded of the dates (March 8-9) and that the Board of Directors, in town for their annual meeting, will meet with players the evening before the commencement of play in a specially provided hospitality suite. Your Zone Director has all the details.

The Olympiad in Seattle is behind us, and although our players didn't do quite as well as they (and we) had dared hope, they nonetheless comported themselves well, and generally did us proud. Better luck next time, group.

At this time, the CNTC and the GNT Flight 'B' are both progressing at the Unit stage, and players are reminded that they are permitted to participate in both events (assuming they qualified for both) as long as they are not being held simultaneously. The winning team in the Flight 'B' in each District will be sent to Las Vegas at the ACBL's expense to compete against the finalists from the other 24 Districts, while the leading teams from each Zone in the CNTC will travel to Montreal in June to fight for the chance to represent Canada in the Rosenblum Teams at the World Olympiad in Miami in 1986.

Finally, don't forget that the CBF will be holding its annual meeting in March (5, 6, 7) in Montreal, and each Canadian Unit is entitled to send a delegate to the Delegate's meeting (March 8 A.M.) at the Queen Elizabeth. It's a good chance to say what's on your mind and find out first-hand what's going on. Be there!

Don't forget ... letters are welcome.

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## Bridge Bolt

Mondays are a terrible way to spend one-seventh of a person's life.



# VII World Team Olympiad

Editor's Note: Drew's vitae is so impressive, we've decided to print it in toto.

## **P. Drew Cannell**

Winnipeg, Manitoba

Life Master - American Contract Bridge League (2200+ Master Points)

International Master - World Bridge Federation

## **National Events**

1974 - 1st District 2 Grand National Teams 2nd Zonal Final Grand National Teams

1976 - 2nd District 2 Grand National Teams

1977 - 5th Fall Nationals North American Swiss Teams

1982 - 4th Spring Nationals Men's Board-a-Match Teams 2nd Fall Nationals Reisinger Teams

**Winner of several regional and dozens of sectional events.**

## **International Events**

1974 - Represented Canada at World Pair Olympiad in the Canary Islands

1978 - Represented Panama at World Pair Olympiad and Rosenblum Teams in New Orleans. Among Last 12 undefeated teams in knockout phase

- 1st in W.B.F. Central American and Caribbean Zonal Team Championships

- 6th Central American and Caribbean Zonal Open Pairs

- 1st Colombian National Open Pairs Championship

- 1st Colombian National Closed Teams Championship

- Invited to Cavendish Closed Pair Event, 15th in Cavendish World Championship Individual (out of 40)

- Invited to 2nd Caracus Invitational Pair and Team event. Played with David Berah (6th in Pairs, 5th in Teams)

1980 - Represented Panama at World Team Olympiad in Valkenberg, Netherlands

- Invited (with Jeff Hand, David Berah and Billy Eisenberg) to the 10th Caransa Team Event in Amsterdam. Eighty Teams from around the World.

- 3rd in W.B.F. Central American and Caribbean Zonal Team Championship

- Won Butler Pairs at Central American and Caribbean Zonal Team Championship

1982 - 3rd Canadian National Team Championship

1984 - 1st Canadian National Team Championship

- Invited (with Subhash Gupta, Alberta Calvo and Christian Mari) to the 2nd Epsom Invitational Team Event in Tokyo, 1st in Swiss with addition of W.B.F. President Jaime Ortiz Patino

**\*\* Inventor of Panama Relay Bridge System used in three World and three zonal championships. (World Bridge Federation)**

By Drew Cannell

THE PLACE: SEATTLE, WASHINGTON USA

THE TIME : OCTOBER 27 - NOVEMBER 10, 1984

Fifty-four nations chose to participate in the World Bridge Team Olympiad of 1984. The countries were pre-seeded into two groups of twenty-seven. This was done using the standings of each country in the previous Olympiad in Valkenburg. Among the favorites were:

Group A

FRANCE  
Chemla-Perron  
Szwarc-Mouiel  
Covo-Paladino

BRAZIL  
Chagas-Assumpcao  
Branco-Branco  
Avelino-Camacho

NETHERLANDS  
Maas-Shippers  
Rebattu-Sint  
Jacobs-Bomhof

POLAND  
Gawrys-Wolny  
Martens-Przybora  
Romanski-Tuszynski

DENMARK  
Werdelin-Auken  
Schaltz-Boesgaard  
Schou-Hulgaard

TAIPEI  
Kuo-Lin  
Shen-Hsu  
Chen-Wu

GREAT BRITAIN  
Rose-Sheehan  
Coyle-Schenkin  
Smolski-Stanley

NEW ZEALAND  
Mayer-Wright  
Cornell-Taylor  
Wignall-Woolles

CANADA  
Mittelman-Graves  
Carruthers-Guoba  
Molson-Baran

Group B

U.S.A.  
Hamman-Wolff  
Soloway-Goldman  
Anderson-Brachman

ITALY  
Garozzo-DeFalco  
Lauria-Mosca  
Vivaldi-Duboin

SWEDEN  
Sundelin-Flodquist  
Gothé-Berglund  
Hallberg-Gullberg

NORWAY  
Helness-Stabell  
Nordby-Pederson  
Maesel-Maesel

PAKISTAN  
Zia Mahmood-Masood  
Munir-Fazli  
Nisar-Nishat

INDONESIA  
Sacul-Waluyan  
Lasut-Manoppo  
Samianden-Wijaya

AUSTRALIA  
Marston-Burgess  
Klinger-Gill  
Lester-Lorentz

There would be a full round-robin within each group, plus one bye. Screens, bidding boxes and a sliding bidding tray were in use for every match. Matches were twenty boards in length with the Victory Point Scale ranging from 15-15 VP's for a 0-2 IMP win, to 25-5 VP's for a 48-53 IMP victory and even 25-0 VP's for an 80+ IMP win. After the round-robin, the top four teams in each group continued onto the quarter-finals. Group A winner playing Group B fourth, Group A second playing Group B third, and so forth. If any team met a team it had played previously (semis or finals), there was a full carry-over in effect, up to 32 IMP's. Sixty-four board quarters and semis, with a ninety-six board final.

The Canadian Team had at first requested Victor Goldberg (C.B.F. President) of Halifax to be N.P.C. and Drew Cannell of Winnipeg to be Coach. It turned out Victor was unable to go, and



the team approached Steve Aarons of Toronto. He accepted and we were off to Seattle.



(left to right)

Drew Cannell, Winnipeg (Coach); John Carruthers, Toronto; Steve Aarons (NPC) Toronto; George Mittleman, John Guoba, Mark Molson, Boris Baran, Allan Graves

Our first match was against a very sound Venezuelan team. I had played against all of them in the Central American and Caribbean Bridge Zone when I played for Panama, and knew they were tough. And so, it happened that we lost a close 16-14 VP match.

This loss, however, jolted us into winning the next five matches, including a 72 IMP (25-2 VP) thrashing of Denmark. At this point, Poland and Austria were setting the pace in Group A and Argentina was leading Group B. The only surprises were the middle of the pack standings of the U.S., Brazil and New Zealand.

In the match against Denmark, Allan Graves put on a beautiful display of dummy stroking.

DLR: EAST  
VUL: BOTH

QJ8653  
Q52  
53  
62

109  
K9873  
984  
1093

742  
J106  
A106  
AK74

AK  
A4  
KQJ72  
QJ85

West  
--

North  
Mittelman

East  
--

South  
Graves

-  
Pass  
Pass

-  
3H\*  
3NT

Pass  
Pass  
All Pass

2NT  
3S

Allan received the heart nine opening, to the jack? and ace. Now he played the spade king, creating the illusion in both defenders minds that their partner held the spade ace. Diamond king to the ace and the heart ten back. West took this, thinking Allan had three hearts and his partner the spade ace, and returned a heart. Allan's spade ace wafted gently to the table on the heart queen. Pretty. Eleven tricks and twelveimps.

We lost a tight match to Brazil in the seventh match by 17-13 VP's. Our first taste of viewgraph came in the ninth match against Poland. The guys responded with a marvelous 18-12 win, putting us right in the thick of it.

Match 14, against Mexico, ended a bad day for us. We lost 19-11, for our worst defeat of the tournament. Earlier in the day we had nipped Trinidad and Luxembourg, 16-14 each. I named today - "Bloody Thursday". The other seven team members know what I mean. If we are to qualify, we must slaughter these teams.

In Match 17, we defeated the highly regarded French by 16-14, as a warmup for another viewgraph encounter with Group A leader, Austria.

After three boards, the score was 15-0 for Austria. Not a hopeful start. By Board 8 we were ahead 20-15! Then Board 9:

DLR: NORTH

VUL: E-W

K106

KJ

KJ6542

85

A854

Q976

Q3

1096

97

A52

1097

AQ732

QJ32

10843

A8

KJ4

# CLOSED ROOM

West	North	East	South
Mittelman	Meinl	Graves	Berger
	1D	Pass	1H
Pass	2D	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

George produced the club ten for his opening salvo. Allan won his ace and returned - the club two - deceiving declarer about the length in the suit. Berger took the club jack and played the diamond ace, on which George smoothly deposited the queen! Declarer now sufficiently baited, tried spades. George took the third spade and led his club. Berger decided to throw diamonds on his club and spade (not knowing the diamond suit was coming in), and tried to guess the hearts for his ninth trick (thinking the clubs were 4-4). So, a heart to the king, ace, and a brilliant two down for Mittelman-Graves. Well done!

On Board 10, the Austrians guessed a suit better than we did for 14 IMPs. But, we gained 16, on Board 13 when Carruthers-Guoba collected +1100 on an Austrian foulup. The match stayed extremely

close the rest of the way. We were down a little when the last board flashed on the screen.

DLR: NORTH  
VUL: NONE

32  
A9843  
105  
AJ108

A985  
J107  
A9862  
2

KQ1074  
KQ6  
KQ3  
74

J6  
52  
J74  
KQ9653

# OPEN ROOM

# CLOSED ROOM

West	North	East	South	West	North	East	South
Terran.	JC	Fucik	JG	Mittel.	Meinl	Graves	Berger
-	Pass	Pass	1S	-	Pass	Pass	1S
Pass	1NT*	Pass	2D**	Pass	1NT	Pass	3H?
Pass	2H	Pass	3H	Pass	4H	Pass	4S
Pass	4H	All Pass		All Pass			

\* Forcing

\*\* Could be short

Four spades was down one in the closed room, and left the door open for a Canadian victory if JC could make 4H. Guoba made a fine raise to 3H to enable JC to bid the game. If JC made his game we would win 16-14, otherwise we would lose 16-14. The club king was led to the ace and a diamond to the king and ace. Diamond back, JC won and led a dangerous club to the jack, queen. Fucik now slipped and led a diamond instead of the killing club. A spade to the king and ace, and back a diamond. JC pitched from his hand, cashed the heart KQ, spade queen and ruffed himself home. Plus 420 and victory. Whew!

Austria was still leading Group A, followed by Poland, France, Denmark, Venezuela and Canada. Note Venezuela! In Group B, Indonesia, U.S.A., Italy, Norway and Sweden. In the Women's Series there were 24 countries, with the Netherlands leading, followed by U.S.A., Great Britain and France. Canada (Gordon-Kokish, Paul-Thorpe, Fraser-Dimon - Eric Kokish - N.P.C.) stood eighth.

Watch Boris Baran in action against Barbados.

DLR: NORTH  
VUL: BOTH

AJ8654  
Q964  
---  
KQ4

K  
5  
KQ6543  
J9763

---  
K10873  
AJ982  
A52

Q109732  
AJ2  
107  
108

West --	North Molson	East --	South Baran
-	1S	Pass	2H
Pass	3H	Pass	4D
Pass	4S	Pass	5C
Pass	6H	All Pass	

In the closed room Barbados had scored +650 in 4H. In the open room our boys were more aggressive. The diamond king was led, and Boris surveyed the Bajans' convention card and inquired as to their carding methods. They replied that they play "no" methods at all! Boris observed the fall of the diamond seven after ruffing in dummy. It appeared LHO had great diamond length. Therefore, Boris led a heart and inserted the seven! Now the diamond jack!, small, pitch, ten. A diamond ruffed with the queen for a routine +1420!!! This was a solid 24-6 win and kept us in sixth place.

Next, we played Taipei. The less said the better. We took our first serious loss - 23-7. This dropped us to ninth, but the guys came up with 21-9, 25-3 and 25-5 victories to put us back in sixth behind Poland, Denmark, Austria, France and Netherlands. Group B: Indonesia, Italy, U.S.A., Norway, Sweden, Hong Kong and Pakistan. The Women's Series: Netherlands, U.S.A., France, G.B., Sweden and Italy. Canada was tenth.

We now played India on viewgraph, followed by N.Z., Netherlands and a bye (18 VP) to finish the round-robin. India played flawless bridge and emerged with a 21-9 VP win, which all but crushed our play-off hopes. We were seventh and time was running out.

We beat both N.Z. and Netherlands by 20-10 scores leaving the round-robin results:

A		B	
POLAND	532	INDONESIA	531
DENMARK	520	U.S.A.	509
AUSTRIA	508	ITALY	508
FRANCE	502	PAKISTAN	482
INDIA	480	SWEDEN	479
NETHERLANDS	476	NORWAY	476
CANADA	474	AUSTRALIA	457

We had won 17 matches, tied 2 and lost only 7. We also defeated all four qualifiers in Group A! Not quite good enough.

In the Women's Series: Netherlands would play G.B. and U.S.A.-France.

In the Open Series: Poland-Pakistan, Denmark-Italy, Austria-U.S.A. and France-Indonesia.

Poland defeated Pakistan by 30, Denmark in an upset over Italy by 15, Austria clinging to a 7 IMP victory over U.S.A. and France routing Indonesia by 149. Note that all four semi-finalists were from Group A! Well, we beat them all, we said.

In the semis France took out Denmark (leaving them with the Bronze Medal) by 31 and Poland ousted Austria on the last deal!

Poland trailed the entire match. On the 64th board Austria

had doubled 4H for +200. A good result as they were still 3 IMPS ahead. Poland also doubled 4H, and the poor Austrian declarer uppercut the defenders' eight of hearts for +500 - 7 IMPS and a 4 IMP Polish victory!!!



(left to right)  
Maurice Paul, (Coach); Mary Paul, Francine Cimon, Katie Thorpe, Sandra Fraser, Sharyn Kokish, Diana Gordon, Eric Kokish (NPC)

In the Women's Series: the Netherlands was destroyed by G.B. by 132 IMPS, even though the Dutch had a 17 IMP carry-over. The U.S. disposed of France by 31, setting up a rematch of the 1981 Venice Cup, won by G.B. Carol Sanders and Betty Ann Kennedy defeated a GNT contract on the penultimate board to secure a U.S. victory by ten and a half imps (carry-over involved) instead of a half imp loss! Exciting? Yes!!!

The Open Final between France and Poland turned out to be anti-climactic with Poland, surprisingly, coasting to an 80 IMP victory. Sometimes leading by as much as 125 IMPS.

It was a great Olympiad. I especially want to thank Steve Aarons, Boris Baran, John Carruthers, Allan Graves, John Guoba, George Mittelman and Mark Molson for letting me be a part of them.

The Canada Wide Charity Game  
for the benefit of the  
Canadian Lung Association  
is scheduled for  
Thursday, March 14th, 1985

For every credibility gap, there's a gullability fill.





# The Agony and the Ecstasy

By Ted Horning

Can two hands tell the story of life? Heavy, isn't it? Well, I must introduce this story with background since I am not a Grant Baze, gliding on the Top 500 trail, but a syndicated bridge columnist, a bridge player, a human being with goals of self-actualization like your own. Regional wins, sure, lots — maybe ten this year. Master points — who cares? Canadians don't rank high in that category anyway. But World and North American championships are something else.

My partner, John Carruthers of Toronto, and I happened to be first going into the final of the Life Master Men's Pairs. Now I have been in five world championships and finished in the top 20 three times. I have finished 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 7th, 8th, etc. in North American Championships. But where is the first?

We were second overall going into those two boards, the Agony and the Ecstasy. I was North and John was South. We started well in the first few rounds. No bad boards, a few above average, two very good results — in short, in fine position to make a run at self-actualization. Until Boards 9 and 10. Dave Berkowitz and Harold Lilie were our opponents — a formidable pair indeed — but so are we!

Board: 9, E-W vulnerable. As North you hold: S AJ642 H void D Q86543 C 64. You pass and the bidding goes

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1H	3C (1)
4C (2)	?		

(1) preemptive

(2) limit raise or better.

I thought of 4D (not good as a lead-directing call), 4S (right for lead-directing, but you will see the problem soon), 4H (but I didn't think about this too much), pass, 4NT and 5C. I finally settled on 4S and East doubled — back to me.

I had hung myself. I wanted to bid 4NT but that didn't suggest 4-0-6-2. I couldn't bid 5D — that was too unilateral. I finally selected 5C and that call was doubled. Lilie made the killing lead of a club. This was the entire hand.

S AJ642  
H —  
D Q86543  
C 64

S K9873  
H A1093  
D K97  
C 7

S Q105  
H KJ764  
D A  
C A832

S —  
H Q852  
D J102  
C KQJ1095

Carnage: Club, club — down 900. Notice how nice 5D would have been. Maybe 4H was right after all, but that is irrelevant. The hand was over and our nice game had taken a turn for the worse.

Board 10, both vulnerable. I was still not holding many high-card points, but matters seem better when partner opens a strong (15-17) 1NT. We use minor suit transfers so partner should become declarer in 3C as I hold S Q42 H 5 D 75 C J987652 and can bid 2NT to relay John to 3C.

It wasn't quite that easy. Lilie made a two-suited bid showing hearts and a minor but that didn't interfere too much. We were playing Lebensohl, so I simply bid 2NT anyway, asking John to bid 3C. Except that Berkowitz bid 4H! Pass, pass to me. It didn't seem too likely that we could defeat 4H, so I took the push to 5C and was doubled. The HJ was led and this is what I saw:

S KJ65  
H Q32  
D KQ82  
C KQ



S A1097  
H J1076  
D J10643  
C --

S 83  
H AK984  
D A9  
C A1043

S Q42  
H 5  
D 75  
C J987652

I actually felt pretty good. Although it wasn't clear that the field would bid 4H, at least we had found a good sacrifice. I should get out of this hand losing one trick in each suit for minus 500, compared to their likely 650. (East's minor must be diamonds so they will lose one spade and one diamond.)

I trumped the second heart confidently and

played a club to dummy's KQ. The world crumbled as West showed out – East's minor suit was clubs!

Board 10 had turned from an ecstasy to an agony. My expectations had changed from an ecstasy to an agony. My mind tumbled into a black hole as I struggled to regain control.

But throughout this story, one ecstasy remains. My partner sat there calmly throughout the carnage. "Do you want a coffee, Ted?" was all he said.

I will certainly know the agony of defeat in the future. I may not win that coveted World Championship. But I do know the ecstasy of having a human being as a partner during those agonies.

Thank you, John!

---

## BELIEVE IT *or not...*

Reprinted from Kootenay Unit #574 Newsletter "Trump-It"

- The total points held by our Unit comes to 30,185. If you consider the rough estimate once made that it costs us an average of \$200 per point (entry, hotel, travel, food, sitters etc.) we have spent

around 6 MILLION dollars on bridge since we all began.

- The average point holding of a member of our unit is 138,30. Yes, that really is a spending so far of about \$27,800 dollars each!!! Now I ask you, do we like this game, or what?
  - About 11% of our unit are life masters.
- 

## From the Desk Of Henry Smilie

Chuck Campbell, formerly of the Vancouver Unit, now occupying an executive position in Nairobi, turned up at Seattle as a member of the Keynan Open team, with his wife Diane who was a member of the Ladies team.

## Contrary Bidding

At the recent Olympiad in Seattle the buzz

topic was fertilizer-genre bidding. To quantify the prevalence of bidding when you have't and passing when you have, at least some members of about 7% of the open teams employed such a bidding system. Both the WBF and the International Bridge Press Association debated the subject. One scenario for future World tournaments might be to allow all conventions in team events but not in pair events.

# == *Canadian Bidding Contest* ==

## NOVEMBER HONOUR ROLL

A first-time entrant from Halifax defeated 119 rivals to win the November contest by a comfortable margin. The leading entries were:

1.	Ronald Mak	Halifax, N.S.	570
2.	Rashid Khan	Sackville, N.B.	540
3./4.	Vic Rand	Calgary, Alta.	530
	D.C. MacDonald	St. Thomas, Ont.	530
5./8.	Dr. Eudene Stuart	Sarnia, Ont.	520
	Joseph Doucet	Toronto, Ont.	520
	Roy Alan Perry	St. Johns, Nfld.	520
	Stu Rosseter	North Bay, Ont.	520
9.	Ross Taylor	Hamilton, Ont.	510
10.	David Boushy	Calgary, Alta.	500

Mr. Mak receives a copy of "Bols Bridge Tips", by Terence Reese, and joins the expert panel for this issue. Congratulations.

## FEBRUARY PANEL

JOHN BRYDEN (Vancouver) is one of the stars on the West Coast tournament trail. In spite of his remarkable ability, he is still looking for his first really big win. But he says "You're only as good as your last game, which is why I keep playing".

DAVID COLBERT (Weston, Ont.) is another very strong player. In the 1983 Canadian National Teams (or CNTC, surely the best yardstick for measuring bridge skills in this country), his team placed third in the nation. In 1982, Colbert was selected to represent Canada at the Pairs Olympiad in France.

RONALD MAK (Halifax, N.S.) qualifies as last month's champion solver. However, his record is such (Maritimes LM of the Year in 1982) that he deserves an invitation as a bonafide expert. His nickname, of course, is "the Truck".

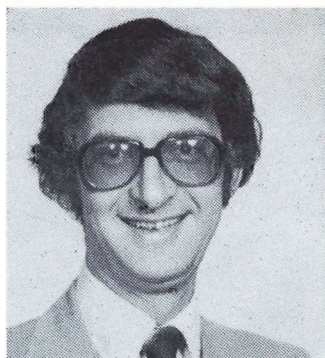
DORIS McCLURE (Winnipeg) is the revered membership secretary of unit 181 and one of the pillars of the 7 Oaks Club. However her presence on this panel is justified not only by her years of service to the bridge community, but also by her fine competitive record.

AL McDONALD (Ottawa) is one of the best known players in the capital area. He has won numerous regionals and sectionals.

LAUREN MILLER (Vancouver) is one of the most colourful characters in all of Canadian bridge. He was a CNTC finalist in 1982.

BILL WALLACE (Falconbridge, Ont.) was the second LM in Northern Ontario, earning his gold card one day after Vern Neppit. He is also notable for his years of dedicated service as bridge administrator.

ROBIN WIGDOR (Uxbridge, Ont.) represented Canada at the 1978 Olympiad; has won various regionals in the tough Southern Ontario marketplace; is a past editor of the Unit 166 Kibitzer; and is best known in a field far removed from bridge - he is one of Canada's foremost experts on computer law.



By Allan Simon

## FEBRUARY SOLUTIONS

A) IMPs, neither vul., South holds:

S:- H:A7 D:854 C:AKQJ10652

West	North	East	South
-	-	Pass	1C
Pass	1S	Pass	?
Action	Panel votes	Points	
2D	2	100	
2H	0	90	
5C	2	80	
3C	2	70	
3NT	1	60	
4C	1	50	

Obviously, there is no bid in Standard American which comes close to describing this hand. So let's examine the possibilities and determine the least of evils:

MAK: Three notrump. Two notrump openers and rebids cover all balanced hands from 18-22 HCP, thus 3NT rebid should show running tricks.

Even if we concede that partner will not play you for a balanced 20-count, 3NT strikes me as far from ideal because of the absence of a diamond stopper.

WALLACE: Five clubs. I re-bid clubs. How many? You do ask difficult questions. At IMPs I bid five, at matchpoints I bid three, hoping for three notrump.

Five clubs is admittedly the most descriptive re-bid available; but not only does it take us beyond 3NT, it makes slam investigation

virtually impossible.

BRYDEN: Three clubs. Seems like the best compromise. Opponents are silent so partner is unlikely to pass. 3NT might be better with a timid partner.

MILLER: Three clubs. Opponents' silence suggests that partner has enough values that we will avoid the indignity of playing a partial with 9 runners in notrump, so I'm choosing the rebid that will make is easiest to get to slam if this is where we would be. *I rather like this 3C bid; the only response that I would find hard to handle now is unfortunately the most likely, namely three spades.*

McDONALD: Two diamonds. Opponent's silence convinces me partner has a good hand. He is likely to judge his cards well on way to 3NT, 5, 6, or 7 clubs. Any other bid likely to confuse issue.

*Yes, with an intelligent partner (is there any other kind?) the reverse is the most flexible action. You will rebid clubs next (unless partner bids 3D, in which case 3NT seems right) and abide by partner's decision.*

B) Matchpoints, both vul., South holds:

S:AKJ74 H:- D:K1086 C:J843

West	North	East	South
-	1H	Pass	1S
Pass	2H	Pass	?
Action	Panel votes	Points	
2NT	4	100	
3D	1	70	
3C	1	60	
3NT	1	50	
Pass	1	40	

Most panelists either drove to game (more or less scientifically) or made a game try of 2NT. The odd man out however presents a strong case:

WIGDOR: Pass. Partner likely has at most two spades, at most three cards in each minor, but isn't 2-5-3-3 as he didn't rebid 1NT. He's therefore a favourite to hold 6+ hearts. With a misfit, two minimums and playing matchpoints, I'll go for the plus at the two-level. I expect 18-20 on a 25 top in a typical field, and more if they balance.

*Driving to game:*

McCLURE: Three clubs. Waiting to see what develops. Leaves all options open.

WALLACE: Three diamonds, planning to rebid three spades if partner rebids three hearts and to pass any game bid by partner.

BRYDEN: Three notrump. Puts the pressure on East-West. Most likely game, if game is there.

*When some experts pass, and others drive to game, chances are that the natural invitation of 2NT is best:*

COLBERT: Two notrump. The more fit I have, the less points 2NT shows. The goodish spot cards encourage me toward notrump.

MAK: Two notrump. Should not play much worse than 2H, besides partner may have enough soft values to make 3NT a good proposition. Also gives him a chance to show three spades or a four card minor.

MILLER: Two notrump. Against compulsive balancers a smooth pass will probably work better - assuming I can restrain myself from salivating.

*The multi-faceted Mr. Wigdor might be available for pokerface lessons.*

C) Matchpoints, East-West vul., South holds:

S:3 H:J8643 D:Q6 C:Q10952

West	North	East	South
-	1NT	2S	Pass
Pass	Dbl.	Pass	?

Action	Panel votes	Points
4H	6	100
3H	1	70
3S	1	60
Pass	0	30

*My favourite comment came from*

BRYDEN: Four hearts. Thank you, East. My partners soon learn to vaseline their necks.

*And your opponents soon learn to tape their mouths, right?*

WIGDOR: Four hearts. An unusual balance, but certainly not for penalties

under the 2S bidder. Probably 2443 or 2434, no values in spades and a maximum 1NT. Consider the easy play opposite xx AKQx KJxx KJx or xx KQxx AJx AKxx.

COLBERT: Four hearts. Partner probably has very few wasted spade values, and my hand is very offensive. If I go down, it will almost surely be a good save vs. 3 spades.

McCLURE: Four hearts. Partner must have hearts. Can't chance a pass hoping to achieve the magic plus score.

*I have little to add to the above comments. Four hearts is simply the only bid I would consider.*

*Bridge, like skiing, has its freestyle enthusiasts:*

McDONALD: Three spades. How good is this guy? Double should be takeout in front of spade bidder. Will correct 3NT to 4C and let him figure it out.

*Fasten your seatbelts, everybody. And one lone vote from Joe Clark, writing under the pseudonym of*

MILLER: Three hearts. Cowardly perhaps, but I'm paranoid about getting minus scores at matchpoints. I will of course bid four hearts if they compete further and wouldn't be shocked if game can be made by both sides.

D) IMPs, North-South vul., South holds:

S:Q65 H:Q76 D:KJ5 C:J942

West	North	East	South
-	-	1S	Pass
3S*	Dbl.	Pass	?

\* Limit raise

Action	Panel votes	Points
4C	4	100
3NT	2	80
Pass	1	60
4S	1	50
4H	0	40
5C	0	40

*Here we have the most difficult problem of the month, maybe the toughest ever. No answer is even remotely satisfactory. The plurality consensus, four clubs, suggests that we are as broke as Massey-Ferguson.*

MAK: Four clubs. There must be 50 points in this deck, or the opponents are taking full advantage of their favourable vulnerability and shape. If partner has a red two-suiter, you can eventually correct to play in 4H. Problem or fear is partner may be good enough to make 4H or 5C but decide to stay fixed and pass you out.

WALLACE: Four clubs. My first reaction is to bid 3NT. But I know partner does not want to hear this. I'm tempted to bid four hearts. But I'll settle for the ultra-conservative four clubs.

BRYDEN: Four clubs. If East-West have been funning us, partner has enough to bid again. If they haven't, partner has been bidding on distribution and controls with few fillers. I've lost 10 IMPs on these before though.

McCLURE: Partner must have a lot of distribution to step out at this high level. 3NT is out of the question and partner is unlikely to leave in because of his shape.

*In all due respect to this distinguished quartet, it seems to me you're all saying "Oh well, they fixed me and I'll stay fixed". With this philosophy you won't get slaughtered, but you'll die a slow death instead. I prefer to stand up and fight, like*

McDONALD: Pass. Either partner has nerves of steel or one or both opponents have psyched. Alternate bids (4C, 4H, 4S, 5C) all have severe reservations. Will apologize if we miss slam. 3NT would unjustly reward these guys as it is probably the only contract they can beat.

*The argument for 3NT:*

MILLER: Three notrump. Better than trying to guess which suit might play better. Partner has another bid if he can't stand notrump. Hats off to East (or was it West?) for his disruptive tactics.

*My personal preference, incidentally is four hearts. No ideal, but at least it's game if it works and there is a better chance of attracting a 4S sacrifice than if I bid 3NT. Finally, the most macho panelist:*

WIGDOR: Four spades. My partners don't

enter live red vs. white IMP auctions without real stuff, so East and/or West is fooling around. We're guessing, but the first priority is to alert partner I've got lots of unexpected values.

E) Matchpoints, neither vul., South holds:

S:AQ653 H:J642 D:A7 C:65

West	North	East	South
-	Pass	1S	Pass
Pass	Dbl.	Pass	?
Action	Panel votes	Points	
2H	6	100	
3H	1	60	
Pass	1	30	

*This is an easy problem. Let's go right to the panel:*

COLBERT: Two hearts. Partner could have as little as 7 points here. I'm just looking for a nice easy, contract. The poor spot cards warn against aggressive action.

MILLER: Two hearts. My best chance for a good board is pushing them too high rather than trying for an aggressive game. The old Ali shuffle still works sometimes around here.

*One panelist atoned for his sissy bid on the previous hand:*

WALLACE: Three hearts. I want to pass on this - but must respect partner's balancing position. But I do hold opening points and I like my shape. So - three hearts. I warned you, I am aggressive.

*Frankly, this bid did not occur to me (I thought the choice was 2H or Pass), but the more I think about it, I rather like the 3H call.*

F) Rubber bridge, East-West vul., South holds:

S:AJ10652 H:K94 D:J C:765

West	North	East	South
-	-	1D	1S
5D	5S	6D	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Which card do you lead?



Action	Panel votes	Points
Ace of S	7	100
Heart	1	70
Club	0	60
Diamond	0	30

This hand occurred at a Calgary rubber bridge club. The hands were

#### North

S:Qxxx  
H:QJxx  
D:xx  
C:xxx

#### West

S:x  
H:xxx  
D:KQxxxx  
C:Qxx

#### East

S:Kx  
H:Axx  
D:Axxx  
C:AKJx

#### South

S:AJ10xxx  
H:Kxx  
D:J  
C:xxx

Over 6D, South sacrificed at six spades, going down four. His partner, one of Calgary's top players glared at South for sacrificing. "But I would have led the ace of spades against 6D", said South. "No bridge player", retorted North icily, "would ever dream of leading the Ace of Spades. You're worse than I thought, etc., etc." North's criticism seemed rather unjust, so I thought I would submit the problem to our panel. The panel vindicated poor South:

MAK: Spade ace. Never give an opponent the opportunity of the last laugh - a throw-in at Kx with the spade ace from your heart Kx.

COLBERT: Ace of spades. Both opponents are guessing.

McCLURE: Spade ace. I am too old to try for any brilliancy. Once I see dummy I'll know what to switch to.

WIGDOR: Spade ace. Least likely to blow a trick, most likely to catch a trick that would otherwise get away. It's not much of a challenge to construct a hand where a spade lead loses a tempo. My table feel over 6D might have moved me to bid 6S.

*The final word goes to a man who can smell a killing lead across two time zones:*

McDONALD: Four of hearts. Partner is not broke.

## MAY CONTEST

To enter the May contest, send your solutions to the May problems (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 wins a bridge book and is invited to join the expert panel.

## MAY PROBLEMS

(A) Board-a-Match Teams, both vul., South holds:

S:A32 H:J965 D:AK852 C:5

West	North	East	South
-	-	3S	Pass
3NT*	Pass	Pass	?

\* E-W are Lawrence-Weichsel

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

S:A72 H:J43 D:6 C:AKQ1097

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1D	2C
Db1*	2D	Pass	2S
Pass	3C	3D	?

\* negative double

(C) IMPs, neither vul., South holds:

S:AQJ H:A86 D:3 C:AQJ853

West	North	East	South
-	Pass	Pass	1C
Pass	1H	Pass	?

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

S:1074 H:654 D:6 C:QJ9742

West	North	East	South
-	-	3C	Pass
Pass	Db1.	Pass	Pass
3D	Pass	Pass	?



(E) IMPs, North-South vul., South holds:

S:A9743 H:6 D:73 C:AKQ93

West	North	East	South
1H	Pass	4H	?

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

S:J9 H:AJ74 D:Q109 C:6432

West	North	East	South
-	Pass	1S	Pass
2C	Pass	2D	Pass
3S	Pass	4C	Pass
4D	Pass	5S	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Which card do you lead?

## The Game's The Thing

By Frances MacDonald  
Kingston Duplicate Bridge Club

At a recent club game, Ken Allan and Don Kersey had a 261 score on a 156 average. Looking at the hands afterwards they felt that they had been the recipients of surprisingly few gifts rather their monstrous score was due to their aggressive style and non-standard bidding system.

They play a version of precision. Their main departure from "official" precision being their 1NT opening. They play a 10-12 H.C.P. in first and second seat with any vulnerability. The mini-notrump came up 5 times, twice allowing them to reach hard-to-bid games and twice enticing the opponents to take rash action. Result 53½ out of 60 match points.

Another difference from "official" precision occurs when the opponents overcall their 1 club opening. A double by responder shows a hand of 6-7 H.C.P., tending to be balanced. This led to healthy penalties when all they had was a part score. Five hands doubled by them were all set. Result 55 out of 60 match points. As well they made 3 doubled contracts and the one they went down in was a good sacrifice. Result 45½ out of 48 match points.

This was a night when they could do no wrong. Their one misunderstanding resulted in a top board.

1NT (10-12)	2D
2S	4NT**
6NT result making seven	

\* 4NT was intended as Roman Key Card Blackwood but was interpreted systemically and correctly as a quantitative 4NT.

Our congratulations are extended to Ken and Don for their rare and super score.

## Especially At 83.65%

By Don Kersey

The first two hands set the tone for the evening. Board 17 was a system triumph.

S - x  
H - AQJxxx  
D - xx  
C - QJxx  
S - AKx  
H - Kxxx  
D - Kxx  
C - Axx

N	E	S	W
	1C		1H
	1NT		2C
	2H		3H
	3N		4C
	4N		

1C - 16+ points  
1H - 8+ points and 5+ hearts  
1NT - asks for controls (A = 2, K = 1)  
2C - 0 to 2 controls  
2H - how good are your hearts  
3H - 6+ with 2 of 3 top honours  
3N - Sign off  
4C - a second suit with extra values  
4N - sign off

After my partner's (East) 3H bid I knew that he had 6 or more hearts to a A Q and no other A or K. With the hearts certain to run it was unlikely that the opponents could set up a suit before we got our tricks in and the diamond weakness made it desirable to have the lead come up to the K of Diamonds. Thus 2NT instead of a spade fit.

After a spade lead, the club finesse fails but clubs split. Making 460 for a top.

Note that if E's Diamonds and club holdings had been interchanged, E would have been able to bid the cold 6 hearts after the 4 clubs call.

#### Board 18

S KJxx  
H AJxx  
D AQ10x  
C x

S Axx  
H 10x  
D KJxxxx  
C AJ

S Qxx  
H 9xx  
D xx  
C Qxxxx

S xxx  
H KQxx  
D x  
C K10xxx

E	S	W	N
P	1D	*	P
2H	P	4H	

1. Clubs: A
2. Hearts: 10, x, x, K
3. Spades: x, A, x, x
4. Hearts: x, x, x, 8

Since this is a borderline game just making it ought to score well. After South switched to trumps, I led a spade intending to rise with the K and then win my 10 tricks or a cross ruff. When South hopped up with his A of spades and led another trump the best continuation is to take the almost certain Diamond finesse, cash top tricks and cross ruff. But I was still digesting my supper and mesmerized by the potential of the club suit so I fell instead into a squeeze.

5. Clubs: x, J, J, x
6. Diamonds: A, x, x, x
7. Diamonds: x, x, x, x
8. Clubs: x, x, A, x

When the 10 of diamonds is lead from dummy. North is squeezed - he must unprotect one of his black queens or jetison his trump.

#### Board 19

S Jxxx  
H A87x  
D 10x  
C Axx

(Don)  
S AQx  
H J109x  
D 8x  
C K8xx

(Ken)  
S K987  
H KQxx  
D KQJ6  
C x

S 10x  
H x  
D A97xx  
C QJ10xx

S	W	N	E
P	1N	P	2D
*	(10-12)	P	(forcing staymor)
	2H		4H

In obedience to South's questionable double, N led 10-J-A of diamonds, South could have beaten the hand by ducking this trick, but the odds favour W to hold 3 rather than the 2 diamond cards, so it is hard to blame S for winning and trying to give N a ruff. E won the 9 of diamonds with the K and returned the 10-K-A of clubs. North now tried the 2-7-10-A of spades, the declarer ruffed a club. The K of hearts was allowed to hold, and declarer continued with dummy's remaining small trump, leaving N powerless. In practice, she won and tried another low spade. Declarer won in dummy, crossed to Q of spades, ruffed one club and discarded the other of the K of spades, claiming the J 10. If declarer can defeat the hand by holding off. Declarer can run the spade suit and ruff a diamond, but N over-ruffs and returns her last trump,

which declarer wins in hand with a loser for trick 13. Retaining the Q of hearts in the dummy, which has a diamond winner at the end, breaks this defence.

## Board 2

S QJ10x  
H AJx  
D K9xx  
C Ax

(Don)

S 9xx  
H K1097x  
D Qx  
C xxx

(Ken)

S AKx  
H 8xx  
D A108  
C KJxx

S xxx  
H Qx  
D Jxxx  
C Q10xx

N-S vul.

E	S	W	N
1D	P	1H	1N
*	P	P	P

North's 1N call was more than questionable, but it was not easy for W to pass the double. One trick got away on defence, but +200 was still a clear top.

1. 8H - x - 9 - J

2. AC

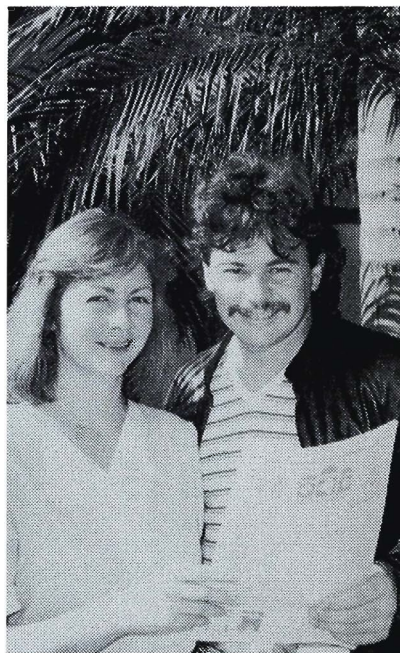
3. Club

If E rises with K of clubs

At this point, the contract can be set two tricks. However, E ducked, and declarer played dummy's Q. Now a spade was led, E winning and leading a second heart. W cleared his hearts, and declarer played a second spade. E cashed his two club tricks and exited with a spade, and the defence scored two diamond tricks at the end for 1 down.

It will not help N if she guesses to play the 10 of clubs at trick 3. In that case E will score only one club trick, but W will have a heart to cash when he gains the lead with the Q of diamonds.

## Rookies Compete



Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Demuy, Montreal, enjoyed the San Diego sunshine and the flurry of the 1984 Fall North American Championships in November as District qualifiers in Rookie Grand National Championships.

Both were guests of the ACBL for two nights at the Town & Country hotel, played the RGN-V finals on Saturday, Nov. 17, and were guests at a brunch on Sunday, Nov. 18. They had qualified in September.

The Rookie Grand National VI will have qualification play at clubs throughout the ACBL in September, and the winners will receive expense paid participation in the Fall championships at Winnipeg.

# TOP CANADIAN MASTERPOINT HOLDERS

as of 11 May, 1984

415. S Levine	New Westminster BC	1197
416. Dave Willis	Orleans ON	1196
416. Stuart Oulton	Fredericton NB	1196
418. Marj Andrukow	Calgary AB	1195
418. William Hepperle	Kelowna BC	1195
420. Cliff Campbell	Thunder Bay ON	1193
421. Gary Hodgson	Toronto ON	1191
422. B Gottlieb	Ottawa ON	1189
423. Rhoda Habert	Montreal PQ	1187
424. Mrs Bea Sunninge	Kelowna BC	1185
425. Bill Campbell Jr	Fredericton NB	1184
425. Larry Duffy	Baie D'Urfe PQ	1184
427. Mrs K Van Lieshout	Vancouver BC	1183
428. Donald Presse	Halifax NS	1181
428. Mrs D J Shapiro	Vancouver BC	1181
430. Peggy Whitehouse	Etobicoke ON	1180
430. Mrs E M Horning	North York ON	1180
432. J Fajgelzon	Montreal PQ	1179
433. Joseph Rossetti	Kelowna BC	1177
433. Mrs C P Harris	Halifax NS	1177
435. Mr Jean Bernier	Neufchatel PQ	1174
436. Maurice Larochelle	Ste Foy PQ	1172
437. Scott Symonds	Halifax NS	1169
438. Mrs E Marquart	Winnipeg MB	1164
439. Howard Rubin	North Vancouver BC	1163
440. Roland Nelson	Mississauga ON	1162
440. Robert Hirsch	Brossard PQ	1162
442. Robert Teshima	Edmonton AB	1161
443. Bruce Wahl	Jonquiere PQ	1160
444. William Knoll Sr	New Glasgow NS	1158
444. Alex Kornel	Toronto ON	1158
446. Mrs V Nepitt	Capreol ON	1157
446. Lillian Vine	Hamilton ON	1157
448. Sharron Balkam	Fredericton NB	1156
448. Bill Solomon	North York ON	1156
450. Paul Graves	Toronto ON	1152
450. Bess Burns	Mississauga ON	1152
452. Arno Hobart	North York ON	1151
453. David Kirsh	Roxboro PQ	1148
453. Brij Garg	Sudbury ON	1148
455. Danny Schamehorn	Orillia ON	1147

456. Raye Dolgoy	Edmonton AB	1146
457. John Singer	Sudbury ON	1145
457. Richard Christie	Vancouver BC	1145
459. Al Smith	Peterborough ON	1144
460. Gordon Hoare	Victoria BC	1139
461. R Perron	Montreal PQ	1138
462. John Arblaster	Thunder Bay ON	1134
463. Ron Gardiner	Edmonton AB	1133
464. Anne Dunn	Moose Jaw SK	1132
465. Neil Kimelman	Winnipeg MB	1131
466. John Valliant	Ottawa ON	1127
467. Kay Allen	Toronto ON	1126
468. Marie Carragher	Charlottetown PEI	1124
469. Anna Pyka	Victoria BC	1122
469. John Bryden	Vancouver BC	1122
470. K Van Renesse	Vancouver BC	1121
472. Peggy McGregor	Saskatoon SK	1119
473. Sid Kirsh	Etobicoke ON	1117
474. Mr Jean Castonguay	Chateauguay PQ	1116
475. Kathy Adachi	North Delta BC	1113
476. James Harper	Fredericton NB	1112
476. Gladys Campbell	Saskatoon SK	1112
478. Con Carter	Dartmouth NS	1111
479. Larry Hansen	Thunder Bay ON	1110
480. John Hazell	Angus ON	1108
481. Roderick Mackenzie	Halifax NS	1107
482. Doug Heron	Ottawa ON	1106
482. George Geyer	Toronto ON	1106
484. Mrs S Terrade	Nepean ON	1105
484. Myrtle Moulton	Halifax NS	1105
486. Cliff Puskas	Saskatoon SK	1103
486. Cedric MacDiarmid	Sarnia ON	1103
486. Doran Flock	Calgary AB	1103
489. S J Howard	Saskatoon SK	1102
489. Eve Morton	North York ON	1102
491. Norbert Bedoucha	Cote St Luc PQ	1102
492. Harry Abel	Toronto ON	1099
492. Doug Fox	Toronto ON	1099
492. Patricia Tasker Brown	Victoria BC	1099
495. Bess Rutledge	Saskatoon SK	1097
495. Malcolm Ewashkiw	Belleville ON	1097
497. Moselle Berger	Toronto ON	1096
498. Lauriat Gervais	Jonquiere PQ	1095
499. Al Lando	Toronto ON	1093
500. Mildred Dalgleish	Saskatoon SK	1091
500. M H Campbell	Victoria BC	1091
500. Ruth Neustadt	Calgary AB	1091
503. Ken Turner	Dundas ON	1090

504. Beverley McKellar	Brockville ON	1089
505. Mark Arbour	Scarborough ON	1088
506. J N Zeller	Mississauga ON	1087
507. Ron Marks	Scarborough ON	1086
508. Lois Solinger	Calgary AB	1085
508. Dave McLellan	Thunder Bay ON	1085
510. W Zumstein	Lethbridge AB	1084
511. George Schick	Ladysmith BC	1083
511. Dave Kilworth	Edmonton AB	1083
513. Jean Groome	Delta BC	1081
513. Frances Waters	Vancouver BC	1081
513. Marcia Caplan	Ottawa ON	1081
516. Robert Hambly	Charlottetown PEI	1078
516. Helen Krajna	Toronto ON	1078
516. Mr Jean Lamontagne	Charlesbourg PQ	1078
519. Ruth Gold	Toronto ON	1072
519. Jim McCully	North Vancouver BC	1072
520. Guy Bilodeau	Neufchatel PQ	1071
521. Mary-Rose Mrazek	Lethbridge AB	1071
521. Donald Fraser	North Burnaby BC	1071
524. Allan Terplawy	Edmonton AB	1070
524. Alex Sutton	Etobicoke ON	1070
524. Lucille Barton	Edmonton AB	1070
527. Anita Hargrove	Nepean ON	1068
528. Tim Edwards-Davies	Gloucester ON	1067
529. William Kozak	Thunder Bay ON	1065
529. Haig Tchamitch	North York ON	1065
531. Doris Rossen	Winnipeg MB	1063
532. George Boeckh	Toronto ON	1062
533. Frank Turcsik	Montreal PQ	1061
533. Ceil Fisher	Toronto ON	1061
533. Lynne Milner	Toronto ON	1061
536. Jack Howell	Kemble ON	1060
537. H Waks	Vancouver BC	1058
538. Conn Sutherland	Mississauga ON	1058
539. Edgar Blinn	Lunenburg NS	1054
539. Gilda Caplan	Toronto ON	1054
541. William Crissey WM	London ON	1053
541. Helen Armitt	London ON	1053
543. Kenneth Paine	Saskatoon SK	1051
544. Voyteck Pomykalski	Cornwall ON	1049
545. Alfred Couture	Ottawa ON	1047
545. Alan Schwartz	Montreal PQ	1047
547. Simon Marinker	Sault Ste Marie ON	1043
547. Jack Goldie	Victoria BC	1043
547. Christine Hutton	Toronto ON	1043
550. Pearle Bally	Plainfield ON	1040
551. John Measures	Ottawa ON	1039



552. Mrs G J Hummel	Milk River AB	1037
553. Brian May	Richmond BC	1036
554. Philippa Tanton	Hampstead PQ	1035
555. Ken Berlet	Scarborough ON	1033
556. Joyce Lemoine	Ottawa ON	1032
556. Mme J D Arsenault	Quebec PQ	1032
558. Patricia McAdam	Ottawa ON	1031
559. Robert Pugh	Toronto ON	1030
559. Tom Waglar	Calgary AB	1030
559. Ruth Urquart	Etobicoke ON	1030
562. Norman Levi	Winnipeg MB	1029
563. Alwyn Richards	Scarborough ON	1028
564. Larry Cara	North York ON	1025
564. Jill Savage	St Albert AB	1025
566. Mr Jean Provost	St Thomas D'Aquinas PQ	1023
567. Laurier Girard	Ville Baie PQ	1022
568. Bert Habert	Montreal PQ	1021
569. Mrs M Walder	Winnipeg MB	1020
570. Stella Alliston	Vancouver BC	1017
571. Doug Oram	Vancouver BC	1015
571. Elayne Kays	Charlottetown PEI	1015
573. Helen Shields	Thunder Bay ON	1014
573. Richard Spackman	Lethbridge AB	1014
573. Margaret Lawless	Calgary AB	1014
576. James Cole	Brockville ON	1013
577. Harvey Piercy	Burnaby BC	1012
577. C I Woolsey	Surrey BC	1012
577. Valerie Tom	Edmonton AB	1012
580. Greg Arbour	Vancouver BC	1011
580. Carolyn MacDonald	Truro NS	1011
582. Sophie Ziger	Mount Royal PQ	1010
582. Jordan Cohen	Concord ON	1010
584. Connie Deslisle	Vancouver BC	1008
584. Morley English	Ottawa ON	1008
584. Dave Model	Aurora ON	1008
587. Phyllis Barrington	Vancouver BC	1007
588. T Gould	Burnaby BC	1005
589. Wilf Sarnier	Toronto ON	1004
589. Nick Jurkovich	Milk River AB	1004
589. Helen Mitchell	Edmonton AB	1004
592. Doug Drew	Toronto ON	1003
593. Peter Basarsky	Moose Jaw SK	1002
593. Ernie Tradewell	Victoria BC	1002
595. Hazel Roberts	Toronto ON	1001
596. Colin Revill	Burlington ON	1000

# TOP CANADIAN MASTERPOINT HOLDERS

10 June 1961

Editor's Note: It is interesting to compare that current masterpoint holders with rankings from 1961 and 1977, as sent to us by John Armstrong, editor of the Ontario Kibitzer.

1. Murray, Eric R, Toronto . . . . .	3129	48. Pauze, Hortense, Montreal . . . . .	465
2. Elliott, Bruce, Toronto . . . . .	2271	49. Cartwright, Audrey, Toronto . . . . .	461
3. Sheardown, Percy, Toronto . . . . .	2149	49. Geoffrion, C, Montreal . . . . .	461
4. Begin, Mrs Jackie, Montreal . . . . .	1506		
5. Bork, Harry, Hamilton . . . . .	1472	51. Stacklies, Max, Vancouver . . . . .	460
6. Powley, Bert, Toronto . . . . .	1294	52. Hills, Lillie, W. Vancouver . . . . .	459
7. Gold, Sam, Montreal . . . . .	1168	53. Turnbull, Norman, Vancouver . . . . .	456
8. Boeckh, George, Don Mills ON . . . . .	1057	54. Messias, D L, Toronto . . . . .	450
9. DaCosta, Don, Toronto . . . . .	1035	55. Boeckh, Mrs G, Don Mills ON . . . . .	443
10. Gowdy, Bruce, Toronto . . . . .	1029	56. Schwartz, P L, Montreal . . . . .	439
11. Cohen, Ralph, Montreal . . . . .	921	57. Cartwright, Duke, Toronto . . . . .	438
12. Stewart, C A, Toronto . . . . .	871	58. Sereny, George, Toronto . . . . .	435
13. Hicks, Adrian, Vancouver . . . . .	842	59. Harrow, Helen, Toronto . . . . .	432
14. Burns, N M, Toronto . . . . .	821	60. King, Mac, Toronto . . . . .	429
15. Miller, Mickey, Toronto . . . . .	776	61. Hazel, Juliette, Quebec . . . . .	418
16. Anderson, Mrs W M, Toronto . . . . .	751	62. Creed, Harry, Toronto . . . . .	413
17. Raynault, John, Montreal . . . . .	749	63. Bruce, Michael, Vancouver . . . . .	411
18. Altman, Marvin, Montreal . . . . .	736	64. Hart, Dick, Toronto . . . . .	409
18. Stark, Eric, Vancouver . . . . .	736	65. Godin, Paul, Montreal . . . . .	404
20. Cowan, Don, Toronto . . . . .	730	66. Duchesne, Noel, Quebec . . . . .	399
21. Ball, George, Scarborough . . . . .	705	67. Brown, Amos, Toronto . . . . .	379
21. Pauze, André, Montreal . . . . .	705	68. Turner, Ken, Hamilton . . . . .	360
23. Hamel, Edgar, Montreal . . . . .	696	69. Brown, Mrs A, Toronto . . . . .	355
24. Chow, Bob, Toronto . . . . .	692	70. Howell, Jack, Toronto . . . . .	353
25. Kehela, Sami, Toronto . . . . .	691	71. Dubois, J A, Quebec . . . . .	352
26. Quitt, Mrs S M, Hamilton . . . . .	659	72. Joffe, Hattie, Calgary . . . . .	348
27. Jones, Erick, Rexdale ON . . . . .	648	72. Lefebvre, Earl, Ottawa . . . . .	348
28. Boland, Corti, Toronto . . . . .	647	74. Bambrick, Bill, Ottawa . . . . .	330
29. Leesment, Otto, Victoria BC . . . . .	641	75. Roberts, Hazel, Toronto . . . . .	324
30. Goodman, Aaron, Montreal . . . . .	638	76. Barrington, Phyllis, Montreal . . . . .	321
31. Gray, Bob, Toronto . . . . .	635	76. Salme, Mme U, Montreal . . . . .	321
32. Bowden, Mary, Toronto . . . . .	626	78. LeClaire, Mrs A, Mt Royal PQ . . . . .	319
33. Phillips, Duncan, Toronto . . . . .	621	79. Parent, Henri, Montreal . . . . .	316
34. Hoffer, Fred, Montreal . . . . .	620	80. Olivier, Real, Quebec . . . . .	310
35. Klein, Jack, Winnipeg . . . . .	597	81. Charney, Gerry, Toronto . . . . .	307
36. Dwyer, Bruce, Toronto . . . . .	549	82. Funston, Roy, Toronto . . . . .	300
37. Burns, Bill, Pt. Credit ON . . . . .	545	82. Wiser, John, Montreal . . . . .	300
38. Anderson, W M, Toronto . . . . .	533	84. Bambrick, Bob, Ottawa . . . . .	289
39. Woodcock, Lou, Toronto . . . . .	517	85. Holliday, Ross, ON . . . . .	283
40. Paul, Maurice, Montreal . . . . .	516	85. Solomon, Bill, Montreal . . . . .	283
41. Stanton, Ralph, Doon ON . . . . .	504	87. Clarke, E E, Ottawa . . . . .	276
42. Simmons, Mrs J F, Toronto . . . . .	497	88. Cooper, Gerald, Toronto . . . . .	263
43. Strebinger, Lisa, Vancouver . . . . .	491	89. Lindsay, H J, Toronto . . . . .	256
44. Richmond, David, Winipeg . . . . .	490	90. Poder, Rita, Hamilton . . . . .	249
45. Andress, Douglas, Montreal . . . . .	488	91. Ross, Alan, Agincourt ON . . . . .	247
45. Scott, Kay, Galt ON . . . . .	488	92. Martin, J L, Calgary . . . . .	243
47. Laliberté, H P, Quebec . . . . .	469	93. Ross, Hugh, Montreal . . . . .	238
		94. Burns, Bess, Pt. Credit ON . . . . .	241
		95. Cleworth, Ethel, Victoria BC . . . . .	226
		96. Smith, M A, Vancouver . . . . .	220
		97. Cannell, Doug, Winnipeg . . . . .	218
		97. Cartier, Jean Paul, Montreal . . . . .	218
		97. Perrault, J J, Montreal . . . . .	218
		100. Saltsman, David, Montreal . . . . .	212

# TOP CANADIAN MASTERPOINT HOLDERS

1 Jan 1977

1. Eric Murray, Toronto . . . . .	7534	50. Edith Bonnell, Vancouver . . . . .	1766
2. Sami Kehela, Toronto . . . . .	5167	50. Pat Smolensky, Calgary . . . . .	1766
3. Bruce Elliott, North York ON . . . . .	5150	52. Sydney Isaacs, London ON . . . . .	1763
4. Percy Sheardown, North York ON . . . . .	4065	53. John Raynault, Montreal . . . . .	1758
5. Eric Kokish, Montreal . . . . .	3593	53. David Stothart, Ottawa . . . . .	1758
6. Joseph Silver, Montreal . . . . .	3438	55. R Wobick, Lethbridge . . . . .	1727
7. Otto Leesment, Victoria . . . . .	3050	56. Bruce Ferguson, New Westminster BC . . . . .	1721
8. Jackie Begin, Montreal . . . . .	2905	57. Ted Horning, Thornhill ON . . . . .	1703
9. Adrian Hicks, Vancouver . . . . .	2904	58. Fred Sontag, White Rock BC . . . . .	1690
10. Allan Graves, Vancouver . . . . .	2892	59. Bert Winges, Ottawa . . . . .	1689
11. Adolph Feingold, Ottawa . . . . .	2871	60. Don Piatfsky, Montreal . . . . .	1678
12. Jim Donaldson, Burnaby BC . . . . .	2843	61. Helen Roche, Calgary . . . . .	1665
13. Ray Jotcham, North York ON . . . . .	2823	62. Sheila Forbes, Toronto . . . . .	1653
14. Don Cowan, Toronto . . . . .	2814	63. Vic Giaccone, Ottawa . . . . .	1648
15. Buddy Crapko, Richmond BC . . . . .	2686	64. Joan Lupovich, Montreal . . . . .	1625
16. Fred Hoffer, Montreal . . . . .	2619	65. John Guoba, Toronto . . . . .	1622
17. Neil Chambers, Vancouver . . . . .	2513	66. Lisa Strebingner, Burnaby BC . . . . .	1590
18. Maurice Paul, Toronto . . . . .	2473	67. Mike Philippas, Montreal . . . . .	1579
19. Ron Borg, Burnaby BC . . . . .	2426	68. Franco Bandoni, Toronto . . . . .	1569
20. Paul Hagen, Burnaby BC . . . . .	2416	68. Jim Priebe, Beaconsfield PQ . . . . .	1569
21. Bob Chow, Toronto . . . . .	2383	70. Peter Hollander, Dorval PQ . . . . .	1564
22. Sam Gold, Montreal . . . . .	2258	70. Tony Marsh, S Burnaby BC . . . . .	1564
23. Frank Vine, Hamilton . . . . .	2250	72. Robert Kemp, Kingston ON . . . . .	1559
24. Alan Doane, Waverly NS . . . . .	2245	73. Andy Altay, Toronto . . . . .	1546
25. Harry Creed, Toronto . . . . .	2224	74. Wolf Lebovic, Markham ON . . . . .	1538
26. Mike Cummings, North York ON . . . . .	2198	75. J O'Dowd, Sarnia ON . . . . .	1536
27. Doug Thomson, Winnipeg . . . . .	2147	76. Sharyn Kokish, Montreal . . . . .	1534
28. Don Da Costa, North York ON . . . . .	2021	77. Mike Schoenborn, Toronto . . . . .	1524
29. John Carruthers, Scarborough ON . . . . .	2020	78. George Sereny, Toronto . . . . .	1517
30. Madeline McGill, Calgary . . . . .	2007	78. Andre Laliberté, Neufchatel PQ . . . . .	1517
31. Duncan Phillips, Toronto . . . . .	1977	80. Bryan Rapson, Dartmouth NS . . . . .	1511
32. Alan Derby, Cote St Luc PQ . . . . .	1969	81. Joe Currie, Halifax . . . . .	1507
33. David Lindop, Toronto . . . . .	1958	82. Jim Dickie, White Rock BC . . . . .	1502
34. Ed O'Reilly, Kingston ON . . . . .	1942	83. Bruce Dwyer, Toronto . . . . .	1501
35. Jack Marsch, N Vancouver . . . . .	1937	84. Gail Jotcham, North York ON . . . . .	1500
36. Bob Lagowski, Ottawa . . . . .	1877	85. Mike Strebingner, Burnaby BC . . . . .	1498
37. Doug Fraser, Montreal . . . . .	1868	86. Mac King, Toronto . . . . .	1494
38. Brian Pauls, Winnipeg . . . . .	1865	87. L H Bouchard, Kenogami PQ . . . . .	1490
39. Mary Paul, Toronto . . . . .	1865	88. Doug Clark, Kingston ON . . . . .	1481
40. Harry Bork, Hamilton . . . . .	1860	89. Robin Wigdon, Toronto . . . . .	1477
41. Barbara Saltsman, Montreal . . . . .	1858	90. Abe Paul, Mississauga ON . . . . .	1465
42. Peter Nagy, Montreal . . . . .	1844	91. Bob Crosby, Edmonton . . . . .	1459
42. John Stevens, Toronto . . . . .	1844	92. E E Clarke, Ottawa . . . . .	1458
44. Karen Allison, North York ON . . . . .	1831	93. J Barna, Montreal . . . . .	1457
45. Bruce Gowdy, North York ON . . . . .	1815	94. Dick Edney, Kingston ON . . . . .	1454
45. François Gauthier, Montreal . . . . .	1815	95. B R Nilsson, Lethbridge . . . . .	1444
47. Lou Woodcock, Hamilton . . . . .	1795	96. L G Millward, Calgary . . . . .	1441
48. Eric Stark, Vancouver . . . . .	1778	97. Lex De Groot, Winnipeg . . . . .	1431
49. Leo Steil, Pt. Coquitlam BC . . . . .	1774	98. A Derby, Cote St Luc PQ . . . . .	1414
		99. John Sabino, North York ON . . . . .	1410
		99. C Lindsay, Tsawassen BC . . . . .	1410
		99. Lawrence Betts, Vancouver . . . . .	1410



# The Skip-Bid Warning

Reprinted from Unit #430 "Matchpointer"

By Sandy McIlwain

"Skip bid. Please wait." Those four words, to a person familiar with the Skip-Bid Warning, are an instruction to pause for about ten seconds before bidding. Yet at the last Richmond sectional, seated against an experienced pair, I used the Warning in a competitive auction. LHO passed after a second or so, essentially ignoring the Warning. (Perhaps some of you are saying, "Good for them!") At a recent GNP qualifying game I used the Warning and was rewarded by an instant "Pass". When I commented, the person said, "You didn't say, 'Please wait'." The revelation that I had, in fact, said: "Skip bid, please wait.", left him at a slight loss, but hardly apologetic.

As you know, many players who use the Warning use simply the words, "Skip bid", which is not a legally acceptable form of the Warning. This courtesy to the opponents is followed by more lightning passes than any other bid in bridge. A sort of thumbing-of-the-nose at the restrictions of a highly regulated game.

But the ACBL is not a frivolous organization. The Skip-Bid Warning is designed to protect both the user's side and the opponents from problems of tempo during the auction. It is highly effective when used properly.

The Instant Pass, on the other hand, has no place in the game, and is certainly something that should be avoided after a skip bid, whether the Warning is used or not. The Pass (unless of a conventional type such as the Forcing Pass) should never reveal information about the hand, or one's opinion of the contract - especially by its tempo or tone. This is instrumental to the basic structure of the game, and the Skip-Bid Warning takes a tremendous ethical burden off the person next to bid and, subsequently, their partner.

The Skip-Bid Warning provides you with that freedom. It is one of the Great Liberators of bridge, for it frees us from the tyranny of tempo at the times we need it most. Please don't treat it as an intrusion on your enjoyment, or something to be gotten around, like taxes. It exists to help you.

I hope my last illustration will become a thing of the past: at the Maple Ridge sectional, a gentleman I did not know, when confronted with the Skip-Bid Warning, passed faster than a speeding bullet. When I spoke to him, he muttered something about forgetting (a very common, but tremendously misguided and untenable defense). Fortunately this was a Swiss Team match, and he had an opportunity to redeem himself a few hands later when I once again announced a skip bid and requested him to wait. Not to be caught in this same trap twice, the gentleman waited the appropriate interval - with his cards folded on the table, counting the seconds by bobbing his head up and down!

Like the comic-strip girl, Nancy, he wished to be exempt from the intention of the instruction, but could not summon up the courage to refuse outright, having no reason to do so other than the unadorned fact that he didn't feel like it.

Needless to say, his imitation of a goldfish did nothing to make my day any better, nor did it make me more kindly disposed to the next person who ignored the warning.

Now this may surprise some of you, but bridge is essentially a game for civilized adults. Consequently we must try not to behave like children at the table, if for no other reason than our own self-interest: when a situation comes along that counts, we will be considered as adults, and "I forgot", and "I didn't feel like it", and "Why should I?" will not be considered as adequate, adult reasons for not abiding by the rules of the game.

# The Fearsome Foursome

By Colin Ward

## Part 1: Attila

"They're coming!" gasped the Organizer, dropping the telephone.

"Who, the redcoats?" cracked the Director.

"THEM! The Fearsome Foursome! They're coming here!"

The Director blanched.

"Well," barked the Organizer, "don't just stand there looking like a sauteed mushroom, think of something!"

"This can't be happening," whined the Director. "We just got this place fixed up from their other visit."

"Aw, come on," I joined, "that was six years ago."

"It took six years!" insisted the Organizer.

The Director cast an accusing finger at the Organizer.

"It was all your fault. The eruption. Pandemonium. Chaos. Devastation. None of it would've happened if you hadn't panicked when they walked in."

"Panicked?" asked I. "What did he do?"

"The Foursome strode in dressed like four Mad Trappers -- one with an obviously carnivorous bird on his shoulder -- and this idiot points at them and screams 'Aliens!!'"

"Fortunately," defended the Organizer, "they left immediately --"

"They RETREATED immediately under a hail of debris!" corrected the Director.

"Nice welcome committee," I thought.

"But why now?" pouted the Organizer. "I mean, we've lived for years with this threat hanging over our heads. Like acid-soaked stalactites. Now, when I'm in charge of the Swiss Teams event, they fall on us."

This time the Foursome made separate and inconspicuous entrances, dressed in casual but cosmopolitan attire. From rumours and folklore I could identify the members. I saw the strident, debonair rustic they call "Maverick". His partner, a Ron Palileo look-alike, would be the "Titan".

For now, though, I chose to kibitz the other half. I sat beside "Attila", widely renown as the most obnoxious and abusive swine in any herd. Some insist that this living argument for retroactive abortions once offended Don Rickles. Others describe him as having most of the charm and grace of a wounded rattlesnake. To me, Attila serves only to illustrate that man has, in fact, NOT evolved from the ape -- not yet, anyway. Quick to deflect recriminations for his many shortcomings as a bridge player, this reprobate punctuates each hand with a diatribe about how partner "hanged" him during the auction or play.

Across from "Attila the Hung" sat the unkempt but infinitely patient "Maggot". Perched atop this man's left shoulder -- politely hidden from view under a white broadcloth -- brooded Boris. Boris, the Maggot's only true friend in this world. The Maggot declares that Boris is the most majestic of predators: the European vulture. To Attila, Boris is a "guttersnipe buzzard" and a "plumed profanity". Ornithologists might tell you that Boris is nothing more austere than a rather macho mynah.

The first round commenced as two lovely LOL's took their seats at the table.

"Oh, no," he laughed, "this lady is so old her name is PEARL!"

"Please ignore my partner," interjected the Maggot, "it's the drugs talking. He's so wired he's bionic!"

As play began Attila's remarks became

even more unsettling. One couldn't help but feel affronted; Pearl is one of those grand old dames that we'd all be proud to call "Grandma".

At one point Pearl asked for a review.

"Senile old trout!" barked Attila. "You want a review of the auction or of the last 30 years?"

"Don't pay him any mind," apologized the Maggot. "He's so high he could hunt ducks with a bat!"

Whenever Pearl failed to make her bid or play in exact cadence we heard from Attila.

"Come on, lady, before rigor mortis sets in!"

"Director!" screamed the Maggot, gesturing at his partner, "I want to report a psycho!" The Maggot gave up trying to make excuses for the inexcusable. The embarrassment drove him deeper and deeper into his chair until he disappeared under the table.

For her part Pearl remained the picture of graciousness, utterly oblivious to her torturer.

Mercifully, the round ended. Maverick and the Titan confidently approached their team-mates.

The Titan chirped: "We had a great set!"

"Better than Dolly Parton's!" added Maverick jubilantly.

It was no cliff-hanger.

"156 IMPs."

"Impossible!"

"No-one loses an 8-board match by 156 IMPs."

"What happened with you two?" shrieked the Titan.

"Let's see. On the first hand Attila made a horrendous sacrifice ..."

"And then what?" hurried Maverick.

"Then he redoubled," continued the Maggot. "From there, things went downhill ..."

As captain of the victorious lady's team the cultured Pearl joined the Foursome to check the score. Yes, by 156 IMPs, that was correct.

Attila was sitting speechless, blankly staring up -- an obvious victim of shell-shock. He began babbling aimlessly at Pearl.

"How? What happened? Carnage ... why ... wha' ..."

Pearl swung around to face her tormentor. She pointed a scolding finger and snarled: "That'll teach you, you \*#K\*%\$ POOCH!"

\*\*\*\*\*

When I left the Maggot was still hugging Pearl and dancing her madly about the room. Another conversation had caught my ear.

"I just looked over the entries," said the Director. "I don't know how I missed him when he registered. Guess who's here."

"Alright, who?" responded the Organizer impatiently.

"I'll give you a hint: his family tree traces back to the Book of Revelations."

Certainly not the Beast, I thought.

"One more hint: when this guy talks about the four horsemen he ain't referring to the Cartwrights!"

"There he is," motioned the Director at last, "chewing out his team for being upset in the first round."

It WAS the Beast!

A sickening thought crossed our minds. The Beast and Attila had identical scores. The Director, meanwhile, sported an unmistakably evil grin.

"You pervert!" screamed the Organizer. "You wouldn't dare!"

The Director nodded towards the assignment board on the wall.

"Pairings for the second round are posted ..."

\*\*\*\*\*