

canadian bridge digest

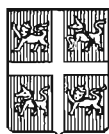
CANADIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION
FEDERATION CANADIENNE DE BRIDGE



NOVA SCOTIA
NOUVELLE-ECOSSE



YUKON



TERRE-NEUVE
NEWFOUNDLAND



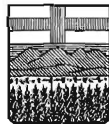
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
ILE DU PRINCE-EDOUARD



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
TERRITOIRES DU NORD-OUEST



QUEBEC



ALBERTA



ONTARIO



NEW BRUNSWICK
NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK



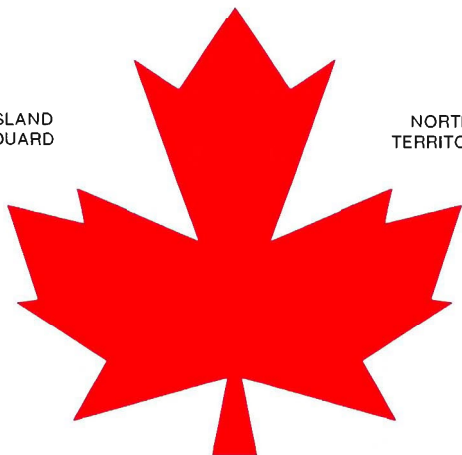
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BRITISH COLUMBIA
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SASKATCHEWAN



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Editor's Notebook

SH-H-H-H-H-H-H-H-H-H

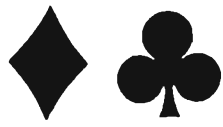
... PLEASE DON'T TELL OUR COMPETITION!

Jill, I'd like you to think about
your response to my Ogust bid.

I did, but I think so fast, I'm
finished already.



The U^PS and D^OW^NS of Bridge Abroad



By Gordon Campbell

Our partnerships were Subhash Gupta (Calgary), Drew Cannell (Winnipeg), Doran Flock (Calgary), Mike Chomyn (Edmonton), Gordon Campbell (Calgary), Bryan Maksymetz (Edmonton), together with non-playing captain John Carruthers (Toronto).

On October 11, 1985 Subhash, Drew, Bryan and I managed to coordinate our various flights to arrive in Lima, Peru (amazingly, at the same time), for a few days holiday. We had previously arranged a tour package that included tours of Lima and nearby, and a flight to Cuzco (the ancient capital of the Incas). We soon appreciated our English-speaking tour guides/hosts as we felt somewhat marooned with none of us speaking Spanish. Peru is very interesting historically and the guides were proud to show us many sites and Inca ruins in and near Lima. One notable museum had a special section devoted solely to Thirteenth Century pornographic pottery which was amazing and informative! Little was left to the imagination.

Soon after our arrival we thought it appropriate to sample the national drink. It is called Pisco Sour and was some frothy concoction with brandy. As we hadn't learned Spanish to order more normal drinks, we persevered with pisco sours, until we suddenly realized that these things were quite

strong! One unnamed member, quite unannounced, collapsed with head thumping the lounge bar table and had to be literally carried back to the hotel.

Later, we flew to Cuzco in the heart of the Andes. Cuzco was more interesting than Lima. Many of the old Inca buildings were still standing. The Incas were obviously quite intelligent as all the walls sloped at about 15° to the vertical to better withstand the numerous earthquakes. Amusingly, some of the renovations have already started crumbling leaving the originals still standing!

From Cuzco we took a train to the world famous ruins of Macchu Pichu. The train took four hours each way to cover a mere 100 miles. This was because in order to gain height up the mountains, the journey was a series of zig zags. We spent much of this time playing bridge and picking the cards off the floor when the makeshift suitcase table kept slipping, as somebody's knees gave way. Tip for future teams - ensure the height of all members' legs are the same!

Macchu Pichu was worth the train journey, and even worth the hair-raising death-defying bus ride up the mountain. We were scared to raise our eyes to look down the ravine for fear that the delicate and precarious equilibrium of the speeding bus might be affected. At the mountain top were the ruins of the

famous Lost City of the Incas that remained undiscovered until the turn of this century. It was an awe inspiring spectacle at 14,000 feet up looking down at lush green forests. It took several hours to wander around with the guide, so this certainly gave us lots of exercise.

Then we returned to Cuzco and Lima for the flight to Rio de Janeiro. We were kindly met at the airport by Gambino Cintra - one of the stars of the Brazilian team, and taken to our hotel on the Copacabana beach. Rio is a gorgeous city and certainly lived up to its widely advertised reputation. The sun was hot, the beach clean and the rolling waves irresistible.

Unfortunately, Rio also lived up to its other reputation - that of a high crime rate. Mike and Doran had joined us in Rio, and the six of us were walking down a main street in broad daylight when a small young guy jumped on my back and ripped off my gold neck chain. We gave chase but after a couple of shots were fired by a trying-to-be-helpful apartment building security guard, we thought better of it. We had been warned beforehand, but who would believe that a group of six, including four big men, would be a target.

We held a short practice match with the Brazilian team at the only bridge club in Rio and then were taken out for a meal by Sergio Barbosa - another of their Bermuda Bowl players. By now we were all acclimatized to Brazil and becoming more serious and maybe anxious to reach Sao Paulo for the tournament.

Sao Paulo is a gigantic city of maybe fifteen million people, but certainly did not have the glamour of Rio. We arrived on Saturday, the 19th, at the magnificent hotel, the Maksoud Plaza, which was the tournament site.

On Saturday evening we joined with our captain, John, to attend the

opening banquet and to meet all the other teams. There were ten teams for the ladies event, the Venice Cup, and supposedly ten teams for the open event, the Bermuda Bowl. However, at the last minute, the Indian government refused permission for their open team to attend. Apparently, they did not wish to have their team play against Israel. Otherwise the opening ceremonies went well, despite the sour note caused by this political interference. India was originally selected as the host country for the Bermuda Bowl, but were unable to give the World Bridge Federation satisfactory assurance that any potential qualifying country would be allowed landing visas.

So we were all ready to start play on the Sunday. The security arrangements were excellent - each table was in a separate hotel room (after removing beds and furniture) and had bidding screens, boxes and volunteer monitors. Several were wired up for closed circuit TV, for relay to the Vu-graph room downstairs in the hotel theatre.

Our first match was against Argentina and despite some nervousness, we played reasonably but by the end we lost badly after some unlucky swings. The second match was against Venezuela who we blitzed and then we had a bye (in lieu of playing India). At this time we were a close second. Unfortunately we did badly against Brazil, Israel and Indonesia. Then we played New Zealand.

Up to then, everyone had played an easy to understand system - all relatively standard. However, New Zealand were notorious for their own home-grown bidding systems. By the way, the rules of contest allowed anybody to play any systems, conventions or bids that they wanted, so long as opponents were provided a couple of months in advance with appropriate documentation. Unfortunately, this was self-defeating. Each player received about 1½" of documentation

and computer wordprocessing print-outs of everybody else's methods. Even standard conventions such as Lebensohl and Key Card Blackwood required detailed explanation. I believe that few players waded through all the various notes they received.

But back to New Zealand. Their opening pass showed most 10-15 point hands, 1C was precision, and 1D, 1H and 1S were usually less than ten HCPs, depending on vulnerability. Usually they could be any shape with any suit(s). This system is popularly called "ferts" or fertilizer bids - no doubt because of the opponents' confusion that they fertilized.

In previous tournaments, New Zealand had been very successful with these weapons, but most teams now seemed fully prepared. Nevertheless, they still caused problems.

Bryan held as North
S:xx H:AQ10x D:J10xx C:Kxx
and I held as South
S:AKJxx H:Kxx D:AKQx C:x

West opened with a fertilizer 1H and after Pass, Pass, I had to balance. We had agreed that a 2H cuebid would show a strong 2C opener, a double would show either a strong NT or a hand that would normally be opened 1H, and a jump in a suit would show an intermediate single-suited hand. None of these seemed to fit my hand, but double seemed the most flexible. After West passed, Bryan passed. This was very reasonable because the vulnerable opponents should go for their life whether I have hearts or a strong NT. East pulled to 2C. I (South) now bid 2S and North jumped to 4H. We finally reached 6H and luckily found a 3-3 break. But how can one reach 6D which is almost cold. Very difficult. The amazing thing about ferts is that opponents often seem to luck into a good fit despite a scarcity of points. 2C would only go for 800.

Also, against New Zealand, I held

as South S:KQJxxx H:x D:x C:Q10xxx. East opened with a "Pass" (!) showing 10-15 points and any shape. I overcalled (if bidding over a pass can be called an overcall) 4S. West bid 4NT, as some kind of takeout and Bryan, North, bid 5S. East bid 6C so I was happy to pass. West bid 6D, North passed and East bid 6H. Now what?

1. Clearly West has a red two suiter and East has C and H.
2. Clearly partner has some defensive values or he would have bid an immediate 6S instead of a pointless 5S.
3. We were non-vulnerable against vulnerable.
4. One should "never" bid again once one has preempted.

What would you do? Luckily I decided to break rule 4 and bid 6S. Partner's hand was S:Axxx H:J10x D:Kxxx C:KJ, but the opponents could make 7H!

After playing every team once, we were lying in fifth place but not far behind second place. Brazil had already built a commanding lead in first. Then we played each team a second time. We were not able to score well enough in the key matches so our final standing did not improve.

Overall, we really did not play particularly well. Perhaps we were too nervous or over-awed by the occasion. Despite our poor final position, I think we either tied or beat every other team in one of the two matches played. So we certainly had our chances, had we played up to our normal level more consistently.

Brazil and Israel qualified to the semifinals. The USA-Brazil match was the most exciting I have ever seen. It was hard not to cheer for Brazil, the gallant underdogs. After leading for most of the match, the Brazilians tired towards the end and after 159 boards it

was a dead tie. On the last hand, board 160, Brazil got to 3NT from the wrong side and went down.

The USA seemed to have an easy time against Austria (who beat Israel in the other semifinal) and won the Bermuda Bowl.

In the ladies event, Great Britain, after a slow start, comfortably beat the USA in the Venice Cup.

The closing banquet and dance was excellent. There was truly heartfelt applause for the Brazilian team who were so close to winning the semi-final against the USA.

The Brazilian hosts arranged the tournament excellently, and with short notice. It seemed that everything had been thought of and all functions went smoothly.

After Sao Paulo, Subhash. Drew,

Bryan and I went to the Winnipeg Nationals - primarily to play in a previously arranged Vu-graph match with the US team. With our disappointing two weeks, we were determined to do well against the new world champions. The US team comprised Hamman-Wolff from their Bermuda Bowl team, and Kantar-Larsen. The match was played over two short sessions and we did manage to win, so we salvaged some of our confidence.

This article would not be complete without giving tremendous thanks to the Canadian Bridge Federation who contributed so generously to the Sao Paulo segment of the trip. We are also very grateful to significant contributions from District 18 and the various Units, and to all those who helped us in our fund raising at the Calgary Regional.

OBITUARY

DORIS E. McCLURE 1913 - 1985

Each Fall and Winter, bridge players in Winnipeg used to see this little lady bustling around with her thick package of membership cards, trying to collect ACBL memberships. Doris McClure had been membership secretary for the Manitoba Unit 181 for twenty-five years. She had been a willing worker when any work needed to be done.

She was a Life Master and a Certified Bridge Director. Due to her untiring efforts, she had been instrumental in the formation of seven new duplicate bridge clubs in the Winnipeg area. Through these clubs many members have joined the ACBL: she ran a franchised Bridge Club at Stony Mountain Penitentiary for six years until ill health forced her to quit because of the distance involved. The Canadian Bridge Federation gave her a citation for her pioneer work with the Penthouse Bridge Club.

Up till her untimely demise on May 15, 1985, she was the Director of the Seven Oaks Bridge Club, a position she held since the inception of the club over fifteen years ago, and which she helped build to be the largest bridge club in Manitoba.

Last year, The Manitoba Unit conferred upon her the distinction of being the only Honorary Member. In the Spring 1985 Regional, Doris performed her last official function when she graciously made a great effort to present the Doris McClure Novice Trophy at a special Cocktail Party in which many Novices, friends and well-wishers were in attendance. This was a fitting acknowledgement of her love of the game and encouragement she gave to all beginning players. The Doris McClure Novice Trophy will be a yearly event.

Doris will be sorely missed.

CBF Events and Activities Update

By Aidan Ballantyne
Zone VI Director

Your CBF directors had to cancel the meeting they had planned for last November in Winnipeg because of an acute shortage of general funds. This was a pity since we had hoped to meet with our ACBL counterparts to try and solve a number of problems that characterize Canada-USA bridge relations. Meanwhile, we are trying to carry on business-as-usual, by letter and by telephone. The next CBF directors' meeting will probably be in June or July, 1986. By then, we shall probably have an insurmountable agenda.

World Simultaneous Championship

The World Bridge Federation (WBF) is going to sponsor the first world simultaneous pairs tournament late next spring. There seems to be some confusion over the exact scheduling of this event. An October WBF letter proclaims Saturday, May 31, 1986 as the intended date while a more recent newsletter from George Retek (ACBL director, District 1) mentions Saturday, June 14, 1986. Please check with your zone director for up-to-date details.

The single-session pairs event will be organized by the French Bridge Federation. Participants from around the globe will play the same hands simultaneously. The highest-placing pairs will win WBF points and the ACBL will award sectionally-rated points to deserving North American participants. The top-ranking mixed pair may earn an invitation to the 1986 Mixed Pair Olympiad.

The sanction fee is U.S. \$10.00 per table and includes hand-analyses and a score evaluation sheet which enables participants to calculate their results immediately upon completing the session.

This new world championship, which is open and accessible to all, should be tremendously exciting.

Canada at the 1986 Olympiad

Representatives to the World Bridge Federation (WBF) met at the Sao Paulo Bermuda Bowl last fall. They voted major changes to the Olympiad Pairs and Rosenblum Cup formats and these have important implications for Canada's Miami Olympiad quota.

Rosenblum Teams:

Canada's entry in the Rosenblum Cup knockouts has been reduced from 8 teams to a maximum of 4 teams. However, it is likely that Canada will be able to enter additional teams in the Swiss portion of the Rosenblum Cup. Under the Rosenblum "repechage" format, the winner of the Swiss reenters the final stages of the Knockouts and thus has a chance to become Rosenblum champion.

The CBF has not yet formally decided how Canada's 4 knockout entries will be determined. Two spots have already been assigned to the 1985 CNTC and 1985 CLTC winners and it is not clear at this time (December, 1985) whether or not this decision shall be reversed. Furthermore, there has so far been no indication as to how the other two teams will be selected or which teams shall be funded. The WBF must be notified of our entries by the end of May, 1986, so it is doubtful that the 1986 CNTC winners will be chosen to represent Canada. At the same time it looks like the original CBF Rosenblum plan, according to which each zone would select its own representative, will have to be scrapped.

Open Pairs:

Canada's Open Pairs entry has also been reduced, from 14 pairs to a maximum

of 9 pairs, although there is some hope that additional pairs will be able to enter a special Olympiad qualifying round thus giving them the opportunity to earn their way into the Olympiad proper. At this time, no final decision has been reached on how the CBF will select its 9 representatives. Three representatives have already been determined by the Montreal COPC and it is unlikely that these pairs will lose their right to go to Miami. Since that leaves six more pairs to be chosen, it seems likely that the CBF will follow tradition and allow each CBF zone to name its own representative. Zonal representation was part of the CBF's original plan and some zones have already selected their Olympiad-bound pair. All this of course will require some rethinking of the function of the 1986 COPC.

Mixed and Ladies Pairs:

Canada's Mixed Pairs quota will apparently remain at 30 pairs while the Ladies will shrink from 6 to 5 pairs. These entries will be decided by Alvin Baragar's international events committee, as originally planned.

It is hoped that the CBF will have resolved all selection problems by the time this column appears in print. Please check with your zone director for up-to-date information.

CBF National Playdown Events

This is just to remind everyone of our national playdown schedules.

CNTC

Zone finals are to be completed by April 30, 1986. The national final will be held in Ottawa, June 7-11, 1986.

CLTC

The qualifying round ends May 15, 1986. The national final will be held June 29 - July 3, 1986, in Thunder Bay, in conjunction with their regional.

COPC

The last club-qualifying game for the 1986 COPC was held October 24, 1985.

It appears that the ACBL didn't send out COPC qualifying certificates for this game and instead mistakenly sent them out for the charity game run in connection with the Winnipeg NACs. Please note that this charity game was not a COPC-qualifying game.

Unit finals must be held on or before April 18, 1986. The national final will take place July 15-16, 1986, in Toronto, prior to the summer NACs.

Other Events

Rookie-Master Game

The nationwide Rookie/Master game will be held on Wednesday, April 2, 1986. It will once again be coordinated by our capable friend Jan Anderson, out of Saskatchewan. This special game provides newcomers with the opportunity of playing with more experienced partners and has always enjoyed tremendous success. Top-ranked pairs receive prizes and recognition in the Canadian Bridge Digest.

Olympiad Fund-raisers

The 1986 Canada-wide Olympiad fund games will be held on Thursday, February 13, and Tuesday, October 28. These games feature hand records and analyses and are qualifying to the next COPC. Unfortunately, the CBF has not yet even decided the year in which the next COPC national final will be held!

International Bidding Contest

The International Bridge Academy, located in Belgium, will once again be organizing the world bidding contest this spring. The event, usually held in April, can be run by individual clubs or units and provides a challenging test of a partnership's bidding ability. Interested parties should check with their zone director in early March for more information on this championship.

The CBF hopes that all Canadian players will participate in these numerous and varied events. Good bridging to all!

George Retek

FALL 1985 REPORT

After sending you reports for six years, I have decided to try a different format. Instead of reporting on all actions taken by Board (that you may read of anyway in next month's Bulletin) I will comment on some of the most important issues discussed at the meeting. I am sad to report that at the meeting held in Winnipeg between October 29-31, 1985 the Board decided to demonstrate that minority groups should have only minority rights.

1. The ACBL has established the position of public relation director. It is expected that the salary and expenses of this department will be in the vicinity of \$200,000 in 1986. In comparison, the Board could not allocate appr. \$300 for a project that undoubtedly antagonizes many fair minded people. Beginning 1985 the U.S. International Fund is supposed to finance the U.S. participants at the Bermuda Bowl and the bridge federation of the Bermuda-Canada-Mexico tricountry trial winner is supposed to finance the other Bermuda Bowl team from its own funds. At the Las Vegas meeting the Board allocated another \$3,000 from the General Funds of the ACBL to support the U.S. Team. The amount is not significant, but the principle is.

This money was paid out of general funds, to which members of Bermuda-Canada and Mexico contributed appr. 10% and consequently it is not the sole property of the U.S. players.

Although the Board of Governors requested that this matter be reviewed, only five members of our Board (Bean,

Drew, Stenger, Warshauer and myself) thought this action to be contrary to our written regulations (President elect, T. Sanders abstained). An individual can't correct the board action where majority had ruled. However, I believe that the Canadian International Fund was short-changed by \$300 and I will send my personal cheque to the Fund to make up the short sightedness of the ACBL.

2. By a huge majority of 11-10 vote the Board (on fourth ballot) finally decided **not** holding Flight-B Grand National Pair Championship for non-life masters. We had a chance here to develop a successful new program for the majority of our membership, but a few of our highly vocal Board members defeated this idea. I hope this issue will be reviewed again.
3. The American Bridge Association (ABA) has membership that is appr. 5% of that of the ACBL. It would certainly be equitable if the ACBL besides the four Mixed Pairs spot would allocate at least one of the U.S. Open Pairs quotas to the ABA at the forthcoming 1986 World Pairs Championship. I certainly wish that the Board and our WBF reps would recognize that we represent **all** North American bridge players at the WBF and would support this proposal.
4. There is a growing concern that we do not succeed in securing the most advantageous terms for our membership at hotels hosting our various North American Championships (NAC). The

Washington players under Charlie Stenger's leadership had shown us the way when they threatened with cancellation the Washington host hotel prior to the Summer 1984 tournament unless it was willing to renegotiate the unreasonable rates planned for our tournament. Another case in point was Winnipeg, where we paid \$69 per night while the weekend rate was \$59 and the corporate rate \$49. When shall we learn? My proposal placed for the Spring 86 agenda will require that a member of our Finance Committee be present when Management will finalize negotiations for hotel rates in the future.

5. During the past year, I had the privilege of being the chairman of the most outstanding Finance Committee. I thank every member of the committee for their tremendous contribution: Percy Bean, Larry Jolma, Syd Levey, Don Moeller, Tom Sanders & Herb Smith.

One of the issues facing us, whether it is worth to spend \$50 - 60,000 for a Board meeting three times a year. When I look at how few positive decisions we reached at the Winnipeg meeting then I become very skeptical of the need of holding three Board meetings annually.

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

1. Circle the date of **May 31, 1986** (Saturday afternoon) in your calendar, when the first World Simultaneous Pairs event will take place around the globe. Besides earning WBF points, ACBL will award sectionally rated (1/2 red, 1/2 black) masterpoints. The top ranking **mixed** pair (or alternate) in each District may earn an invitation to the Mixed Pairs World Championship to be held in September 1986 at Bal Harbour, Florida. Sanction fee (that also includes a multi coloured hand analysis and score evaluation enabling

you to calculate your result instantly) in U.S. \$ 10/table of which \$6 is remitted to the WBF and \$4 will help us to reduce expenses for hosting the 86 World Championship.

2. Our Board approved Moe Deschamps' request to provide hand records and analyses for the annual Continent-Wide Senior Citizens event. To help us to defray the additional expenses, sanction fee was increased from \$1 to \$2 per table.
3. The Board reaffirmed its principle that ACBL members in good standing cannot be denied eligibility to participate in ACBL sanctioned National Championship events in the country of their domicile.
4. Congratulations are in order to Doug Drew our new ACBL rep to the WBF and Bernard Warshauer who was elected to a three year term to our Executive Committee.



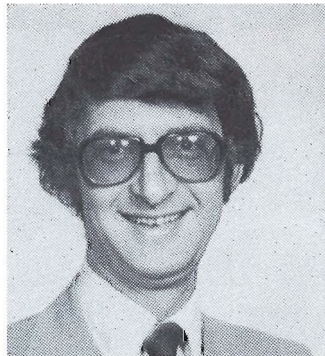
Congratulations

To Mr. and Mrs. Vince Nowlan of Edmonton, Alberta who were married in Reno during the regional tournament.

==*Canadian*==

==*Bidding*==

==*Contest*==



NOVEMBER HONOR ROLL

By Allan Simon

Silver Anniversary Edition

Only four entrants broke the 500 barrier in the November contest; in fact, that contest was so difficult that only 29 reader-solvers (out of a total entry of well over 100) broke 400. The 500-busters were:

1. Jerry McNeill	Mississauga, Ont.	540
2. Vera Carpenter	Etobicoke, Ont.	530
3. Ms. M. Varkonyi	Downsview, Ont.	510
4. J.F. Cotte	Hawksbury, Ont.	500

For his winning performance, Mr. McNeill received a copy of "The Country Life Book of Bridge" and was invited to join the expert panel this month. Congratulations.

FEBRUARY PANEL

Readers are in for a treat. Since this is the 25th edition of our contest, we decided to commemorate this "anniversary" by holding a reunion of the most interesting and entertaining panelists of the past 6 years:

RICHARD ANDERSON (Regina, Sask.) is a past president of the Canadian Bridge Federation (CBF) and a perennial finalist in the Canadian National Team Championship (CNTC).

AIDAN BALLANTYNE (Vancouver, B.C.) was a relative newcomer when he appeared on our very first panel; since then, he has won a bunch of major events, been elected as B.C.'s CBF Director and has emerged as one of the country's best bridge writers.

JACKIE BEGIN (Montreal) is the revered grande dame of the Montreal bridge scene. She is still one of the sharpest and most aggressive competitors around.

LAURENCE BETTS (Vancouver) is one of the country's top players. In partnership with Greg Arbour, he starred in the Blue Ribbon Pairs at the Winnipeg Nationals.

GORDON CAMPBELL (Calgary, Alta.), we wrote in 1983 "... he has taken up bridge recently because he was bored with chess. Since then he has qualified for the CNTC finals and won his first regional. Kind of makes you humble ..." Well, since

then Gordon has won the CNTC and represented Canada at the 1985 Bermuda Bowl. Kind of makes you really humble ...

JOSEPH DOUCET (Toronto) is the incredible reader-solver who rarely scores under 500 and has won the contest 3 times. No celebrity panel would be complete without him.

IRVING GOODMAN (Toronto) is the veteran rubber bridge shark who emerged from anonymity at the 1984 CNTC and then went on to win the North American Flight B Grand National Teams in Las Vegas last year.

JOHN GUOBA (Toronto) was on this panel in 1980; he also has added considerably to his record, winning the 1983 CNTC and representing Canada at the Seattle Team Olympiad.

ERIC KOKISH (Montreal) needs no introduction. He was runner-up in the 1978 Pairs Olympiad, is a three-time CNTC winner, has won the Vanderbilt and is one of the world's most prolific and best-known bridge writers.

JERRY McNEILL (Mississauga, Ont.) is our reader-champ. He writes that he is not yet a Life Master, but having recently reached retirement age, he hopes to have more time to play and will no doubt soon reach his goal.

MARY PAUL (Toronto) won the Canadian Ladies Team Championship again in 1983 and therefore represented Canada at the Seattle Olympiad. One of the all-time greats.

JOHN ROSS (Flin Flon, Man.) doesn't exactly live near the hub of expert bridge activity. All the more remarkable that he was the leading master point winner at District 18 regionals for 1984.

JOHN STEWART (Halifax, N.S.) is best remembered for being on the team that lost the 1982 CNTC by one IMP. He will probably kill me for reminding him.

ROSS TAYLOR (Hamilton, Ont.) forms one of Canada's strongest partnerships with Oshawa's Keith Balcombe. Since he is still in his mid-20's, it seems a sure bet there will be many major triumphs in his future. He is also the CBF archivist and an excellent bridge writer.

COLIN VAN WALLEGHAM (Dowling, Ont.) represents Northern Ontario on this panel, just as he represents that area annually in the CNTC.

BRUCE WATSON (St. Johns, Nfld.) labours in obscurity. But in my opinion he owns one of the country's finest bridge minds.

FEBRUARY SOLUTIONS

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

S: KJ754 H: J10 D: 42 C: Q643

West	North	East	South
1H	Dbl.	2H	3S
4H	Pass	Pass	?

Scoring:

Action	Panel Votes	Points
Pass	12	100
4S	4	50
Dbl.	0	10

The best answer:

TAYLOR: Pass. A typical, everyday problem that can be solved only by taking a peek at the lie of the cards around the table. I suspect it's down one for both sides. I don't believe in doubling in those situations just to protect my part score, as +300 seems unlikely and there will be little difference between +50 and +100. 4S is unilateral, but maybe warranted "at the table".

I'm with you, Ross. 4H passed out isn't going to get you a top, but you don't need 26

tops to win this event. And bidding 4S or (especially) doubling risks a bottom. Some panelists took issue with South's strategy on the first round of bidding:

VAN WALLEGHAM: Three spades! A free bid of 2S at my first turn would have been adequate and perhaps placed us in a better position to judge the auction later. I wish I knew what West would have done over 2S. I pass.

PAUL: Four spades. If 4H goes down, 4S will make most of the time. However, I could have bought this hand for 3S, but this professional gravedigger bid 3S on the previous round.

ROSS: Four spades. Partner's pass indicates a normal takeout double which may well include two hearts. Even so, there are enough hands which either make 4H or 4S to justify another call.

KOKISH: Four spades. My heart says "pass"; the mathematics say "bid"; we're not going down 500 so we must either double or save, if we are men not mice.

Stay tuned for further installments on the machismo of Eric Kokish. And here a few more quotes from the mainstream of expert opinion:

GUOBA: Pass. Let's analyze partner's spade-heart lengths. For sure, he's not 4-1 or 4-0 since he would have bid 4S; 4-2 is a little closer but partner might have bid 4S (maybe the moron thought at length so I should pass to keep my virtue intact). The relevant cases are 3-1 and 3-2. Using the Law of Total Tricks, there are 18 tricks to be made in the former case, 17 in the latter. Therefore, when they can make 4H, 4S is down 2 or 3 respectively. Since West already had to guess, I think that pass is percentage.

CAMPBELL: Pass. Clear cut. You have already bid your values. A bid of 4S suggests that partner needn't turn up to play anymore. West would surely not bid 4H unless he/she could defend 4S.

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

S: AQ98 H: 3 D: AK64 C: KQ108

West	North	East	South
2S*	Pass	Pass	?

* weak two bid

Scoring:

Action	Panel Votes	Points
2NT	9	100
3NT	5	80
Pass	1	50
3S	1	40

This problem was lifted (without permission, of course) from The Bridge World. There, the panel voted for 3NT. I thought at the time and still think this is an awful overbid. Why not construct a typical hand for partner, and let's not be unfair about it, either. Let's give him S:xx H:Axix D:Jxx C:Jxx. How do you like your chances at 3NT?

WATSON: 3NT. Bit of a flyer but I'm not coming in to play a part score. Double is completely wrong, 3NT is the most likely call that will keep partner from bidding hearts.

Actually, there is a call that's even more certain to shut out partner's hearts. It's called "pass".

GUOBA: 3NT. Quickly. Objectively this is just horrible and contravenes every principle which is near and dear to my heart but nothing else makes any sense so what's left must be the truth. East can't double (that would ask for a spade lead) and everybody will be convinced that I have a running minor. Passing carries too much risk of missing a vulnerable game and 2NT is false security. 3C is interesting. If I wanted to bring hearts into the picture, I would have first doubled and then bid 3NT. I hope LHO doesn't think of this.

Since 3NT is an overbid, how about 2NT?

DOUCET: Two notrump. I play it as natural. Almost embarrassingly strong in pass out but it pays to have something to spare when there's a flaw.

BETTS: Two notrump. Least of all evils. Long on high cards and texture, but 3NT is

less flexible, hence disaster prone.

ROSS: Two notrump. Looks like an underbid but remember that the spades are not pulling their weight and that West is far more likely to lead hearts than spades. Also minor suit slams will be easier to reach after this start rather than a 3NT start.

BEGIN: Two notrump. The lesser of no evils. However partner interprets it, it cannot cause a bidding catastrophe. Singleton heart? Put the diamond king with it. At my age, the eyesight sometimes plays tricks.

STEWART: Two notrump. Obviously not ideal but I'm not prepared to count my score in fifties and double is out, out, out!

VAN WALLEGHAM: Two notrump. Is there any other bid?

I have a mild preference for 2NT, since partner will tend to raise to 3 anyway if he has anything. And with a hand like x Jxxx xx Axxxx, he will bid 3C over 2NT (leading to at least 5C) while he would pass 3NT.

I was surprised to find only one panelist pass:

McNEILL: Pass. Just pass and take the plus score.

(C) Matchpoints, both vul., South holds:

S: AQ10743 H: J973 D:Q108 C: -

West	North	East	South
1C	Pass	1S	Pass
2C	Pass	Pass	?

Scoring:

Action	Panel Votes	Points
2S	14	100
Double	2	40
Pass	0	20

Ha, partner, I'm vindicated. This hand cost us a regional recently when I reopened with 2S and partner mournfully tabled Void Axxx Jxx Q9xxxx. He had felt that a double by him of 2C would have been premature, and might have been misinterpreted. 14 out of 16 panelists did no better.

ANDERSON: Two spades. I expect to make this, despite my silent partner. He

must have clubs, otherwise he couldn't still be silent.

TAYLOR: Two spades. Another call that is fraught with danger, and only the form of scoring justifies a call. Technically, I should have better spades and a slightly better hand, but my experience has been that bidding stirs up the pot in my side's favour.

BETTS: Two spades. Toughest problem of the set. I would not be critical of pass or double. But I will choose 2S with an SOS redouble in reserve in attempt to have my cake and eat it too.

PAUL: Two spades. Much too risky to double.

McNEILL: Two spades. Partner definitely has some points over there, and if I am lucky enough to catch him with just one spade, we have a shot at this contract.

BEGIN: Two spades. Obviously to play. Maybe someone will get adventurous and take one push. Then, ah, blood will flow.

DOUCET: Two spades. I'm more comfortable with this than what will usually happen after a double.

WATSON: Two spades. Straightforward. Double might get a 4-3 red suit fit that you don't want and defensive values are too soft to risk it being left in.

Now that you've read this, do you, as I did, shake your head in wonderment and respect when reading the vote and comment of the panel's dean?

KOKISH: Double. What separates the men from the boys.

(D) IMPs, East-West vul., South holds:

S: 8 H: A1076 D: AJ64 C: 7543

West	North	East	South
Pass	1S	Pass	1NT
Pass	3C	Pass	?

Scoring:

Action	Panel Votes	Points
3D	7	100
4C	5	70
3NT	0	30
6C	2	20

5C	1	20
3S	1	1

Alright. For once, East-West are silent and we get to indulge in a nice, easy, constructive auction. Before we get to the relative merits of 3D and 4C, let's dispose of the also-rans:

GOODMAN: Six clubs. There is no sensible way to find out if we have the perfect fit for seven. Six figures to be a good shot with my two red aces. Why go round and round and perhaps wire the lead?

MCNEILL: Six clubs. I would love to cuebid my two aces, but in the system I play, a 3D bid after an initial 1NT response would promise a six-bagger. Possible trump loser, so settle for six.

Before you send for the men in their pretty white coats, keep in mind that Goodman and McNeill are primarily pragmatic rubber bridge players. In their game, North presumably cannot hold a 3-card club suit.

KOKISH: Three spades. But only with a prepared partner. 3NT is too negative, 4C too trump-thin, 3D/3H too dangerous. He will finish describing his hand over 3S (not expecting any trumps from me) and I will try for slam in clubs. Not for the squeamish.

Are you finally insane? If this answer came from anybody else, I would assume the individual wanted to make sure he got his name in print. But Kokish hardly needs the publicity. I would love to discuss this bid further. What happens if North has AKQxxx x Kx KQJx? Is he not supposed to bid Blackwood and then 6S? Prepared partners, like prepared mustard, go best with hot dogs.

As to the choice between 4C and 3D, all I can say is that 3D seems more flexible. You can always bid 4C next if you feel like it; but if partner rebids 3NT you can pass. I give you some votes for each and you can choose the approach you prefer.

WATSON: Four clubs. Originally, I thought I'd bid 3D and confirm clubs later. But we could be cold for 5, 6 or 7 clubs. I'll set trump and see what happens. 5C

would be weaker than 4C.

PAUL: Four clubs. I always like to share with partners the secret that a fit has been found. Time to cue bid later. This hand is a question of six or seven.

BALLANTYNE: Four clubs. Constructive raise; sets the trump suit. Yes, I know 3C could be on a 3-bagger but in that case partner was likely planning to rebid spades. The actual problem is whether or not to pass 4S.

CAMPBELL: Three diamonds. Either a diamond suit, or more usually in this sequence, a value showing bid with a club fit. Over 3H I bid 4C, over 3S I bid 3NT, over 3NT I pass, over 4C I bid 4H.

STEWART: Three diamonds. This is a very dangerous situation but 3D should work out best if partner doesn't raise. My partners don't absolutely guarantee club length here and I don't like to raise immediately with trumps this bad, especially when it preempts partner's description. Will try 4C next, but if he raises diamonds I'm going to have to stab.

Stab partner?

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

S: KJ10 H:8 D:K7432 C:AK85

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

* negative double

Scoring:

Action	Panel Votes	Points
Pass	8	100
4C	7	90
Dbl.	1	30
3NT	0	20

The choice between Pass and 4C is close - there are arguments both ways. The point of the problem, however, was that a double in this position is not for penalties the way most people play nowadays (and even if it was, that would not make it a good bid).

Passing now gets you past this round of bidding, but if partner reopens with a

double you'll have a tough problem:

GOODMAN: Pass. 3NT is a joke - no tricks. This hand has depreciated in value. Partner is still able to take action - if he is good enough to double again, showing a good hand, I will reconsider.

GUOBA: Pass. Surely the problem comes next round, after West passes and North doubles.

Notice how these two lawyers conform to the stereotype: they are cautious and do not answer questions that weren't asked.

BALLANTYNE: Pass. At this vulnerability I'll pull partner's double to 4C and expect a plus in a minor suit partscore. Bidding 4C immediately should show five clubs; a double should mean you were going to bid 3H. Pass would seem to avoid disaster in a tough situation.

CAMPBELL: Pass. Any other bid punishes partner for muttering or is an overbid. Double is not for penalties the way I play, though if it were I would double. 3NT is a complete gamble, but if partner doubles then I would bid 3NT to gain 400 or 430 vs. 300 by defending.

While I originally favoured the pass, the arguments presented by the 4C bidders have swayed me:

ROSS: Four clubs. 3NT is very unlikely to make, but game in a minor is a very real possibility and we are not in great danger as partner can return to diamonds on those hands where he was not dealt four clubs.

WATSON: Four clubs. Your spade holding and the auction guarantee a minor suit fit. Too close to double at the three level.

ANDERSON: Four clubs. Occasionally my partner has some club length with his hearts. If not, he may have some diamonds. We might still be on for game. If not I think I can beat four spades.

VAN WALLEGHAM: Four clubs. Partner should have one or no spades, 4 or 5 hearts and the ability to play clubs or support diamonds. I think I have enough defense for 4S but perhaps not 3S.

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

S: 653 H:A102 D: 107653 C: 95

West	North	East	South
	-1H	Dbl.	2H
2S	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Which card do you lead?

Scoring:

Action	Panel Votes	Points
Diamond	5	100
Spade	4	70
Heart 10	4	60
Heart 2	2	50
Heart A	1	40

Let's get right to the panel:

BALLANTYNE: Heart two. Save the heart ace to cover one of East's honours. Partner is likely to have more than one entry. Those leading anything but a heart will soon find themselves at the partnership desk.

This would be a dream come true for many a harried partnership chairman. They could pair Taylor and Guoba, Ross and Watson, Goodman and van Wallegham, Begin and Paul; and they'd still have Eric Kokish in reserve in case somebody requests a very macho partner:

KOKISH: Spade six. Am I a softie? Will I give them trick nine? I'll give them trick 12 instead. Maybe East is counting on running diamonds, not clubs. Maybe he needed some assurance about spades before wasting his good hand at 3NT ... And so on ...

Nodding in agreement:

BEGIN: Spade six. Which looks like the long shot to get partner in for a heart through. If East holds something like xx Kx AKQ AKQJxx (although I would bid 3NT immediately with this, not everyone would).

VAN WALLEGHAM: Six of spades. Sounds like everybody has a little bit and East a pretty fair hand. The heart 2 might give them their ninth trick. I lead the spade 6 since East was not all that interested in

spades and I may have to get partner in.

Actually, the most popular try to get to partner was not a spade, but a diamond:

TAYLOR: Diamond 5. Great problem. Only "wrong" lead is a club. A diamond lead allows us to establish diamonds if that's right; put partner in for heart plays if that's right, and will unlikely give away the contract if it does not strike gold.

GOODMAN: Diamond 5. Declarer figures to have the heart king plus good clubs, etc. Hope we can set up diamonds or partner can get in and push a heart through.

If you're going to make the wooden heart lead, there is something to be said for each card:

STEWART: Ace of hearts. The danger is that this lead may give up tricks 8 and 9 but anything else is just a shot. RHO doubled without great spade support so he rates to have the minors well stopped (a long running suit is unlikely on this bidding). I refuse to be passive at IMPs. I lead the ace so the suit doesn't get screwed up.

BETTS: Ten of hearts, despite the difficulty partner will have reading it. I generally try to avoid making "heroic" leads like this but declarer likely has 2-3-3-5, 19 or 20 HCP, so we should lead our suit. Choose the 10 as it unblocks; too cowardly to lead the ace.

Does he mean he's too cowardly to lead it, or that it would be cowardly to do so?

DOUCET: Heart 10. I think hearts should be led and the 10 is the most flexible approach to the suit.

ANDERSON: Two of hearts. I hope this will trap Qxx. Then we'll figure out how to get my partner in for the kill. No other lead even looks appealing.

So what was the killing lead? Sorry. I made up the problem.

MAY CONTEST

To enter the May contest, answer the problems below and send your entry, together with your name and address to:

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

MAY PROBLEMS

(A) IMPs, North-South vul., South holds

S: KQ H: AKQJ4 D: 8 C: KQJ103

West	North	East	South
-	-	3C	?

(B) Rubber bridge, both vul., South holds:

S: Q85 H: 743 D: AQ6 C: Q832

West	North	East	South
-	-	1H	Pass
Pass	Dbl.	3H	?

(C) IMPs, East-West vul., South holds:

S: 97532 H: AK D: 8732 C: AQ

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

* weak

** negative double

(D) IMPs, neither vul., South holds

S: A632 H: - D: A108652 C: A93

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1S	2D
2H	Pass	Pass	?

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

S: K42 H: J2 D: Q74 C: KJ976

West	North	East	South
Pass	1H	Dbl.	Redbl.
1S	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2D	Pass	?

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

S: 4 H: KQ10432 D: 74 C: KQ85

West	North	East	South
-	-	1S	2H
Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Dbl.	Pass	Pass

Which card to you lead?

David and Goliath Revisited

by Aidan Ballantyne

Following the theme of my most recent "Inside the CBF" column--printed months and months ago! -- I shall once again dip into the world of bridge politics to discuss an issue that has important ramifications for all Canadian bridge players. I should hasten to add that the following is my own point of view and does not necessarily reflect the official CBF position. (it doesn't have one yet!) or that of other CBF directors.

The issue I'm about to discuss was brought before the ACBL directors in Winnipeg last fall as a result of pressure from the East Kootenay unit in British Columbia.

The East Kootenay unit's position

The East Kootenay unit (ACBL unit #574) has just over 200 members and is located along the Canada-U.S. border just north of Spokane, Washington. The members of this unit have long felt a close affinity with Spokane players and, traditionally, have not supported CBF efforts to organize ACBL-sanctioned bridge exclusively for Canadians. When the CNTC, under the CBF's jurisdiction, replaced the GNT in Canada, East Kootenay players were apparently unhappy about losing the opportunity of playing in the GNT and competing against their friends in Spokane. To compound the problem, the Kootenay unit board was distressed at having to pay CBF membership fees as a condition for their players being allowed to play in the GNT's replacement, the CNTC.

As a result of lingering dissatisfaction with the current CBF-ACBL setup, and in pursuit of what is perhaps their primary objective -- that of being allowed to play in the GNTs -- the Kootenay board recently adopted the following position: that Canadian players, as fully paid-up members of the ACBL, should have the

right to play in all ACBL-sanctioned events. A corollary of this platform is that, since CBF events are ACBL-sanctioned, Canadian ACBL members should be allowed to participate in CBF events even when their parent unit refuses to join the CBF.


The ACBL Position

The Kootenay unit petitioned the ACBL on this matter and it was debated last fall in Winnipeg. The ACBL Board resolved that, as a general principle, ACBL members in good standing cannot be denied eligibility to participate in ACBL-sanctioned national championships held in the country of their domicile. In other words, the ACBL's position is that Kootenay players -- and indeed, all Canadian players -- should be allowed to play in CBF events even if their parent unit board elects not to pay CBF membership fees. On the other hand, the ACBL reaffirmed the principle that Kootenay and other Canadian players cannot play in the GNTs.

The ACBL decision has a number of important implications for organized bridge in Canada. Before these can be fully understood it is necessary to briefly review the CBF-ACBL constitutional relationship as well as the function and objectives of the CBF.

CBF Constitution and Function

The CBF was born out of demand for a Canadian organization that would attend to uniquely Canadian bridge problems. The original impetus was the need to select Canadian representatives for international competition. However, other national needs have since been recognized and the CBF mandate has gradually broadened. At the time the CBF was created, it was generally perceived that the ACBL, with its numerous resources and well-developed expertise, could efficiently cater to most of the wishes of



the mainstream Canadian player. It thus seemed that formation of a separate Canadian organization that would compete directly with the ACBL was both unwanted and unnecessary. And so the CBF was constituted as a voluntary affiliation of Canadian ACBL bridge units, in effect a "Canadian Union" within the ACBL. Units, rather than individual players, would become members and, together, would organize Canadian-only ACBL-sanctioned events.

The CBF and ACBL have since co-existed peacefully. The CBF has benefitted the ACBL by taking on obligations that the latter would otherwise have had towards its Canadian segment, and, conversely, the ACBL has benefitted all Canadian players by offering them the opportunity to play in well-organized tournaments, win masterpoints, and engage in a variety of other appealing bridge activities. However, the parallel existence of these two bridge organizations has not been without cost to the Canadian bridge player. This is because the CBF is supported by funds contributed exclusively by Canadian units; these units can choose to support the CBF but this is at the cost of other potential unit activities that could also benefit Canadian players.

Initially, Canadian units did not have to pay a set fee in order to belong to the CBF; each unit paid what it thought it could afford. More recently, however, the CBF has made participation in CBF events and activities conditional on units paying "CBF dues" in the amount of \$1.50 per unit member. The set fee is usually manageable for large units which are more often than not financially healthy and can afford to belong to the CBF without having to forgo regular unit activities; their sectionals make money and they enjoy economies of scale when producing a newsletter. However, the set fee concept is not welcomed by many smaller, mostly western, units whose operating margins are relatively narrow; their sectionals usually lose money and

they often survive on the fine edge of bankruptcy.

Despite these problems the vast majority of units have consistently paid their CBF dues, judging that the services and playing opportunities offered in return are worth the price (the \$1.50 amounts to only about 10% of an individual's ACBL membership). The set fee, in turn, has allowed the CBF to draw up budgets, has permitted organization of an increasing number of diverse events and activities, and has led to a tremendous improvement in CBF performance. For the price of \$1.50 per head, Canadian players of all caliber can benefit in a number of ways: they can participate in a variety of play-downs which provide them with funded access to national finals and international events; they have the opportunity to meet and play against Canadians from all over the country; they can communicate with other Canadian players and help develop a national bridge identity by contributing to the Digest; they can take part in educational programs; they can participate in events and activities sponsored by the World Bridge Federation; and, last but not least, they are provided with an institution which can defend their bridge interests.

The establishment of a set membership fee has allowed the CBF to expand its role far beyond that of being an instrument for selecting Canadian representative. It has allowed the CBF to provide Canadian players with a number of opportunities which they would not otherwise enjoy.

Having completed their brief exploration into the structure and function of the CBF it is now possible to appreciate the full impact of the ACBL's Winnipeg decision. This decision, it may be recalled, supports the right of all Canadian ACBL members to play in CBF events, regardless of whether or not a player's parent unit is a CBF member. The two most important implications are:

1. The CBF may be faced with a grave financial crisis which could permanently impair its function;

2. The working relationship between the ACBL and CBF may be severely tested and this may result in an overhaul of the CBF constitution.

Impact on CBF Finances

If enjoyment of CBF services is no longer made contingent on an all-or-nothing membership fee, it is probable that Canadian unit contributions will diminish. Unit boards, whose operating margins are being squeezed by the CBF on one side and by the increased cost of doing business with the ACBL -- in the form of a falling Canadian dollar -- on the other, may elect to ease financial pressure by cutting their CBF contribution. After all, why pay for something that is perceived as being free!

"Let another unit pay!" some will say.

It must be emphasized that the units' probable reluctance to pay should not be construed as a sign that the CBF has relatively little intrinsic value. Rather, it is behaviour that can be predicted from standard economic theory on "common-property resources". When a fishery becomes depleted because everyone is taking the fish without particular concern for future fish supplies, it is not a reflection on the true value of fish. Rather, it is behaviour that results because no one individual or group has been assigned the property rights to the ocean. Each user says to himself,

"There's no sense in me leaving adult fish to spawn future fish because someone else will come by and take those adults before I can realize my investment. I'd better just get what I can as fast as possible without worrying about the future because that's what everyone else will be doing!"

The end result is always collapse of the resource.

The CBF membership fee policy in effect establishes CBF property rights for member units and provides a guarantee that they'll get something in return for their investment; member units know that other units will also be contributing, assuming a fair price for services, and that

the combined units' membership fee total will provide them with the desired institution. Units also know that if they don't invest, they get nothing in return.

The ACBL ruling completely erodes the value of the CBF membership fee. Take it away and the economic "Tragedy of the Commons" will inevitably be re-enacted. Each unit board will say to itself,

"Why should I pay when nobody else has to? Why should I invest when there is no guarantee that I'll get something back for my investment because no one else may anti-up?"


All across the country, unit board members will be arguing:

"If we pay and no one else does, we'll just be contributing more than our share to some other unit's welfare. Surely that isn't fiscally responsible. What will our members say!"

When contributions begin dropping, the CBF will return to past inefficient form and the final result may be partial or complete collapse of our only national bridge institution. Such a collapse, given the CBF's many and varied functions, can only hurt the Canadian bridge player.

The ACBL-CBF relationship

It is apparent that the working relationship between the CBF and ACBL will be tested. The CBF thought it was in its right, as **sponsoring** organization for CBF events, to enforce a set CBF membership fee as a condition for participation in its events. The ACBL, as **sanctioning** organization has apparently overruled the CBF on this point. The ACBL ruling has hurt the CBF which was happily minding its own business and pursuing a membership fee policy as part of an overall strategy for raising revenue required to pay for its operations. In fact, charging member units is one of the only revenue options available to the CBF, given its constitution. Since units, not individuals, are members, the CBF cannot practically levy individual membership fees. The question is: does the ACBL have the right to impair the CBF's revenue-producing capacity?



On another level, the ACBL ruling can be construed as evidence that the ACBL is ignoring the wishes of its Canadian segment. The CBF membership policy was decided by a vote of CBF directors, each elected democratically by Canadian units. As such, the policy may be deemed to reflect the majority wish of Canadian ACBL units. Indeed, Canadian units, for the most part, may well perceive the merits of paying a membership fee. Perhaps they realize the "property-rights" function of membership fees. Perhaps they are aware that membership fees lead to more efficient CBF performance and enable paying units to have a legitimate say in Canadian bridge affairs. If the membership fee policy reflects the majority view of Canadian units, then it can be argued that in some sense the ACBL fails to recognize our only form of national bridge sovereignty. Mr. Mulroney, please include this in the trade talks!

The ACBL ruling raises some fundamental questions on the rights of the CBF and through it, of Canadian bridge players. There is bound to be some push-and-shove between the two organizations as each probes the outer limits of its bridge jurisdiction. In fact, the dispute may only be resolved following changes in the constitutional relationship between the two organizations. All in all, it seems that the previously harmonious working relationship between the CBF and ACBL may be affected.

Longterm Implications

If these impacts come to pass, a complete rethinking of Canadian bridge organization may be required. Clearly, there is a demand for a Canadian organization catering to the wishes of Canadian bridge players. The ACBL fulfills many of the needs of our players but fails to recognize our national requirements in a number of respects. A few examples:

1. The ACBL, especially in the west where Canadian units belong to trans-national districts, is not particularly responsive to Canadian regional bridge

needs. For instance, district policies often make it difficult for northern players of all caliber to participate in regional championships and district finals of ACBL playdown events such as the GNP and CNT-B.

2. The ACBL has been slow to address the increasingly acute problem experienced by all Canadian players and units in transacting bridge business with its U.S. parent organization, given the falling relative value of the Canadian dollar.
3. The ACBL would not be particularly qualified to select Canadian representatives for international events and would probably not be interested in undertaking this task. If it were to engage in this activity, it would be something akin to the U.S. government openly deciding Canadian affairs.

Furthermore, the ACBL would probably not be interested in improving the performance of our international players. This should be an important goal for Canadians as there is a "trickle down effect" and the overall caliber of play in a country may well be a reflection on the performance of its top players.

These points, as well as the historically expanding role of the CBF, illustrate that Canadian players need, and will support, some sort of national bridge organization.

The CBF, as a form of such an organization, has so far allowed Canadians to enjoy the services of both the ACBL and a national bridge institution in essence, to enjoy "the best of both worlds." However, the CBF, as a result of the ACBL's Winnipeg ruling, may end up failing as a viable Canadian enterprise. Perhaps it is time now to open up debate on what other form of Canadian bridge institution might be created.

It is perhaps ironic that the tiny Kootenay unit, in pursuing the rather modest objective of being allowed to play in the GNTs, might have inadvertently precipitated wholesale changes in organized bridge across the country.

IS THIS A RECORD?

by Ray Hornby.

This hand was played over twenty years ago.

	S K9	
	H 74	
	D AKQ1064	S AQ10654
S 873	C 852	H 108
H AQJ953		D 97
D 85		C 1063
C 94	S J2	
	H K62	
SOUTH	D J32	
3NT	C AKQJ7	

The heart opening lead ran to declarer's King. Six no trump was made easily as he peeled off the six diamonds and five clubs.

At the other table, the declarer was also in 3NT but that was where the similarity ended.

Helen Sobel, sitting West, decided not to make the routine heart opening and made out with the spade eight. The result was devastating as East cashed six spades before leading to West's hearts. Thus, East West also took twelve tricks.

A twenty-four trick difference!

This hand was played in a U.S. National Tournament in 1963.

East - West Vul. Dealer South

	S 843		
	H QJ8754		
	D J		
S AQJ109	C K109	S K76	
H 9		H K62	
D AK7632		D 109854	
C Q	S 52	C A8	
	H A103		
	D Q		
	C J765432		
S	W	N	E
3C	4C (1)	5C (2)	6C (3)
7C (4)	P (5)	P	X
P	P	P	

Sounds silly but **all the bids have significant merit and make sense.**

1. 4C is a giant takeout double.
2. 5C - North is trying to raise the preempt.
3. East passes the buck and requests West to pick a suit.
4. South felt East - West might have a vulnerable slam and bid 7C as a sacrifice.
5. West's pass is a forcing pass and asks East to bid or double.
East - West can make 6S, 6D or 6NT, but no grand slam. 7C should be a good sacrifice going down at most four tricks for minus 700.

	S 432	
	H Q103	
	D AJ763	
S Q9765	C 105	S KJ108
H 76		H 8542
D 985	S A	D J10
C 972	H AKJ9	C J63
	D Q42	
	C AKQ84	

West	North	East	South
P	P	P	2C
P	3D	P	5NT
P	7D	P	7NT

South used the 5NT Grand Slam Force convention to ask partner to bid a grand slam if he holds two of three top honours.

7NT made easily for a plus score of 2220.

This hand was played in a team tournament. At the other table, West chose to psyche an opening bid of 1NT which was passed around to South who doubled.

West knew that the opponents have a sure game, probably a small slam and possibly a grand slam, as his partner had passed the no-trump opening bid, promising 0-7 points. **The opponents took all the tricks** - down seven - for minus 1,300 points. This was a gain of 920 points.

IS THIS A RECORD?

Submitted by Gim Ong, Editor of Unit 181 Newsletter.

Letters To the Editor



To the Editor

HERE'S THE STORY

"There's a new kid in the block" in the world of tournament bridge. This is an open tourney scheduled for May 1986 in Ireland. It is called the IRISH CUP Bridge Classic with a grand prize in the form of a monumental Irish crystal masterpiece called the IRISH CUP.

Planned for May 9 to 19, the event is expected to involve upwards of 1000 Americans travelling to Ireland for some challenging bridge with Irish and British players, and some thrilling sightseeing as well. "The beauty and natural wonders of this island are spellbinding," states Bob Nay, one of the directors of the tournament. Nay is owner and executive director of a major international tourism operation with headquarters in Alexandria, Va. "Bridge in Ireland will be special because of the fascinating people we'll meet," Nay adds.

Highlights of the IRISH CUP event include four afternoons and four evenings of bridge ... Duplicate bridge (for ACBL master points), or rubber bridge for all levels of play ... Not sponsored by the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL), but conducted in cooperation with ACBL ... Referees and tournament directors will be recognized ACBL directors ... Some play will be in ancient castles ... The finale will be a dinner dance and musical production in Dublin's finest ballroom.

A major international star in the bridge world will present the IRISH CUP, according to Bob Burns, one of the directors. Burns is a newspaper publisher in Chicago, and also has interests in two publications in Ireland.

"Registration for the event is priced at \$125," according to director Nay.

The tour is priced from \$599, including roundtrip air fare, ground transportation and all hotels for 10 days.

For reservations and additional information, phone TOLL FREE (800) 368-3267. In Washington, D.C., phone (703) 684-2129. TELEX: 499-2771.

To the Editor:

Mr. Vine wrote a very negative article in your August edition ("TEAM MATCH"), and I honestly wonder what prompted you to accept this insulting tirade for publication.

Mr. Vine calls his opponents klutzes, mediocre, godawful, dumb, bad guys, dummies and unimaginative clods.

It may be that the hero team is 'the class of the league', but I would not call their spokesman classy at all.

Sincerely:

Dave Kuiper
Weather Stn. Fort Reliance NWT

Editor's Note:

I believe the last sentence of the article says it all!!

