

canadian bridge digest

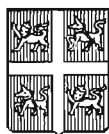
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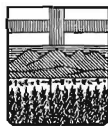
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Allan Simon



John Armstrong

Editor: Allan Simon

Associate Editor: John Armstrong

Editorial

We are pleased to announce some important steps forward for this Canadian Bridge Digest:

First of all, we welcome the appointment of that raconteur and bon vivant extraordinaire, John Armstrong of Rexdale, Ont. as Associate Editor. John is of course a living legend in Ontario bridge circles. Whether you know him in his incarnation as Editor of the Kibitzer, as bridge historian, as partner or as opponent, you can't help but like and respect the man. It is with great pleasure that we welcome John to the Digest.

The venerable Canadian Bidding Contest is back. Gim Ong of Winnipeg acted as moderator for this month's contest, while next month Sandy McIlwain, Vancouver's able writer and champion player, has agreed to serve. We'll try this rotating moderator principle for a while. Please let us know what you think.

C'est avec plaisir que nous souhaitons la bienvenue à une seconde rubrique de langue française: Dorénavant Kamel Fergani et André Trudelle nous donneront les nouvelles de la région de Montréal, tandis que Maurice Larochelle continue sa chronique sur l'Est et le Nord du Québec.

Now, if we could only get somebody from the Maritimes. . .

Favourites Triumph in Canadian Ladies Team Championship

As reported in last month's ACBL Bulletin, the team of Katie Thorpe, Gloria Silverman, Dianna Gordon, Mary Paul, all of Toronto, and Sharyn Reus and Francine Cimon, of Montreal, won the Canadian Ladies' Team Championship held in Thunder Bay in early July.

In the finals they defeated the Montreal team of Steve Goldstein (NPC), Lee Atkinson, Sandra Fraser, Rhoda Habert, Beverly Kraft, Renee Mancuso and Barbara Saltsman by a score of 127-104.

Round-Robin Results: (Average 760)

1. THORPE-Silverman-Paul-Cimon-Reus-Gordon	1071
2. LOPUSHINSKY-Kilworth-McGillis-Barton (Edmonton)	951
3. MILLER-O'Connor-Thomas-Sanders (Sault Ste. Marie)	915
4. GOLDSTEIN (NPC)-Atkinson-Fraser-Saltsman-Mancuso-Habert-Kraft	911
5. CULP-Winston-Eaton-Geyer-Hutton-Hodgson (Toronto)	882
6. DICKIE-Smith-Delisle-Nagy (Vancouver)	851

Semi-Finals:

	Carry-over	1st quarter	Half	3rd quarter	Final
THORPE	0	56	79	135	186
MILLER	20	45	57	78	98
GOLDSTEIN	0	29	58	123	171
LOPUSHINSKY	4	26	48	77	125

Finals:

THORPE	0	39	68	99	127
GOLDSTEIN	3	19	38	79	104



Back Row: Mary Paul, Gloria Silverman, Dianna Gordon,
Front Row: Francine Cimon Sharyn Reus, Katie Thorpe.

Ontario Completes Sweep of Major Canadian Titles

The Canadian Open Pairs Championship is always the last of the major championships to be decided. After victories by teams consisting predominantly of Ontarians in the CNTC and CLTC events, representatives from the other provinces descended in full force on Toronto, just prior to the Summer NACs, determined to prevent a clean sweep.

After one session the standings were:

- 1/2. Harmon Edgar - Michael Schoenborn (Montreal-Toronto) 271.5
- Jacques Laliberte - Andre Laliberte (Charlesbourg PQ - Neufchatel PQ) 271.5
3. Angela Forsyth - Charles Milne (Toronto) 269

After the second qualifying session, the field was cut to 28 pairs. At this point, it looked like the CNTC winners might win another major championship:

1. Harmon Edgar - Michael Schoenborn 536.5
2. Jacques Laliberte - Andre Laliberte 508
3. Ed Betteto - Rob Sewell (Toronto) 507

Incidentally the defending champions, Mark Molson and Boris Baran of Montreal were sorely missed. It seems they forgot to qualify at the club level, and exceptions cannot be made, even for defending champs.

In the first final session, the leaders faded:

1. Gary Whiteman - Ken Warren (Mills - Pickering ON) 232.7
2. Jacques Laliberte - Andre Laliberte 225.9
3. Beverly Kraft - Eric Kokish (Montreal) 223.6

After the final session, the results were announced: Andre and Jacques Laliberte, from the Quebec City area, were the winners. But within an hour the news came: Hold everything – there's been a scoring error.

Of course, we mean to take nothing away from the winners: they won the event fair

and square. But it was hard not to sympathize with the Laliberte brothers whose victory celebrations were so cruelly interrupted. Final results:

1. Ken Warren – Gary Whiteman, Ontario 446.2
2. Jacques Laliberte - Andre Laliberte, Quebec 444.4
3. Paul Thurston - Duncan Phillips, Ontario 435.1
4. Robert Lebi - Michael Roche, Ontario 425.6
5. Ron Borg - Peter Herold, B.C. 419.0
6. Drew Cannell - G. Sekhar, Manitoba 409.7
7. Beverly Kraft - Eric Kokish, Quebec 400.1
8. Ethel Major - Robert Hirsch, Quebec 397.8
9. M.B. Raichman - Mark Dunsiger, Ontario 391.8
10. Ed Betteto - Rob Sewell, Ontario 388.9

Subject to confirmation by the CBF Board, the winner's prize was one of the finest we have ever encountered: Whiteman and Warren are off to an all-expense paid tour of Europe, including participation at three of Europe's most prestigious (and lucrative) tournaments, likely in France and Luxembourg.

For more on Whiteman and Warren, please see page 6; for more on Laliberte-Laliberte, see page 9. ■

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Get Ready for 1987 CBF Events

With the various 1986 champions crowned, it's time to say "Wait 'til Next Year". So get yourself a partner and a team, and get set to enter the 1987 championships.

Regardless of your level of experience, whether you have a realistic chance of winning or not, it is a challenge to see how far you can advance in next year's events.

CNTC

(Canadian National Team Championship):

Club Level: Sept. 15, 1986 - Jan. 31, 1987

Zone Finals: Must be completed by April 30, 1987

National Finals: Quebec City, June 6-10, 1987

Winners to represent Canada in 1988 Team Olympiad.

CLTC

(Canadian Ladies Team Championship)

National Finals: Edmonton, July 4-8, 1987

Winners to play off against 1986 CLTC winners to decide representatives to 1988

Women's Team Olympiad.

COPC

(Canadian Open Pairs Championship)

Club Qualifying games: Feb. 13, 1986
May 12, 1986
July 18, 1986
Oct. 28, 1986

National Finals:

Edmonton, July 11-12, 1987.

It is hoped that the CBF can offer the 1987 COPC winners a 3-week trip to Europe including 3 tournaments.

Rookie-Master Game will be held in early April; check next Digest for details.

International Bidding Contest will be run during the first two weeks of April.

Next Canadian Olympiad Fund Game: February 4, 1987

For all additional information, contact your Zone Director (see last page for name and address of your director). ■

Creston, B.C. Player Wins Walker Prize



Ivy Strand

The grand prize of a trip for two to anywhere in the world that Air Canada flies has been won by Mrs. Ivy Strand of Creston, B.C. The prize was donated by John Walker Travel in conjunction with Air Canada and the Canadian Bridge Federation.

Mrs. Strand completed the coupon on page 19 of the May 1985 Digest – and lo and behold, she won.

Ivy told us that she was one of the founders of the Creston Duplicate Bridge Club; in fact, when the club started 25 years ago, the games took place in her house. Now there is a weekly game in a new site called the RotaCrest Centre.

Mrs. Strand hasn't yet picked her destination for the trip, but "it will be somewhere south", she assures us. She has until December to decide. ■

Ken Warren of Pickering

Digest: Ken, congratulations on winning the COPC! Tell us about yourself, please.

Ken: Thank you. I was born in Toronto, but I lived in Scarborough until 1982, then Atikokan, and now I live in Pickering.

I learned to play from Ken Oddy about thirteen years ago at the Cedarbrae Community Centre. I learned Goren, but now I play five-card majors with a forcing 1NT. It is simpler; you can raise on three-card support without having to worry about whether you should bid 1NT or whether you have a 4-3 fit or not.



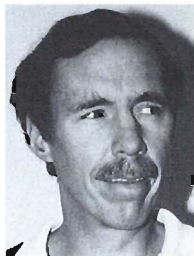
We use a few gadgets such as modified Lebensohl over interference, where 2NT, instead of being a relay to 3C, shows both minors and asks partner to choose the better one. 3C and 3D are to play. To force in a minor, we can jump to four in that minor, but those hands are rare.

If there is no interference, we play four-suit transfers. 2S transfers to clubs; 2NT transfers to diamonds. To bid 2NT invitational we have to bid 2C first. 3C or 3D over 1NT is invitational, showing six to two of the top three honors with very little outside.

Improvement is a very gradual process. I paid attention to what some of the better players (such as John Gowdy, John Caruthers and Bruce Elliott) did in certain situations; when they doubled and did not double, etc. I noticed how they played the hands. Watson's *Play of the Hand* is very

continued on page 17

Gary Whiteman of Toronto



Digest: Gary, congratulations on winning the COPC! Tell us about yourself, please.

Gary: Thank you. I was born in Washington, D.C., but moved to Montreal when I was six months old, and to Etobicoke six years later.

My parents taught me bridge and I had a very strong interest in it when I was young. I read Goren's book (I don't know how many times), so I knew the basics of sound bridge much better than most people. It was an old-fashioned four-card major system, but I understood what the bids meant.

In 1973 I discovered the duplicate bridge club at McMaster University, where I was studying business. In 1974 I found Bill Pollack's Hamilton Bridge Club and also started going to tournaments. My first tournament was the 1974 Easter Regional in Toronto. From 1979 until recently I worked in bridge. As I worked weekends a lot, I did not have as much opportunity to play in tournaments as I would have liked. Now that I have changed jobs, I have the time and I'm on the trail again.

When I was lacking in experience, I studied, read books, watched, and played against better players. Then it was just a matter of putting in my time, as all bridge players have to do.

Ken Warren and I are not playing a full two-over-one system, but we play five-card

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Richmond Trophy Update

The race for the 1986 Richmond trophy (leading masterpoint winner in Canada) is now in the homestretch. Five-time winner Mark Molson, from Montreal, is in a good position to win another title but there are several formidable challengers who will see to it that Molson has to work for his sixth title.

Standings as of October 1:

1. Eric Murray, Toronto ON	8,582
2. Eric Kokish, Westmount PQ	7,086
3. Mark Molson, Montreal PQ	6,945
4. Bruce Elliott, Weston ON	6,404
5. Sami Kehela, Toronto ON	6,163
6. Paul Heitner, Toronto ON	6,022
7. Joseph Silver, Hampstead PQ	5,742
8. Doug Fraser, Mont Royal PQ	5,345
9. Boris Baran, Montreal PQ	5,309
10. Allan Graves, Vancouver BC	5,292
11. Robert Hutchinson, Lethbridge AB	5,112
12. Ted Horning, Thornhill ON	4,899
13. George Mittelman, Toronto ON	4,671
14. John Carruthers, Toronto ON	4,645
15. Mary Hutchinson, Lethbridge AB	4,548
16. Robert Lebi, Toronto ON	4,525
17. Laurence Belts, Burnaby BC	4,498
18. Percy Sheardown, Toronto ON	4,307
19. Leo Steil, Vancouver BC	4,194
20. Subhash Gupta, Calgary AB	4,143
21. Maurice Paul, Toronto ON	4,053
22. Fred Hoffer, Cote St. Luc PQ	3,981
23. Sandra Fraser, Mont Royal PQ	3,954
24. Adrian Hicks, Vancouver BC	3,857
25. Adolph Feingold, Edmonton AB	3,855
26. Ron Borg, Richmond BC	3,799
27. David Stothart, Ottawa ON	3,784
28. Paul Hagen, Vancouver BC	3,728
29. Stephen Brown, Ottawa ON	3,725
30. John Stevens, St. Catharines ON	3,655

Past Richmond Winners

1974 John Carruthers
 1975 Michael Schoenborn
 1976 Bruce Ferguson
 1977 Bruce Ferguson
 1978 Bruce Ferguson
 1979 Mark Molson
 1980 Mark Molson
 1981 George Mittelman
 1982 Mark Molson
 1983 Mark Molson
 1984 Mark Molson
 1985 Cliff Campbell

The Eleven Commandments

by Vince Remy

One of the after session talks at Portland was by Mike Jones and was about Barry Crane. Mike became one of Barry's favorite partners after first kibitzing him for some years. In fact, their first game arose when Mike watched Barry put together games of 132 and 136 (proving that such things did happen) and he then asked Mike if he wanted to play the next day. He, of course, jumped at the chance and thus started a successful partnership of many years.

It was a very interesting talk and if Mike should give it at another National I would urge you to attend. Mike realized, as did all of Barry's partners, that you did everything his way and could expect to be harshly criticized if you deviated in any way from his system. And since you had to open all eleven point hands, even if part of the eleven points was a singleton honor, it was with some trepidation that you would open one diamond with Kxxx, Qxx, Kxxx, K.

Barry had many nicknames on the coast but two of the best known were His Holiness (you don't argue with the Pope, do you?) and the Hideous Hog. This led to the jest that Barry was a well-known member of the 4-H Club.

Mike said he had to play Barry's Eleven Commandments which were as follows:

1. Never pull partner's penalty doubles.
2. Always take a sure profit.
3. Watch out for the three level.
4. The more you bid, the more you got.
5. Sevens are singletons.
6. Don't bid grand slams in Swiss Teams.
7. Don't put cards in partner's hand.
8. Jesus saves.
9. Don't eat between sessions.
10. Never ask "How's your game?"
11. Never gloat.

The first one was easy enough to follow as if the opponents made the doubled contract there would ensue no criticism from partner. And, Mike added, it was surprising how rarely matchpoints were lost when the contract was made.

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Le bridge se porte bien dans la région de Montréal

par Kamel Fergani et André Trudelle

Le bridge se porte à merveille dans la région montréalaise (unité 151). Les joueurs de ce secteur du Québec saluent tous les francophones à travers le pays et tous les autres amateurs de bridge. Les co-auteurs ont bel et bien l'intention de fournir régulièrement des articles au magazine, publié quatre fois l'an.

Tout d'abord un mot de félicitation à l'unité 151, bombons le torse et frappons-nous la poitrine, nous avons enregistré un nombre record de nouveaux membres au cours de la dernière année. Sans aucun doute à cause du succès remporté par les Championnats nord-américains tenus à Montréal en mars 1985. Cet événement, largement commenté, a sans aucun doute suscité de nouvelles vocations! Bravo aux responsables!

D'ici peu, si ce n'est pas déjà fait, paraîtra le *Mélange de bridge*, publication annuelle de la Ligue de bridge de Montréal. Cette année, un élément nouveau: 140 pages dont la moitié a été réservée aux bridgeurs francophones. C'est une initiative à souligner.

Nouveau club

Sil'unité a attiré de nouveaux membres, cette affluence s'est répercutée au niveau des clubs. Plusieurs cercles: Outremont, Notre-Dame de la Merci, Saint-Pie X, Rive-Sud, Saint-Hilaire, Sainte-Adèle (dans les Laurentides) sont très populaires et très fréquentés. On pourrait en nommer d'autres.

Malgré cela, un groupe formé de mesdames Jeanne Pelletier, Thérèse Lalongé et Hélène Legendre et de messieurs Gérard Falardeau et Normand Bédard a lancé un nouveau club le 2 Trèfle, situé au 7400 rue Fabre, près Everett. Et ce club connaît beaucoup de succès. Il place l'emphasis sur la relève et consacre une séance hebdomadaire aux débutants, le vendredi soir. De plus, les débutants ont aussi droit

à une séance mensuelle par équipes de quatre. Longue vie à ce cercle!

Par ailleurs, le Linton a déménagé ses pénates et il est désormais installé rue Mountain Seights, tout près de la station de métro De La Savane. Depuis octobre dernier, le Linton, paradis des joueurs de robe depuis de nombreuses années, a ajouté quelques séances de duplicata à son programme. Kamel Fergani et Mark Yudin dirigent ces séances.

L'unité 151 a été attristé par la mort de plusieurs bridgeurs en 1986. Deux noms méritent d'être cités particulièrement: ceux de Don Tait et de Georges Legendre. Tous deux ont été très actifs sur la scène montréalaise du bridge.

Le Linton a souligné de façon particulière le décès de Don Tait en organisant un tournoi commémoratif, en septembre dernier. Une centaine de joueurs se sont réunis dans les nouveaux locaux du Linton pour rendre hommage au disparu.

Par ailleurs, le souvenir de Georges Legendre a été perpétué par le lancement du club 2 Trèfle, projet qui avait germé dans l'esprit de Legendre, directeur de tournoi et professeur de bridge fort apprécié. C'est sa cousine Hélène Legendre qui, épaulée par le quatuor Pelletier, Lalongé, Bédard et Falardeau, a mené le projet — et très rondement — à exécution.

La Fédération canadienne de bridge est dirigée désormais par Aidan Ballantyne, de Vancouver. Ballantyne et Simon, du magazine, ont de nouvelles idées sur l'autonomie du bridge canadien. Il faut les épauler. Un moyen, faire connaître votre point de vue en écrivant une lettre ou un article ou en téléphonant ou contactant les co-auteurs de cette rubrique, Kamel Fergani ou André Trudelle. N'hésitez pas. ■

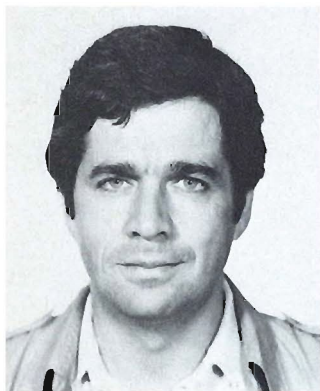
Rapport de l'est et du Nord du Québec

par Maurice Larochelle

Une autre preuve que le bridge se porte bien au Québec: depuis la dernière année en effet toutes les unités ont connu une augmentation appréciable de leur membership.

Passons maintenant aux nouvelles importantes des trois derniers mois:

1. Comme partout ailleurs, semble-t-il, le tournoi Epson a été fort apprécié. L'unité St-Laurent/Saglac est particulièrement fière du succès de Line et Luc Gagnon de Rimouski, premiers du district #1, avec une moyenne de 70, 6%.



Maurice Larochelle

2. Bonne et mauvaise nouvelles pour les frères André et Jacques Laliberté de Québec. La bonne nouvelle, c'est qu'ils ont terminé en deuxième place lors des championnats canadiens par paires tenus à Toronto en juillet dernier. La mauvaise nouvelle, c'est qu'ils avaient été déclarés gagnants, pour apprendre plus tard qu'il y avait eu une erreur.

Ma main trimestrielle vient de ce même tournoi, avec les frères André et Jacques respectivement en Est-Ouest. Selon le Bulletin du tournoi, ces derniers trouvèrent une bonne défense pour défaire un petit chelem.

Ce n'est pas un secret pour personne que les frères Laliberté sont très compétitifs et qu'ils ont bien du plaisir à jouer ensemble

Est donneur Nord-Sud vulnérables NORD

PI: R-6-2
CO: A-D-10-9
CA: 9-8-6-4-2
TR: 6

OUEST
PI: 10-8-7-5
CO: 7-6-5-2
CA: V-10
TR: V-8-7

EST
PI: V-4-3
CO: R-V-3
CA: R-D-7-5-3
TR: D-3

SUD
PI: A-D-9
CO: 8-4
CA: A
TR: A-R-10-9-5-4-2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
OUEST	NORD	EST	SUD
-	-	1 CA	CTRE
P	2 CO	P	3 TR
P	3 SA	P	6 TR

FIN

ENTAME: valet de carreau

et encore plus...un contre l'autre. Ils avaient donc bien des choses à ajouter concernant cette main, mais voyons d'abord ce qui c'est passé.

continué à la page suivante

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continued from page 7

The second commandment was also not hard to abide by but required some will-power particularly in situations where the opponents sacrifice at 4 spades non-vulnerable against your vulnerable 4 hearts and you were pretty sure 5 hearts was cold. But with Barry you quietly took your plus and worried not about the lost 650.

The bit about "watching out for the three level" was just Barry's way of saying anything goes when you compete at the two level but at the three level they are more likely to say double.

The fourth commandment was really old-fashioned and was simply Barry's way of emphasizing that each bid promised extra values.

The fifth commandment was as much a hunch as anything but Barry always felt that the lead of the seven was more likely to be a singleton than, say, of a five or a six. Mike said that in many cases it was true but, of course, they had no statistical proof.

The caution about not bidding grand slams in Swiss Teams made a lot of sense particularly if your opponents are not all that skillful as nothing is more demoralizing than to go down one at seven while the other team only reached game.

The seventh commandment was Barry's pet peeve. Nothing irritated him more than when partner made an unsuccessful bid and then said: "But if you had had such and such it would have worked." His answer always was, "I never do so don't plan on it."

The "Jesus Saves" was, of course, Barry's way of warning partner not to make sacrifice bids.

The ninth commandment was the one that Mike found the hardest to follow. He would come back to the table half-starving and the only comment he would get from Barry was, "Don't complain. Everybody plays better when they are hungry."

The last two commandments were, of course, personal foibles of Barry as he never liked anyone to ask about his game and he would never ask anyone else. He also did not like anyone who gloated. ■

RAPPORT DE L'EST ET DU NORD DU QUEBEC

continué de la page précédente

Après avoir gagné, le déclarant encaissa A-R de trèfle et rejeta un trèfle pour le valet d'Ouest. Si celui-ci fait le retour paresseux d'un carreau, son partenaire peut être squeezé aux suites rouges. Le déclarant en effet encaisse tous les trèfles sauf un, puis les piques. Voici la situation après neuf levées:

NORD

PI: R

CO: A

CA: 9-8

TR: -

OUEST

Sans
intérêt

EST

PI: -

CO: R-V

CA: R-D

TR: -

SUD

PI: 9

CO: 8-4

CA: -

TR: 2

Sur le roi de pique, le flanc droit est échec et mat: le déclarant majorera la suite où il se défait.

Cependant sur le troisième trèfle, Est, voyant les conséquences d'un retour carreau, avait violemment signalé du valet de coeur. Après avoir fait un trèfle, Ouest changea docilement à un coeur et le contrat ne pouvait plus être fait.

Bravo de dire le Bulletin. Mais Jacques avait d'autres choses à dire. Selon lui il est dangereux de jouer le valet de coeur, puisque le déclarant aurait pu avoir un singleton à cette suite avec une perdante à pique. Cela aurait donné le contrat alors qu'il aurait été possible d'arriver aux mêmes fins en jetant un petit pique et en se fiant au partenaire.

Mis au courant des propos de son frère, André déclara qu'il savait tout cela, mais qu'il ne fallait jamais se fier aux partenaires moins doués. Ah! l'amour fraternel. ■

The Montreal Bridge Scene

by Tony Reus and Larry Crevier

There has been a bridge revival ever since the North American Championships held in our fair city in March '85. Not only did Montreal dazzle its visitors with its hospitality but also with its successful Novice Program.

Following up this program's success has been a major goal of the Montreal Bridge League (MBL). It has held Novice sectionals and many clubs are now holding regular novice duplicates. Tony Reus has hosted several after-game panel shows which have proven to be a well-received instructional addition. The MBL intends to run two yearly Novice sectionals as well as special programs at its future sectionals and regionals.

The MBL has introduced a unique service to its members and clubs – a bridge hotline. Anyone in the Montreal area can dial "BRIDGEM" (corresponding numbers on the telephone dial) for up-to-the-minute unit information. A pre-recorded message (updated regularly) informs the listener in two languages of weekly activities and upcoming events. This service has proven to be an innovative means of promoting activity at the club and unit levels and of advising the public of important bridge venues, and only represents a small expense to the unit. The "BRIDGEM" hotline and our quarterly Newsletter has been effective vehicles in communication.

Eric Kokish, editor-in-chief of Montreal's award-winning publication "MÉLANGE DE BRIDGE" was hard at work trying to a mid-October deadline for its next issue. It will feature, as always, an editorial comment, humorous anecdotes, theoretical essays, photographs, Unit 151 major event results, club list and duplicate calendar. He is hoping for more francophone content than in the past years and a more "bilingual" effort as a result. This magazine is distributed to all ACBL members of Unit 151 at no charge. However, advertising space is available and contributions are always welcome to help subsidize this venture.

The League has also promoted the An-

nual International Bidding Contest. Recently the event has gained much popularity and plans are being made for an all-out drive in 1987. Montreal is issuing a challenge to all Canadian units to not only beat our attendance record but also to place as many pairs in the top ten!

The MBL organizes both Winter and Summer Team-of-Four Leagues offering Master Points to match winners as incentive. Each team entered represents a bridge club. "Home" and "away" games are played during the Round Robin. The clubs are therefore involved in recruiting teams – more teams – more income. This idea has bolstered participation and the Team League is growing. Not only are Montreal clubs involved but also those in outlying areas. The proposed format for the upcoming Winter season has teams from Montreal, South Shore and North Shore competing in three separate divisions with a combined playoff at the end.

Last year's Winter Team-of-Four league final was held in the Spring of 1986. In the "A" Division" (unlimited Master Points) Team Linton "A" (Doug and Sandra Fraser, Harmon Edgar, Fred Hoffer, Nick Garganis, Zymundt Marcinski and Michel Lorber) was pitted against Team Linton "B" (Ghassan Menachi, Mark Stein, Renée Mancuso, Billy Cohen, Mark Molson, Boris Baran, Seth Leznoff and Joe Silver). This hand swung the match in favour of Linton "B" but would have resulted in a victory for the other team if...

Fred Hoffer found himself on lead with this hand: S 1098, H 53, D 7632, C AJ65 after this auction:

West	North	East	South
Baran	Edgar	Molson	Hoffer
	P	2NT	P
3C	P	3H	P
4C	P	4D	P
5D	P	6H	P
P	Dbl	All Pass	

He knew his partner was trumping the opening lead...but which suit?!? Hoping that the club Ace would live (it certainly sounded like 4C was a suit), Fred tabled that card and this was the entire layout:

continued on page 23

Canadian Bidding Contest



Gim Ong

AUGUST HONOUR ROLL

These were the top scorers in the August contest:

1. Sam Buffa	Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.	580
2. G.A. Richardson	London, Ont.	570
3/4. Bill Huntley	Barrie, Ont.	560
George Mahas	London, Ont.	560
5/6. Renee Mancuso	Montreal, Que.	550
Camille Hamel	Ottawa, Ont.	550
7. Ralph Tiessen	Port Alice, B.C.	540
8/9. Tony Reus	Roxboro, Que.	530
Richard Bickley	Calgary, Alta.	530
10/12. D. Gilbert	Barrie, Ont.	520
Andrew Chong	Toronto, Ont.	520
M. Varkonyi	Toronto, Ont.	520
13/14. Dr. H.V. Sriharsha	Yarmouth, N.S.	510
Wayne Stewart	Thompson, Man.	510
15. Deanne Wren	Toronto, Ont.	500

Congratulations to all. As contest winner, Mr. Buffa will be invited to join the expert panel for the upcoming February contest. He also received a bridge book of his choice.

DR. RON BAILEY (Flin Flon, Man.) is one of the up-and-coming players from this northern mining town, famous for its hockey players and... John Ross and John Munson. Ron has held several positions including President of the Northern Manitoba Unit.

MARTIN CALEY (Nepean, Ont.) has had over 20 regional wins and has been finalist for the past two years in the CNTC.

PAUL HAGEN (Vancouver, B.C.) is one of the top players in British Columbia with countless Regional and Sectional wins. He has represented B.C. in the Canadian National Teams Championships on several occasions and played in Miami for Canada in the 1986 World Championships.

MIKE HARTOP (Moncton, N.B.) is now leading the masterpoint race in Atlantic Canada. He has several regional wins under his belt having played in B.C., Alberta, Saskatchewan and the Atlantic Provinces. He has served as vice-president of the Northern Saskatchewan unit.

MARY HOWE (London, Ont.) has been active in bridge administration, having served as President of Unit 166 (So. Ontario). She is the President of District II which is the largest geographical district of the ACBL encompassing Manitoba, Ontario and Bermuda. District II is one of the two Canadian districts.

MEL JOHNSON (Thunder Bay, Ont.) has been active on the Unit executive for over 12 years and has served as President of Unit 228. He is one of the finest players from

Northwestern Ontario and has captured the odd Regional win and made his presence felt in the CNTC.

JOHN RAYNER (Mississauga, Ont.) is a full-time Bridge Professional, as a bridge teacher and director and as the owner-manager of the thriving Mississauga-Oakville Bridge Centre. Over the years he has struck up successful partnerships with Roy Dalton, Abe Paul and Michael Roche and has been a perennial finalist in the CNTC teams.

NORMA SYMONDS (Halifax, N.S.) has been one of the hard workers in Atlantic bridge administration and is the Editor of the Maritime Bridge Line, a very readable unit bridge newsletter.

MICHAEL YUEN (Winnipeg, Man.) has done yeoman duty for Manitoba Bridge. He has served as Unit President, co-chair of the 1985 Winnipeg Fall Nationals, Vice-President of District II, Alternate Director to the ACBL Board of Directors, National Charity Committee member, among others. This has not prevented him from poaching the odd Regional or two and a host of sectional wins.

November Solutions

(A) IMPS, East-West vul., South holds:

S:9	H:K964	D:KQJ9	C:AJ108
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1S	Pass	Pass	Dble
Redbl	2D	2S	3D
4S	Pass	Pass	?

Action	Panel votes	Points
Pass	6	100
5C/5D	2	60
Dble	1	40

The panel had less trouble with this one than I thought they might. So far the bidding seems to be quite normal and being duplicated at the other table. Your next bid may not be, though.

One panelist summed it all up.

CALEY: Choice seems to be bid, double or pass. Bidding 5D is very unilateral, double too confusing, best shot at plus score is PASS.

The passers felt they have done enough.

HOWE: Pass. Partner knows my hand and didn't sacrifice.

RAYNER: Pass. I have described my hand, no reason to take further action. 4S may be going down and even if it isn't, it is not clearcut the 5D will be a profitable sacrifice.

HARTOP: Pass. I'll give up -620 to -680 against a probable -700, -900 or even -1,430 if I make another call.

Let's hear from the minority:

JOHNSEN: 5D. I can't take a chance (4S

makes), hopefully partner will show up with five diamonds.

YUEN: 5C. Protect HK, looks like they are cold for 4S.

So? And, finally a bid for all seasons.

HAGEN: Double - with understanding that partner should convert with 1½ defensive tricks and run with less.

(B) IMPS, none vul., South holds:

S:4	H:—	D:KQ75	C:KJ876542
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
—	—	—	?

Action	Panel votes	Points
5C	5	100
Pass	4	70
4C	0	60
1C/3C	0	10

With distributional hands, one should bid one more. With the minor suits, bid one more - Ancient Chinese saying.

BAILEY: Where are the other 31 points? Where are the other 25 cards in the major suits! I bid 5C.

HAGEN: 5C - let everyone guess.

RAYNER: 5C. Not perfect, but the practical call that puts the greatest pressure upon the opponents.

JOHNSEN: 5C. This should keep everyone out of the bidding. If partner has CA and DA or SA, he should bid on.

What happens to science?

HOWE: Pass. Good chance that I'll bid later.

CALEY: I believe this is our hand and slam virtually needs the right two aces. The object seems to be to get to the right suit, then the right level. Best achieved by PASS.

You should have a talk with Johnsen. And, lessons of a lifetime -

SYMONDS: PASS. I don't have 13HCP! My husband doesn't allow me to preempt hands like this.

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

S:6 H:A98 D:QJ75 C:AJ1062

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
—	Pass	1D	Pass
2D	Dble	3D	?

Action	Panel votes	Points
Dble	4	100
4C	3	80
Pass	2	50
5C	0	40

We do have a good hand, especially after partner's takeout and the hands should fit well. I like the double so I'll quote all the doubler's first.

YUEN: Double for blood.

JOHNSEN: Double for penalty as we don't play responsive doubles.

HAGEN: Double - not responsive - bid 4C over partner's expected spade call and raise 3H to 4.

HOWE: Double. The opponents have made a mistake. I expect to collect +500 and avoid the unmakeable 3NT contract.

Perhaps the conditions were not right for the bidders:

SYMONDS: 4C My instinct is to double for +200 but my husband forbids that playing Imps.

Or the passers:

CALEY: This looks like an opportunity situation but at Imps, too close to double. At Matchpoints, I double.

When this problem appeared in Australian Bridge, a majority voted for 5C, infuriating the moderator.

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

S:AQJ74 H:1064 D:65 C:J104

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
—	—	Pass	Pass
Pass	1H	Pass	?

Action	Panel votes	Points
1S	7	100
2H	2	60

How good is our hand? The problem is not with our first bid really but with what to do after. Again, the hand could be quite cold for a game or slam in either major. We must be allowed to bid sparts to show this type of holding.

The majority opted to show their points concentration.

HAGEN: 1S - why not!!

YUEN: 1S - bid what I have.

CALEY: Same old story, set the trump suit or bid what you have. 1S.

SYMONDS: 1S. Let's not guess with the majors. A 2H response might cause partner to sign off in 4H when a slam is possible.

HOWE: 1S. I can support hearts later after any rebid by partner, and I would certainly want a spade lead should our side end up defending.

Don't go away. This hand came from the District V GNP playoffs in Saskatoon, circa February 1986. A dozen people at the usual post-game party argued for 3 hours on the merits of 1S vs. 2H.

JOHNSEN: 2H. I'm not looking for anything and if partner bids, I'll raise him to game.

RAYNER: 2H. 100% call. I can never describe a minimum responding hand with three card support for partner's major if I start with 1S. 1S is unsound theoretically and is a selfish call.

(E) Matchpoints, N - S vul., South holds:

S:A964 H:10 D:J762 C:9863

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	1NT	Dble	Pass
2H	Pass	Pass	?

Action	Panel votes	Points
2S	5	100
Dble	2	70
Pass	1	50
3H	1	20

Is this our hand and do we have a fit?

SYMONDS: 2S. The hand belongs to our side. – 110 is worth no matchpoints, even – 100 may win some matchpoints.

JOHNSEN: 2S. At matchpoints, I'm not selling out even though I could lose 200 for zero matchpoints.

RAYNER: 2S. This should be suggestive of shortness in hearts and partner is encouraged to take alternative action holding only two spades. (2S is really best played as a negative takeout double of the 2H call.)

The President and Vice-President of District II agree on one thing.

HOWE: Double - shape makes up for the lacking high cards.

YUEN: Double for takeout - looks like they have found their fit.

The optimist:

HAGEN: 3H to find our best spot and hopefully not too high.

You said it - it's only matchpoints. Contrast with:

CALEY: Old age must be setting in. Would like to get involved but too easy to go minus 200. PASS.

(F) Matchpoints, none vul., South holds:

S:85 H:1073 D:10752 C:10832

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1S	Pass	2C	Pass
2S	Pass	3H	Pass
3NT	Pass	6NT	Pass
Pass	Dble	7C	Pass
Pass	Dble	all pass	

What card do you lead?

N.B. East-West are the world famous Rodwell-Meckstroth.

Action	Panel votes	Points
Diamond	4	100
Heart	1	80
Spade	4	60

When I was given this problem initially, I made up my mind on two things - get a new partner and lead a diamond to defeat the hand. Partner must have the diamond Ace-King.

YUEN: Small diamond. Anything could be right after 6NT double.

JOHNSEN: Diamond ten - This is tough but Rodwell and Meckstroth don't scare me. Spades is out and maybe a diamond knocks out an entry.

RAYNER: Diamond two. A spade lead setting up ruffing finesses against partner is definitely out. Between a heart or a diamond lead, the latter is less likely to be helpful to declarer, and attacks dummy's entries.

I agree with the lone heart leader:

HAGEN: Heart - may go away if we don't lead it. Expect partner to have KQ of hearts and a black ace.

Hence, the promotion in score. I know I'm going to catch it. The Editor is actually responsible for this problem and kibtized Rodwell and Meckstroth at a regional in Dayton, Ohio in February 1979, when Rodwell was still relatively unknown.

Here are the East-West hands:

Meckstroth	Rodwell
KQJxxx	Ax
Qxx	AKJx
Qxx	xx
Q	AKJxx

The LOL holding diamond AK and on lead could not pass up the opportunity to double 6NT, a contract she knew she could beat. Rodwell showed some table prescience by running to 7C. This was doubled, with less enthusiasm. And sure enough, her partner guessed wrong and led a spade, as did these panelists:

BAILEY: Spade eight

CALEY: Must have a chat with partner after this. Doubling 6NT on lead is dumb and greedy. Doubling 7C should be for a specific lead, so spade eight.

SYMONDS: Spade eight. I may need a promotion for the club ten.

HOVE: Spade eight. A diamond would be the normal lead, but partner's double asks for an unusual lead. It's unlikely that such skilled opponents have bid a slam without the diamond A-K. Leading a heart may pick up any honour in partner's hand, and a club lead would be silly.

February Contest

All readers are invited to join in the fun and try their luck (and, to a lesser extent, their skill) by answering the February problems. Send your answer (comments are welcome, but not required) to:

Canadian Bidding Contest
1339 Hamilton St. N.W.
Calgary, Alta.
T2N 3W8

Deadline is January 31; and as usual, the winner will receive a bridge book and an invitation to the elite panel.

FEBRUARY PROBLEMS

(A) Matchpoints, neither vul., South holds:
S:Q1083 H:AQ4 D:KQ85 C:76

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1H	Dbl.	Pass	?

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

S:— H:KQ985 D:Q9632 C:A87

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
—	1C	1D	1H
1S	Dbl.*	Pass	?

*penalty double

(C) IMPs, N-S vul., South holds:

S:Q97542 H:3 D:K8 C:Q643

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
—	—	1H	Pass
1S	2D	2H	Pass
3D	Dbl.	Pass	Pass
3H	Pass	4H	?

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

S:KJ4	H:Q864	D:J8653	C:A
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
—	1D	Pass	1H
Pass	1NT	Pass	3D*
Pass	3H	Pass	?


*non-forcing, of course

(E) Rubber bridge, neither vul., South holds:

S:—	H:K87	D:K73	C:AK87632
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
—	—	3D	?


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

S:Q7	H:K87	D:KQJ9652	C:5
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
3C	Pass	3S	4D
4S	5D	5S	Pass
Pass	6D	6S	Pass
Pass	Dbl.	Pass	Pass

Which card do you lead? 

WANTED:

New CBF Logo

The Canadian Bridge Federation is calling on the creativity of the membership: Is anyone out there able to design a logo which would be suitable not only for letterheads, etc. but also for reproduction on products like playing cards? The design should represent "Canada" and "bridge", be easily reproduced (preferably in one colour only) and, if wording is used, reflect the bilingual nature of the organization. 

Ken Warren continued

good, but hard to read. Mike Lawrence (my favorite writer) and Reese are good on defence. I learned about bidding from *The Bridge World* and from partners such as Gary Whiteman. Larry Hansen, a regular partner in Thunder Bay, was instrumental in improving my declarer play.

One of the remarkable aspects of competitive bridge is the variety of styles and approaches that can be used effectively.

Bidding is the one area of the game where this concept is best illustrated. One can be: cautious and conservative; aggressive and gambling; technically sound; scientific vs. blasting; deceptive; disciplined or undisciplined; and still be successful. Perhaps the marks of a truly great player are the knowledge of all those techniques and the appropriate use of each one.

The element of bridge that makes it the great game that it is, and raises it above other intellectual pastimes such as chess and backgammon, is the aspect of partnership. I feel that there is a tendency by many players to overlook the importance of partnership communication and harmony. Of the three basic elements of the game - bidding, play, and dummy play - only dummy play is an individual skill or art. Bidding and defence will not be successful, no matter how skillful the individual players, without a high degree of partnership cooperation. It is for that reason that two steady but non-expert players with a well developed partnership will consistently beat two experts who do not have good communication. It is true, however, that because experts have a sound knowledge of the subtleties of the game, they can develop an effective partnership much more quickly and easily than can two average players.

Those who are in the process of developing a serious partnership, or who would like to improve an existing one, should spend as much time discussing bridge as playing it. After a session all deals should be discussed, not just the poor results. Analyzing good results may enable you to duplicate

them in future sessions and tends to be better for partnership morale than simple accentuating the negative. When going over deals the following types of questions should be considered:

Were we simply unlucky or did we make a mistake? Could we have done something differently? Did we understand each other's bids? Could we have made more effective bids? Could we have put more pressure on the opponents? Do we agree now on what should have been done? What would we have done with the opponents' hands in the particular situation? Did we understand our defensive signaling? Did we signal correctly?

The purpose of these discussions should not be to place blame but to get both partners thinking on the same wavelength in the greatest number of situations possible. Discussion regarding declarer play is not useful from a partnership point of view because it is an individual skill, but one can always learn from the observations and experience of others.

One concern which I have about the future of bridge, particularly in the Toronto area, is that the elite players rarely play with less experienced players. By doing so they could pass on some of their expertise and experience and help to ensure that we maintain the high level of play and interest that has developed in Southern Ontario. In Thunder Bay, where I played for three years, the top players play regularly at club games and quite often not with each other. Zeke Jabbour, Vince Remey, and Joan Remey, nationally renowned Michigan experts, regularly play in club games with local club players. That type of relaxed and easy-going interaction among the various levels of bridge players is enjoyable for all, and provides a stimulus to bridge at the grass roots level as well as improving the general calibre of play.

Here's a hand from the COPC. Gary Whiteman was North and I was South:

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E-W vul

S:AK3
H:10
D:QJ104
C:A6543

S:J852
H:742
D:983
C:1083

S:9764
H:AQ865
D:K6
C:J7

S:Q10
H:KJ93
D:A752
C:KQ9

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1D	1H	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	Pass	Pass

As they were vulnerable and we weren't, I thought we could defeat 1H for more than the value of our game. I passed, rather than bidding 3NT, hoping that Gary would re-open with a double. When he did, everybody passed and 1H doubled became the final contract.

We led three rounds of clubs and declarer ruffed the third round. He led a spade and I won the queen. I returned the S10 and Gary cashed the ace and king.

At trick 7 Gary led the H10, which held, followed by the DQ to the king and ace. I returned a diamond to Gary's ten. This was the position after nine tricks:

S:void
H:void
D:J4
C:65

S:2
H:74
D:8
C:void

S:9
H:AQ8
D:void
C:void

S:void
H:KJ9
D:7
C:void

If Gary routinely continues with the DJ, declarer ruffs low, exits with a spade, and scores the last two heart tricks for -800. However, if Gary leads a club, as he actually did, I can ruff and exit with a diamond, holding declarer to only two more tricks for +1100 for us.

The additional trick on defence enabled us to turn a good result into an absolute top.

P.S. Declarer could have held it to down three by not covering the DQ.

Digest: Thank you, Ken.



Letter to the Editor

Mr. Paul Simon

Editor, Canadian Bridge Digest

Your editorial regarding a Canadian bridge identity pleased me very much. I have been interested in this matter for some years now and have approached executive members of the CBF and Ontario units #166 and #246 but to no success.

A playing card company whose rep. is a bridge player has made a very promising offer to print, supply and store a supply of playing cards of equal quality as the ACBL at a price that could make available to the CBF fund a mark-up of at least 15%. There are 23 units and 285 clubs across Canada so that the potential funds available would be between \$5000 and \$8000 a year.

I am prepared to volunteer my time to promote this idea and to finance the initial mailing outlay, then to distribute the cards as ordered by the units and clubs. But of course I cannot finance the purchase of the original minimum quantity or the deposit required (\$2500) by the printer.

If this interests you and others of your area, please let me know and I will advertise to all the clubs in Canada by mail to get their response and maybe their order.

Stan Sweeting
#1506 - 330 Dixon Rd.
Weston, Ont. M9R 1S9

Thank you for an excellent idea, although we wonder whether it is realistic to assume that every single unit and club in Canada would in fact purchase their cards from this source. The CBF is presently studying your proposal and other marketing ideas, as evidenced by their call for the design of a new logo, elsewhere in this issue. And why do you call me Paul? My name is Allan. Ed.



Gary Whiteman of Toronto

continued from page 6

majors with a forcing no trump and a lot of gadgets. Ken has pages of notes which I usually forget. I guess it's an Eastern Scientific style. We open virtually every 12-point hand which comes along, unless it's four queen-jacks. We like to bid and Ken hates to let the opponents play. We sometimes got too high in the COPC through aggressive bidding, but even at that level of play our opponents often came to our rescue.

It's difficult to defend. We've found that for most people, even good players, defence is the weakest part of their game. Aggressive bidding pays off. If you get too high and they defend well, you get a bad board; but many times they *don't* defend well. Matchpoints is a game in which the frequency of success counts. You'd be amazed at how many numbers we went for in the COPC over four sessions, and yet we won.

I have learned about defence and dummy play by reading books. In my view the best current writer is Hugh Kelsey. His books are well written and incisive, although many are at a pretty high level. The others are at least at the intermediate level.

Card Play Technique by Mollo and Gardener is a classic, and you can't do better than to read *Reese on Play*. There's no finer book than that.

Ken Warren occasionally doubles contracts which make with overtricks, but he doubles all the time and usually he's right. To give you an idea of his aggressiveness, here's one from the COPC. Ken was East.

When Ken doubled 3H, my RHO, who, for reasons known only to himself, had raised his partner's second suit with 10xx (in the finals of the COPC!), turned to me and asked, "What' that?"

I said, "It sounds to me like a penalty double. He could have made a takeout double of 2H when he had the opportunity and he didn't."

NORTH

S:K9842

H:KQJ4

D:93

C:KJ

WEST

S:J

H:87

D:QJ1054

C:Q9843

EAST

S:AQ1065

H:A953

D:K872

C:void

SOUTH

S:73

H:1062

D:A6

C:A107652

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1S	Pass	1NT	Pass
2H	Pass	3H(!)	Pass
Pass	Dbl	4C	Dbl
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Whereupon RHO bid 4C, I was ready for that and lowered the boom.

I led my SJ, which held the trick. I was pretty sure that I could shift to a heart to Ken's ace, let him cash his SA so that I could discard my other heart and get a heart ruff, I didn't do that.

I led the DQ to the ace. Declarer played a club to the jack and got the bad news. He played the king of hearts from dummy. Ken won the ace of hearts, cashed his SA, allowing me to shed my heart, and gave me a heart ruff. I returned a trump to the king on the board and the whole thing disintegrated. Plus 500 out of the blue.

That is typical of Ken. It's an imaginative double of 3H. The opponents stopped in three after one of them had tried for game and Ken still doubled them. I think he was annoyed that they didn't get to four.

Digest: How can we improve?

Gary: There are many misconceptions about bidding that are held by many club players. Most of them have never had instruction from players who know something about

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Inside the CBF



by Aidan Ballantyne

Several CBF officials were on hand in Toronto to engage in a number of administrative activities impacting on Canadian bridge. These included: liaison with ACBL Directors whose agenda included a number of Canadian issues; meeting with Bobby Wolff to discuss the "Kaplan-Wolff" Bermuda Bowl selection scheme (to be debated by the ACBL Board at the Fall NACs); presentation of Charitable Fund cheques to various CBF Charities; and participation in the Toronto NAC opening ceremonies. In this column, I shall briefly discuss some of these activities.

Liaison with ACBL

A rather lengthy delay usually exists between the actual making of CBF Board decisions and their implementation. One reason for this is that some of the initiatives undertaken by the CBF – the "sponsoring" organization – require approval and cooperation by the ACBL – the "sanctioning" organization – and this itself can sometimes be a lengthy process. That is, in some cases, CBF requests to the ACBL have to be endorsed by the ACBL Board before they can be acted on by ACBL management in Memphis.

As a consequence of this rather complex administrative system, the ACBL Board and its Canadian Affairs committee discussed a number of Canadian concerns at their Toronto meetings. CBF officials were on

hand to convince ACBL officials of the merits of the various CBF proposals and to provide them with whatever background information they might require. Overall, the ACBL responded favorably to the CBF and agreed to proceed on the following:

1. CBF Dues

The ACBL agreed to collect CBF dues on the Canadian Federation's behalf. Since Canadian units, not individual players, become members of the CBF, the dues will be taken out of the Canadian units' share of ACBL membership income. *However*, the ACBL will only apply the policy on a unit by unit basis, upon written authorization of the units involved.

The CBF is presently considering how and when to implement the new scheme. Last May, in Ottawa, your CBF Directors voted an increase in dues for 1987 from \$1.50 to \$1.75 per unit member in the hopes of improving the health of the CBF's general account which, with present income, cannot bear even the most basic costs of running the federation. At that time it was anticipated that Canadian units would be able and willing to pay increased CBF dues because their own finances would improve as a result of implementation of the ACBL marketing plan. That plan entails a substantial increase in ACBL membership dues and it was thought that the units would receive at least a share of any resulting increase in ACBL membership revenue. It has now become apparent that unit income from ACBL membership fees will remain the same in absolute terms despite a large increase in ACBL membership fees. The CBF, in light of these developments, is re-examining its proposed CBF dues increase. The new collection scheme will probably start on January 1, 1987.

2. COPC Club-qualifying interval

The ACBL formally confirmed the right of ACBL member countries to organize ACBL-sanctioned national pairs championships and approved the CBF's request for a September COPC club-

qualifying interval. The club-qualifying interval, during which a club may hold club-qualifying games during one or more regularly scheduled sessions, will go into effect next September and will count towards the 1988 COPC Final. It is probable that the club-qualifying interval will replace, rather than supplement, Olympiad and International Fund-raising games as the mechanism for qualifying COPC players to the unit stage.

3. CNTC masterpoint awards

The ACBL agreed to revise the CNTC National Final masterpoints scale. A CBF committee (Ballantyne/Lindop) is working with ACBL management on this and ACBL management is to make recommendations for change to the ACBL Board at the fall NACs.

Wolff-Kaplan Bermuda Bowl selection scheme

CBF officials met with Bobby Wolff in Toronto to discuss his proposal for a revised mechanism to select ACBL Bermuda Bowl representatives. Wolff will put his plan before the ACBL Board at the fall NACs and your CBF Directors are scrambling to reach a unified position before then.

A complete analysis of the Wolff plan is beyond the scope of this column but the whole issue might be summarized as follows:


The current Bermuda Bowl (B.B.) format provides for two representatives from the ACBL. The ACBL's "A" team is determined by the International Team Trials from which Canadians are excluded. The "B" Team is decided by a tri-partite playoff between Canada, Mexico, and Bermuda where our country is represented by the reigning CNTC champs. The B.B. is structured such that the ACBL "A" team and the European "A" team (Europe is the only other WBF zone with two representatives) receive byes into the semi-finals. The ACBL "B" team, to reach the playoffs, must earn one of two available berths by playing in the B.B. round

robin which includes the European "B" teams as well as teams from other WBF zones. Assuming the ACBL "B" team reaches the playoffs, it must play the ACBL "A" team in the semi-finals. The format thus ensures that the B.B. final never involves two teams from a single WBF zone.

Wolff is seeking to change the *status quo* by opening up the tri-partite "B" team playoff to a U.S. team. This U.S. team would be decided at least in part by a series of IMP Pair championships. The U.S. representative in the new 4-country playoff would be made up from the top pairs in this IMP Pair series, perhaps augmented by personnel from second-place NAC teams. In other words, the U.S. team would be pretty tough! The flip side of the coin is that Canadian players would become eligible for the International Team Trials and could in theory qualify for the B.B. on the ACBL's "A" team. To do that, they would have to play on a team that won a major NAC and then went on to win the Team Trials. Currently, Canadian players do not have this option.

Wolff argues that his proposal is "good for bridge" in that it will lead to improved ACBL performance at the B.B. (especially from the "B" team) and will stimulate Canadian competition in NAC championships. He also maintains that the IMP Pairs championships, which will be run opposite regional events, will take some of the professionals out of the regional fields and this could have a desirable impact on regional attendance.

The CBF Directors are also concerned about what is good for bridge but their mandate requires them to focus on *Canadian* bridge. The outstanding attribute of the *status quo*, that it provides our CNTC champs with relatively easy access to world level bridge, may be examined from that perspective. It is quite possible that easy access to the B.B. may be good for the game in our country because it may act as an *incentive*. Thus, easy access to the B.B. for our CNTC winners may mean that more players may find it attractive to play in the CNTC. This, in turn, enhances CNTC competition



and increases the event's profile. In turn, improved CNTC prestige means that our national championship may be increasingly used to promote the game in our country. Because of this chain of events, easy international access may indirectly stimulate bridge nation-wide. All in all, easy international access may result in an overall increase in bridge benefit as well as a widening of the distribution of this benefit and this, one can argue, is good for the game.

On the other hand, still arguing in terms of what's good for Canadian bridge, there are a number of drawbacks to the current format. Perhaps more importantly, the *status quo* makes it difficult for Canadians to play in NACs on teams that include good U.S. players since such players cannot play with Canadians without compromising their Team Trial eligibility. This situation may hamper the potential of our best players to develop themselves and this, in turn, may have negative repercussions at all levels of Canadian bridge. Since new knowledge and experience gained by our expert class ultimately trickles down the ranks, stagnation and inactivity at the top level ultimately impacts players of all calibre.

Another major problem with the *status quo* is that it requires a rather well-developed financial support system. The CBF role includes subsidizing our representatives to the tri-partite "B" team playoffs and then on to the Bermuda Bowl itself, assuming a reasonably likely win against Mexico and Bermuda. However, one might debate the cost-effectiveness of such support since the preparedness of our Bermuda Bowl representative is questionable. The team may be insufficiently "toughened up" to do well in the B.B. due to a relatively easy path to the B.B. round robin and to the fact that our team is more likely to be "regional" rather than truly "national", given the nature of the CNTC. One can argue that the main Canadian B.B. objective should be to win the world championship, rather than just participate in it, and since this requires beating the U.S. (ACBL "A" team) in the

semi-final, then it may be more cost-effective to seek a format where the U.S. can be eliminated on this continent, before even going to the B.B.! Given this objective, it can be argued that the current setup is bad for Canadian bridge in that it requires relatively scarce CBF funds to be spent inefficiently.

The CBF Board recognizes the inadequacies of the present format but finds the Wolff proposal unacceptable. Canada's international "playing opportunity" can be defined both in terms of financial opportunity and in terms of access to world level competition. The *status quo* scores well on the latter but poorly on the former since Canadians cannot earn the right to play as the ACBL-subsidized "A" team. However, the Wolff plan is worse yet since it doesn't do anything for Canada's financial opportunity and in fact reduces our access to world championship competition. Another alternative is needed and the CBF Board is currently examining various options. Ideally, the Board needs a proposal that improves Canada's international playing opportunity and at the same time is good for the game at all levels within our country. The proposal also has to be acceptable to our U.S. neighbours who would prefer having the possibility of earning both ACBL berths in the Bermuda Bowl. Feedback on this rather complex issue is welcome.

Presentation of Charitable Fund cheques

The opening Toronto NAC ceremonies were held in conjunction with the preliminary charity game. The proceedings, ably orchestrated by Audrey Grant, featured speeches by Monte Kwinter, Ontario minister of consumer and commercial relations, Tom Sanders, ACBL President, and Kathie Wei, chairperson of the ACBL Charitable Fund. CBF Charitable Fund cheques were presented to four different Canadian charities: \$10,000 to the Canadian Lung Association; \$4,500 to the Parkinson Foundation; \$7,000 to Epilepsy Canada; and \$5,000 to a local charity, the Toronto-Peel Post-polio Association. Information on these various charities can be obtained by

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the game. They tend to reinforce each other's misconceptions or trade *new* misconceptions.

It's a shame that so many of the better players have abandoned the clubs. For the most part, the players who could help by example, if nothing else, are not there. Therefore, it becomes a case of pooling misinformation.

Poorer players keep bidding the same values, perhaps because many feel that playing bridge is "playing the hand", and that if you defend all night long, you are not playing *bridge*.

That's true, in a sense, because defence is the weakest part of most people's game, so they should be trying to play the majority of the hands.

They don't read bridge books. Books contributed greatly to my bridge education. Good books are written by some of the best players in the world.

If they are going to improve, they should play:

- A five-card major system.
- Limit raises because they come up so much more often than forcing raises.
- Jacoby 2NT as a forcing raise is a very useful convention; it allows investigation for slam purposes to begin right away. The old 13-15 HCP can be handled another way.
- Transfers over no trump are good, but so is Two-way Stayman.
- Eventually the forcing no trump over a major suit opening.
- 15-17 HCP for an opening 1NT comes up more often than 16-18; 1NT has a lot of preemptive value and makes life difficult for the opponents when it's their hand.
- The "negative" double is the most valuable convention in bridge. That contribution alone should cause Al Roth's name to be inscribed in bridge history. Play negative doubles through at least 3C.

Beginners should be taught negative doubles. Penalty doubles of a one-level overcall do not exist for the most part. If you have one, you haven't lost it. (See the hand in the article on Ken Warren.)

Don't call them "negative doubles" - call them takeout doubles because that's what they are.

- Two-level vulnerable overcalls should be sound. Suit quality is most important. The opponents will find a way to double you if you have a ragged suit.

Digest: Thank you Gary.

The Montreal Bridge Scene

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NORTH

A754

1064

Void

1097432

WEST

J3

QJ92

KQJ9854

Void

EAST

KQ62

AK87

A10

KQ8

SOUTH

1098

53

7632

AJ65

Molson scored the overtrick for +1860. His teammates defended a quiet 6D and were -1370 for a gain of 10 Imps. Had Hoffer chosen a diamond lead, his team would have won by 3 Imps! A 27 Imp swing. P.S. Linton "B" won the match by 24.

Inside the CBF: continued

writing to the CBF Charitable Fund chairman, Moise Deschamps, or to the CBF President.

Summary

All in all, CBF officials in Toronto had a busy time. David Lindop, especially, had his hands full since he was also Chairing the NACs themselves. Overall, the NACs went smoothly and the other tournament organizers must be congratulated on a superb job.

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