

canadian bridge digest

CANADIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION
FEDERATION CANADIENNE DE BRIDGE


Meet our Bermuda Bowl Team p.3





L to R: Martin Kirr, Arno Hobart, Greg Carroll, George Mittelman (NPC), Harmon Edgar, Michael Schoenborn, David Turner



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Editorial



Of some people it is said that they listen with their mouths; we don't want to fall into that trap – therefore this space is dedicated to you this month. Now that the increased size of this magazine has precipitated a dues increase we more than ever need your opinion about the Canadian Bridge Digest. Please write to us (address above) or tear out this page and let the editors know what you think. Results will be tabulated, published in the next issue and will shape our policy for the next few years.

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1. How much time do you spend reading the Digest? _____ per issue
 2. Is the increased size of the Digest worth \$0.50/year to you?
Yes No Haven't noticed the difference
 3. What do you think about the ratio of English/French content?
Just right I want more French I want less French
 4. Assign a mark (like in school: A+ = great down to F = Flunk, but X if you are not familiar with that item) to the following regular features and columnists:

Bidding Contest	_____	Maurice Paul Challenge	_____
Fergani/Trudelle	_____	Barry Harper	_____
Norma Symonds	_____	Maurice Larochelle	_____
Richmond Trophy	_____	Inside the CBF	_____
Brian Pauls	_____	CBF Tournament Reports	_____
 5. Please include a brief note if you have any other comments or suggestions. Merci/thank you.

Meet Our Bermuda Bowl Team

In October our 1986 CNTC winners will represent Canada at the Bermuda Bowl in Ocho Rios, Jamaica. George Mittelman will act as non-playing captain.

Digest Assistant Editor, John Armstrong, interviewed the six playing members of our national team.



Harmon Edgar

Digest: Where are you from and where did you learn bridge?

Harmon: I'm from Montreal, but now I work in Toronto. I started playing at Sir George Williams University in Montreal, and then played at the Vanderbilt Club with Eric Kokish, Doug Fraser, Fred Hoffer, and others.

Digest: How did you get to play with Mike Schoenborn?

Harmon: I lost a bet. A big bet. A group of us moved in together in Toronto and I started playing bridge with him.

Digest: What is it like to partner The Shoe?

Harmon: Once you get used to Michael's style and personality, he makes it very easy. He is a superb technician, a more scientific bidder than he is given credit for, and the best IMP partner anybody could want. There's nobody I'd want at the other table more than The Shoe playing IMPs.

It's a combination of our system, his table feel, and the fact that he knows the IMP scale better than anybody could want. There's nobody I'd want at the other table more than

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Mike Schoenborn

Digest: Where are you from and where did you learn bridge?

Shoe: I was born in Dessau, East Germany, and moved to Toronto when I was eight years old. Now I live in Brantford. I learned to play out on the island (off Toronto), where a friend and his parents, who were keen players, needed a fourth.

Digest: How did you begin playing with Harmon?

Shoe: Harmon found me. He moved down from Montreal and we all shared the same place. He took an interest in the bidding system which Dominic Di Felice and I had developed for the 1975 Team Trials. He had the perseverance to learn it, and in some instances perfect elements which previously hadn't been completed. It wasn't until two or three years ago that we started playing more than occasionally together, although we did qualify in 1982 to represent Canada at the World Pairs Championship.

Digest: Why is Harmon a good partner?

Shoe: I think Harmon has several outstanding characteristics which he perhaps

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Arno Hobart

Digest: Tell us about yourself, Arno, please.

Arno: I was born in Vienna, Austria, and moved to Toronto when I was five. Now I live in Peterborough.

I learned bridge at McMaster University in Hamilton, where we used Blackwood, but I'm not sure we knew Stayman. Everyone would bid, bid, bid around the table and then somebody would go down.

It didn't make sense to me that every score was a negative score. I went to the Hamilton Bridge Club and met Harry Bork, who directed me to "five Weeks to Winning Bridge". I discovered a magical bid called "Pass" and suddenly I began to win a lot.

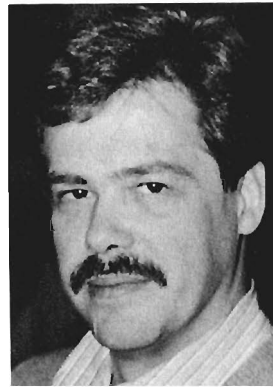
Marty Kirr is a great card player both as declarer and defender. He rarely makes mental mistakes; his concentration is excellent.

Concentration is perhaps our best attribute. We are both highly competitive and have a great deal of confidence in our ability to play and *win*. It's our table; we own the table regardless of who sits down against us.

The better Canadian players don't have to take a back seat to anybody. They play as well as anyone in the world. The difference at the top level is just experience, apart from a small number that we all know.

A tip to players trying to improve? Learn how to play cards. Learn how to declare and

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Martin Kirr

Digest: Please tell us about yourself, Marty.

Marty: I was born in Austria and so was my partner, Arno Hobart. We're probably the only Austrian pair in Canadian bridge.

I learned to play at the University of Waterloo with and against players like Ed Bridson, Dominic De Felice, Gord Chapman, and Subhash Gupta.

My first system was the old Roman Club by Giorgio Belladonna and Walter Avarelli. That was before the days of alerts. In the first sectional I played in Toronto we played the Roman Club in a Novice game!

Arno and I got together two years ago because we wanted a combination of the best things in other systems. We felt that bidding our distribution before bidding our points was the key to decisions in competitive auctions.

There isn't a club system around today which differentiates balanced hands from unbalanced hands very easily. Roman used to do it by opening all balanced hands either 1♣ or 1NT. 1♣ could still be unbalanced, but it would be a very strong, unusual hand. 1♦, 1♥, and 1♠, and two-level openings were all distributional patterns, either on a canapé principle or specifically a major and clubs, or whatever.

Arno and I took the same approach. 1♦, 1♥, or 1♠ are mandatory unbalanced

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Greg Carroll

Digest: Please tell us about yourself, Greg.
Greg: I'm from Toronto and I learned bridge at my mother's knee when somebody didn't show up for the bridge party.

When we were younger, David Turner and I played weird systems like the Forcing Pass and the Forcing Spade, and learned from our bad results.

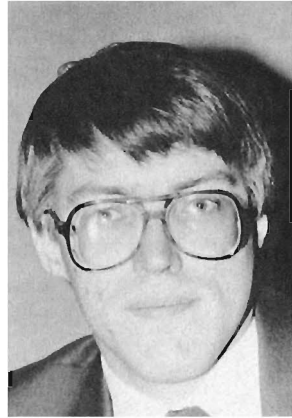
We both are scientists. He is willing to ignore my idiocies, for the most part. We are pretty compatible at the table and we are friends away from it as well.

David is one of the best players I have ever played with. He gets inspired; he does strange things that would never occur to me, and they work out. I'm more comfortable within the framework in which we play. When things are outside that, I don't perform as well. He is a better declarer, too.

Our system is based on Precision. We originally played a very complex relay system where every call meant something, but we didn't play enough to remember all those things, so it evolved into a simplified relay system with a forcing club and a weak notrump. All our one-bids are distributional but natural; we don't play a canapé style.

Our partnership strength is slam bidding. We are really in sync on hand evaluation, so we know what partner is likely to have

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David Turner

Digest: Where are you from and where did you learn bridge?

David: I'm from East York and now I live in Pickering. I learned to play at East York Collegiate in English class. Our teacher taught us Shakespeare for an hour but was unable to keep us still for the next hour so he taught us card games. Bridge was the best thing I learned in English. I've been eternally grateful to that teacher. Some of us played at lunch time and after school.

Across the street from the high school was a church that held a duplicate game. We played and had a really good time. The next week we saw our names with the big "1" and a 68% game! Whatever we had done must have been good.

We discovered the Scarborough Bridge Club and played there. I bought the first Goren Precision book; we were probably the first young pair in our neighborhood to play a forcing club system. We were referred to as the Astro Kids since we were the only pair who played Astro at that time. At the club I met Greg Carroll.

I was always very "scientific". I invented systems and wanted them to be precise. We played a relay system in the 70's before it became popular around here. Greg and I studied Monaco and some foreign systems

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MY FRIEND THE BRIDGE PLAYER (Part 2)

by Doug Cannell, Winnipeg

Eric Murray is without a doubt the most intimidating opponent in the world of competitive bridge. He is also a great raconteur with a wealth of material to work with.

I had asked Eric to give me some memorable hands from international competitions. His reply "I've got tons of records scattered all over hell's half acre but when you've lost the world championship as many times as I it's difficult to think of anything both memorable and pleasant".

We were having lunch at his club in Toronto when he submitted the following hands. Usually Eric's hands have a touch of humour and these were no exception. The venue was the 1960 Olympiad in Turin, Italy. Tobias Stone had just accused the Italian team of cheating and to say Stone was unpopular would be the understatement of the year.

Stone and the late John Crawford sat down to play a session against Murray and Kehela and almost immediately the following hand occurred.

Kehela

- ♠ Kxx
- ♥ 8xx
- ♦ Qxx
- ♣ Qxxx

Crawford

- ♠ Q10x
- ♥ Ax
- ♦ KJ10x
- ♣ A109x

Murray

- ♠ Jxxx
- ♥ K109xx
- ♦ xx
- ♣ xx

Stone

- ♠ Axx
- ♥ QJx
- ♦ A9xx
- ♣ KJx

The auctions

Kehela	Crawford	Murray	Stone
Pass	1♦	Double!!	Redouble
Pass	Pass	1♥	2NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Not even Crawford, who had a reputation for outlandish psychs, would have considered a double with Murray's hand so this might be a "hoisted on his own petard" example for Crawford. The play began with Sami rolling the heart eight on to the table, Stone called for the small heart and Eric encouraged with the nine, the jack winning the trick. Tobias crossed to dummy with the diamond king and tried the diamond jack losing to Kehela's queen. Another heart was won by the now lonely ace in dummy and Stone now tried a club to the jack, obviously assuming that Murray had to have something for his double. This lost to Kehela's queen and he tabled his remaining heart for down one.

At this point Stone became almost violent and in a loud voice exclaimed, "How can I play against such idiotic bidding?" He continued in that vein and could be heard over the entire playing space, when all of a sudden a chant arose from the pro-Italian crowd, "Stone go home! Stone go home!".

Several hands later Murray found himself in a non vulnerable two club contract doubled by Stone. As Eric described it, as long as he could limit his loss to five hundred it wouldn't be a disaster as the opponents were cold for four fifty. At trick four while Murray was studying the hand, John Crawford said to him, "come on, Murray, the number is five hundred". Eric said, "pardon?" and Crawford said, "the number is five oh oh." Eric said, "ok" and folded his hand putting it back in the board. With that Stone exploded again and demanded to know what was going on. Murray's reply, "Your partner has conceded a five hundred penalty and I accept." "He can't do that," screamed Tobias reaching over and removing Murray's hand from the slot. Eric promptly took hold of the hand and a tug-of-war ensued. After a moment Eric decided to let Stone have the hand and let go, at

which point Stone fell backwards over his chair and the chant went up again, "Stone go home! Stone go home!"

Perhaps Murray's most devastating display of intimidating the opponents was in 1970 in Portland, Oregon, the site of the Spring Nationals. Murray and Kehela were on Edgar Kaplan's team in the Vanderbilt. The rest of the members were Norman Kay, George Rapee and Sidney Lazard. In the semifinals, playing against Peter Pender's team and down thirty-four IMPS the Bulletin reported, "For the second quarter Murray and Kehela replace Kaplan-Kay in the lineup. The Canadians are in superb form – the Kaplan team picks up fifty six IMPS on the eighteen boards."

They wind up in the finals against the Aces consisting of Bobby Goldman-Billy Eisenberg, Bob Hamman-Mike Lawrence, Bobby Wolff-Jim Jacoby, who are the favorites, having averaged margins of over 100 points per match. On the very first board Murray almost single handedly destroyed their confidence. This was the layout.

North

♠ 10987
♥ K109
♦ KQ42
♣ K7

West

♠ Q5
♥ J832
♦ 6
♣ Q109542

East

♠ 64
♥ 765
♦ J10753
♣ J63

South

♠ AKJ32
♥ AQ4
♦ A98
♣ A8

In the closed room Rapee and Lazard reached 7 spades in an uncontested auction. Rapee made his contract when he guessed the trump suit correctly. Now watch what happened in the open room.

South	West	North	East
<i>Eisenberg</i>	<i>Murray</i>	<i>Goldman</i>	<i>Kehela</i>
2♣	3♣	Pass	Pass
3♣	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♣	Pass
7♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

The Bulletin reported Murray bid three clubs "simply because it was my turn to bid"! Eisenberg reasoned that Murray's overall had been made on an unbalanced hand – there were virtually no high cards outstanding in the opponents' hands. On this premise he played one high spade then crossed to dummy and finessed for the Q for down one a 17 point pick-up for the Kaplan squad.



Then a few boards later Murray was at it again with this hand.

North

♠ Q862
♥ 8
♦ J10854
♣ J76

West

♠ AK
♥ AK953
♦ AK73
♣ Q8

East

♠ 5
♥ J1042
♦ 96
♣ AK9542

South

♠ J109743
♥ Q76
♦ Q2
♣ 103

In the closed room Rapee-Lazard reached an uncontested six hearts, making six when declarer failed to pick up the trump queen.

The opening room bidding brought on some fireworks.




West	North	East	South
<i>Goldman</i>	<i>Kehela</i>	<i>Eisenberg</i>	<i>Murray</i>
2♣	Pass	3♣	3♠
Pass	5♠	Pass	Pass
6♣	Pass	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	7♣	Pass
Pass	7♠	Dble	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Another Eric Murray Anecdote

by Gary McPherson Mugford, Bramalea, Ont.

The opponents never even mentioned their heart suit and might have gone wrong in seven clubs by not finessing the heart queen but Kehela couldn't take that chance. The sacrifice went for 1300 but it was a 4 IMP pickup for Kaplan's team and another psychological nail in their coffin. At the end of the quarter Kaplan led by 55 IMPs.

Interesting to note, at the half, Kaplan's team led by 64 IMPs, but Kehela became ill and he and Murray sat out the last half. The huge lead almost disappeared and Kaplan squeaked out a 4 IMP win.

Canadian bridge players owe a debt of gratitude to Eric Murray for the tremendous accomplishments he performed in the administrative area. Indeed Canada owes him recognition for his stature in the bridge world on his record in international competition. In my opinion we are long overdue, the we being the CBF in persuing this recognition in the form of the Order of Canada or a similar prestigious award. I put it to the CBF board that they undertake a commitment to commence such an effort. 




Edgar *continued from p.3*

The Shoe playing IMPs.

It's a combination of our system, his table feel, and the fact that he knows the IMP scale better than anybody. He knows when it is right to go for a number, and when a number really doesn't cost anything. Going for 700 against 650 is no big deal.


We play a modified Blue Team Club with canapé opening bids. We took what Garozzo and Forquet started and took it much farther.

Digest: Thank you, Harmon. 

I was just a novice of a few duplicate's experience when a local school teacher found himself pressed for a partner on a school holiday. Being still a student myself, I was available and willing to play with him. So off to the club we went, only to sit down opposite Murray and some other fellow named Sammi. Murray opened 1♣ in first seat, doubled by my partner. Sammi passed and I did so, too, holding a balanced yarborough. Eric ended up with four doubled overtricks, as I remember it. Of course, my partner informed me that I must never, never, never pass without values in that position. Eric sat through the diatribe, harrumphed once, and refused comment. Although I've discovered that never is not such a long time, I did learn my lesson.

Next meeting with Eric was three years later. A high school buddy and I decided to head down to the Regal for a game with the big boys. Naturally, we got lost on the way and pulled over and phoned Nancy Hart (one of the great ladies in Bridge, a director who's patient treatment of two teenagers from the 'burbs has a lot to do with my continued involvement in Bridge) to have a couple of subs play for us until we got there. She pressed Bandoni and Cowan into action and we breathlessly arrived just in time to take over for the third round – against Murray and somebody not named Kehela.

At favourable vulnerability the auction started pass by my aggressive partner, 1♣ by Eric, to me. I decided to make a heart preempt on ♠xx ♥1098xxx ♦xx♣xxx that even Marty Bergen would cringe at. I was doubled and held to just two tricks, still fair compensation for the ice-cold grand slam available in any denomination but hearts.

After it was over, Eric turned to me and said, "I see you've learned to bid with pointless hands." 

Lambert takes lead

Bernie Lambert gathered points at tournaments in Red Deer, Sun Valley, Minneapolis, Albuquerque and Sacramento to take the lead in the Richmond Trophy contest at the mid-year accounting. Gary Tomczyk, who was 106 points ahead on the last list, dropped to second place. He was 11 points behind Lambert, having entered only one sectional (Port Alberni BC) and one regional (Sun Valley ID) in May. The Richmond is awarded annually to the Canadian who wins the most points during a calendar year.

Mark Molson retained third place but was 200 points behind the leader.

The list published below is dated July 1 but actually includes tournaments through June 14 and none thereafter.

Canadian players at the top of the list:

1. Bernie Lambert, Calgary AB	497
2. Gary Tomczyk, Parksville BC	486
3. Mark Molson, Montreal PQ	290
4. Sadru Visram, Toronto ON	276
5. Cliff Campbell, Thunder Bay ON	266
6. Boris Baran, Montreal PQ	207
7. Michael Gamble, Ottawa ON	207
8. Doug Baxter, Thornhill ON	191
9. Greg Arbour, Vancouver BC	185
10. Leo Steil, Vancouver BC	185
11. Ken Gee, Regina SK	174
12. Jonathan Steinberg, Toronto ON	174
13. Jim Riegler, Ottawa ON	162
14. Billy Zerebesky, Saskatoon SK	157
15. Ken Warren, Pickering ON	153
16. Ray Chen, Toronto ON	150
17. Helene Beaulieu, Sherbrooke PQ	147

Hobart continued from p.4

defend. Learn to understand card combinations.

Forget conventions, I've seen too many beginners with conventions all over their convention card. They spend a great deal of energy making a lot of mistakes and they don't know how to play cards. Learn how to put aces on top of kings because that's what wins at bridge.

You don't win at bridge; you lose by making mistakes. If you win, you have made fewer errors than the rest. World championships have been lost more than they have been won.

Ontario Pair Tops ACBL In Epsom Contest

David Harrison and Alan Roebuck of Mississauga ON topped some 40,000 ACBL players in the May 16 Epsom Worldwide Bridge Contest. They rolled up a score of 76.3% playing at the Mississauga-Oakville Bridge Club. Two Canadian pairs with 1734 were 16/17 ACBL-wide and the Canadian score of 1712 was 25th throughout the ACBL.

Leading Canadian players in the Epsom:

1. David Harrison - Alan Roebuck, Mississauga ON	1830
2.3. Chuck Messinger - Ray Chen, Toronto ON	1734
2.3. Herbert Kappell, Prince George BC - A. Millar, Smithers BC	1734
4. Joanne O'Connor - Peter Avery, Toronto ON	1712
5. Heinz Paschke - Mrs. U. Paschke, Chatham NB	1708
6. Wayne Timms - Ira Ashcroft, Waterloo ON	1704
7-8. Jon Edwards, Willowdale ON - Robert James, Thornhill ON	1696
7-8. Margaret Pearce - David House, Vancouver BC	1696
9. David Shefford - Karl Gohl, Thompson MB	1685
10. Bill Matwichuk - Conrad Grenier, Kapuskasing ON	1680
11-12. Marilyn La Fosse - Michael Schultz, St. Johns NF	1672
11-12. Phyllis Gerber, Vancouver BC - Ida Goodlad, Richmond BC	1672

P.S. Digest editor Simon, playing with Geoff Gitter of Calgary, had the misfortune of sitting East-West. We scored 1607 and are curious to know how this compared with other East-West scores around the country. Please let us know of higher East-West results in your game.

Kirr continued from p.4

hands; either two suits (5-4 minimum) or a six-card suit. Balanced hands are opened either 1♣ or 1NT. 1♣ can also be a strong on unbalanced hand.

The system keeps us under control. That's what it is really there for – to slow down our inspirational tendencies! We are both inclined to take over as captain.

"Upside-down" signals have become automatic for most good players. We lead third- and fifth-best against suits.

Digest: Tell us about your teammates.

Marty: Greg Carroll and Dave Turner are very tough when the chips are down.

Harmon and The Shoe are home run hitters. We never know what is coming back; but if it's good, it doesn't matter what we have.

Le Tournoi Canadien d'Équipes de Quatre

par Jacques Laliberté

La région de Québec fut l'hôte, cette année, de la grande finale du tournoi canadien d'équipes de quatre. Vingt équipes se sont disputées, pendant trois jours, dans un tournoi à la ronde de 10 planchettes, l'une des quatre premières positions permettant d'accéder à la ronde éliminatoire. Les gagnants de cette étape furent:

1er:

John Lloyd, John Sabino, Catherine Thorpe, Gloria Silverman, Mary Paul, Kamel Fergani (Ontario/Québec)

2ième:

Greg Arbour, Laurence Betts, Jim McAvoy, Duncan Smith, Zygmunt Marcinski, Michel Lorber (C.B./Québec)

3ième:

Harmon Edgar, Michael Schoenborn, Arno Hobart, Martin Kirr, Greg Carroll, David Turner (Ontario)

4ième:

Mark Molson: Boris Baran, John Carruthers, John Guoba, Eric Murray (Québec/Ontario)

L'équipe qui termina en première place durant le tournoi à la ronde avait le privilège de choisir son adversaire entre l'équipe qui avait terminé troisième ou quatrième. Un handicap maximum de 20 I.M.P.s était octroyé dépendamment du résultat obtenu entre les équipes. Avant de débiter la semi-finale, l'équipe Lloyd concédait 13 I.M.P.s à son adversaire et 14 I.M.P.s favorisaient l'équipe Molson au détriment de l'équipe d'Arbour.



Les champions canadiens 1987: Guoba, Carruthers, Murray, Molson et Baran.

Semi-finales

Voici trois parties clé des semi-finales:

Sud est l'ouvreur

Est-Ouest vul.

Nord

- ♠ AD3
- ♥ R932
- ♦ V94
- ♣ V84

Ouest

- ♠ 86
- ♥ A10764
- ♦ A5
- ♣ 10653

Sud

- ♠ RV10542
- ♥ –
- ♦ D82
- ♣ AD92

A toutes les tables le contrat fut 4 par sud et on joua carreau aux trois premières levées. Ensuite, deux déclarants, John Guoba et Arno Hobart, jouèrent pour le roi de trèfle deuxième en est avec succès. Cependant, Mary Paul et Duncan Smith jouèrent pour le 10 de trèfle deuxième en ouest pour une levée de chute. 10 I.M.P.s pour les équipes de Molson et d'Edgar. Ensuite,

Est est l'ouvreur

Tous vul.

Nord

- ♠ R1087
- ♥ A6
- ♦ J10
- ♣ DV753

Ouest

- ♠ A6
- ♥ RD97
- ♦ AD96
- ♣ A104

Est

- ♠ 97
- ♥ DV85
- ♦ R10763
- ♣ R7

Est

- ♠ 92
- ♥ V108543
- ♦ 754
- ♣ 82

Sud

- ♠ DV543
- ♥ 2
- ♦ R832
- ♣ R96

Le contrat aux quatre tables était 4♥. Il semble avoir quatre perdantes (une dans chaque suite), mais Silverman ainsi que Lorber réussirent leur contrat lorsque l'adversaire joua carreau plutôt que trèfle après avoir encaissé leur levée de pique et l'as de coeur. La perdante en trèfle pouvait alors être défaussée sur le 9 de carreau. Donc les équipes de Lloyd et d'Arbour gagnèrent 12 I.M.P.s chaque. Enfin,

Sud est l'ouvreur

Personne vul

Nord

- ♠ 82
- ♥ 1083
- ♦ V983
- ♣ AD64

Ouest

- ♠ AR74
- ♥ A652
- ♦ AD
- ♣ R94

Est

- ♠ 3
- ♥ RDV74
- ♦ R1054
- ♣ 1087

Sud

- ♠ DV10965
- ♥ 9
- ♦ 762
- ♣ V52

Pour cette donne, l'équipe Lorber-Marcinski ainsi que Thorpe-Silverman ont gagé 6 coeurs mais malheureusement pour eux le valet de carreau était quatrième et l'as de trèfle était derrière le roi; 11 I.M.P.s pour les équipes vainqueurs, Molson et Edgar. En effet, l'équipe Lloyd fut particulièrement malchanceuse, car ils n'ont perdu que par 6 I.M.P.s, après avoir dû concéder 13 I.M.P.s à cause du handicap.

Les résultats de la semi-finale furent les suivants:

	Handicap	1er q.	2e q.	3e q.	4e q.
Lloyd	–	24	86	116	193
Edgar	13	85	125	168	199
Arbour	–	49	65	100	131
Molson	14	53	104	143	168

Grande finale

L'équipe de Molson jouissait d'un avantage grâce à un handicap de 16 I.M.P.s Cette avance devient plus grande lors de la donne suivante:

Ouest est l'ouvreur
Tous vul.

Nord
♠ –
♥ A10985
♦ 1084
♣ AV1093

Ouest
♠ 652
♥ 3
♦ ARDV2
♣ 8742

Est
♠ 9843
♥ RD72
♦ 63
♣ R65

Sud
♠ ARDV107
♥ V64
♦ 975
♣ D

	Ouest	Nord	Est	Sud
Table 1	<i>Baran</i>	<i>Kirr</i>	<i>Molson</i>	<i>Hobart</i>
	Passe	1♥	Passe	1♠
	2♦	Passe	Passe	3♠
	Passe	4♣	Passe	4♣
	Passe	Passe	Passe	
Table 2	<i>Sch'n</i>	<i>Car's</i>	<i>Edgar</i>	<i>Guoba</i>
	1♦	1♥	Contre	2♦
	Contre	3♣	Passe	4♣
	Passe	Passe	Passe	

Aux deux tables, ouest encaissa les trois premiers plis à carreau. A la quatrième levée à la table 1, Baran changes au 3 de coeur pour deux levées de chute. Mais à la quatrième levée à la table 2, Schoenborn continua carreau et le déclarant trouva l'emplacement du roi de trèfle pour +620; 13 I.M.P.s pour Molson.

Mais l'équipe d'Edgar et en particulier Schoenborn se sont resaisis et ont réussi à niveler le match grâce surtout à la donne suivante:

Sud est l'ouvreur
Tous vul.

Nord
♠ 743
♥ V962
♦ 84
♣ R862

Ouest
♠ DV96
♥ D85
♦ 1063
♣ 1053

Est
♠ AR105
♥ R43
♦ A92
♣ ADV

Sud
♠ 82
♥ A107
♦ RDV75
♣ 974

	Ouest	Nord	Est	Sud
Table 1	<i>Baran</i>	<i>Kirr</i>	<i>Molson</i>	<i>Hobart</i>
	–	–	–	Passe
	Passe	Passe	2SA	Passe
	3SA	Passe	Passe	Passe
Table 2	<i>Sch'n</i>	<i>Car's</i>	<i>Edgar</i>	<i>Guoba</i>
	–	–	–	Passe
	Passe	Passe	1♣*	2♦
	Passe	Passe	Contre	Passe
	2♠	Passe	3♦	Passe
	4♣	Passe	Passe	Passe

*enchère conventionnelle de force

A la table 1, le contrat sur l'entame carreau chuta d'un pli. A la table 2, nord entama du 8 de carreau gagné par l'as du mort. Schoenborn joua deux tours d'atout terminant dans sa main et prit l'impasse de trèfle avec succès. Un autre pique fut pris de sa main et on joua trèfle à nouveau. Las de trèfle fut joué suivi d'un petit coeur vers la dame et après Schoenborn céda la main à sud en jouant le 10 de carreau. Après avoir encaissé l'autre carreau sud se voyait dans l'obligation d'ouvrir les coeurs pour +620 pour est-ouest; 12 I.M.P.s pour Edgar.

Au deuxième quart, l'équipe de Molson a réussi de se rebâtir une mince avance, mais lors de la donne suivante ils ont manqué aux deux tables l'occasion de faire chuter un contrat de manche:

Sud est l'ouvreur
Est-ouest vul.

Nord
♠RV53
♥D6
♦V2
♣V9762

Ouest
♠107
♥AR974
♦8
♣R8543

Est
♠AD642
♥10532
♦95
♣D10

Sud
♠98
♥V8
♦ARD107643
♣A

Table 1	Ouest	Nord	Est	Sud
	<i>Murray</i>	<i>Edgar</i>	<i>Car's</i>	<i>Sch'n</i>
	—	—	—	1♣*
	1♥	1♠	3♥	Passe
	Passe	Contre	Passe	3SA
	Passe	Passe	Passe	

*enchère conventionnelle de force

Table 2	Carroll	Molson	Turner	Baran
	—	—	—	1♦
	1♥	Contre	2♦	3♥
	4♥	Passe	Passe	5♦
	Passe	Passe	5♥	Passe
	Passe	Passe		

A la table 1, Murray entama du 7 de coeur et le déclarant réussit +430. A la table 2, nord entama du valet de carreau pris par l'as en sud qui encaissa l'as de trèfle avant de revenir carreau: +620 pour est-ouest et 14 I.M.P.s pour Edgar.



Les spectateurs sont partis, les joueurs sont épuisés... mais la lutte continue. G à D: Hobart, Lloyd, Kirr, Sabino

Au troisième quart, l'écart entre les deux équipes devint un peu plus grand; l'équipe de Molson a eu le meilleur sur ses adversaires lors de deux des trois donnes clé. D'abord, Kirr-Hobart avaient mieux gagé:

Est est l'ouvreur
Tous vul.

Nord
♠V98752
♥743
♦—
♣9743

Ouest
♠R4
♥V1082
♦AD984
♣AD

Est
♠D106
♥AD65
♦V1032
♣85

Sud
♠A3
♥R9
♦R765
♣RV1062

Table 1	Ouest	Nord	Est	Sud
	<i>Hobart</i>	<i>Car's</i>	<i>Kirr</i>	<i>Guoba</i>
	—	—	Passe	1♦
	1SA	Passe	2♣	Contre
	2♥	2♠	4♥	Passe
	Passe	Passe		

Table 2	Murray	Edgar	Molson	Sch'n
	—	—	Passe	1SA
	Passe	2♥*	Passe	2♠
	Passe	Passe	Passe	

*transfert à pique

A la table 1, nord entama du 9 de pique pris par l'as en sud. Guoba retourna le 5 de carreau coupé en nord et retour du 9 de trèfle gagné par la dame. Un petit coeur est joué à l'as et retour coeur pour +620.

A la table 2, le contrat de deux piques fut réussi pour +110 et 12 I.M.P.s pour Edgar.

Mais la donne suivante rapporta 13 I.M.P.s à l'équipe de Molson pour avoir gagé et réussi un petit chelem à coeur qui était légèrement inférieure à la moyenne:

♠Rx ♠ADx
♥A10xx ♥RDxxx
♦AV9x ♦xxx
♣Rxx ♣Ax

Enfin, une donne excitante:

Est est l'ouvreur
Nord-sud vul.

Nord
♠ RD9752
♥ D74
♦ 854
♣ A

Ouest
♠ AV864
♥ 9
♦ –
♣ RDV7532

Est
♠ 10
♥ A82
♦ AD93
♣ 109864

Sud
♠ 3
♥ RV10653
♦ RV10762
♣ –

	Ouest	Nord	Est	Sud
Table 1	<i>Hobart</i>	<i>Car's</i>	<i>Kirr</i>	<i>Guoba</i>
	–	–	Passe	Passe
	1♠*	Passe	1SA	2♦
	4♣	Passe	4SA	5♦
	6♣	Contre	Passe	Passe

*canapé

	<i>Murray</i>	<i>Edgar</i>	<i>Molson</i>	<i>Sch'n</i>
Table 2	–	–	Passe	Passe
	1♣	1♠	2♣	3♥
	4♣	4♥	6♣	6♥
	Contre	Passe	Passe	Passe

A la table 1, Hobart réussit facilement son contrat à 6 trèfles contrés pour +1090.

A la table 2, Schoenborn aurait pu égaler la planchette s'il n'avait chuté que de 4 levées pour -1100. Mais après que Murray entama l'as de pique et changea à trèfle, Schoenborn appela un petit pique du mort, coupa et fit suivre le roi de coeur qui conserva la levée. Un autre coeur fut joué à la dame pris de l'as et suivi du huit. A cause du mauvais partage des carreaux adverses, Schoenborn perdit le contrôle de la main et chuta de cinq pour -1400 et 7 I.M.P.s pour Molson.

Au dernier quart, l'équipe d'Edgar réussit à réduire l'écart. Ils auraient arraché la victoire si Greg Carroll avait choisi une autre entame lors de la main suivante, une des dernières du tournoi:

Est est l'ouvreur
Nord-Sud vul.

Nord
♠ AV1062
♥ 2
♦ 762
♣ 8653

Ouest
♠ 853
♥ 5
♦ ARDV983
♣ AR

Est
♠ RD974
♥ DV9874
♦ –
♣ V7

Sud
♠ –
♥ AR1063
♦ 1054
♣ D10942

	Ouest	Nord	Est	Sud
Table 1	<i>Guoba</i>	<i>Turner</i>	<i>Car's</i>	<i>Carroll</i>
	–	–	1♠	2♣
	4SA	Passe	5♦	Passe
	6♦	Passe	Passe	Passe
Table 2	<i>Hobart</i>	<i>Molson</i>	<i>Kirr</i>	<i>Baran</i>
	–	–	1♠	Passe
	3♦	Passe	3♥	Pass
	4♦	Passe	4♥	Contre
	4SA	Passe	5♦	Passe
	Passe	Passe		

A la table 2, 4SA auraient été faciles. Mais 5 carreaux auraient pu être défaits si Molson avait entamé son as de pique. Tel ne fut pas le cas et Hobart réussit son contrat.

A la table 1, il y avait vraisemblablement confusion entre Guoba et Carruthers au sujet de la réponse exacte à la demande de 4SA. Ainsi ils se retrouvèrent dans un contrat sans espoir. Mais le pauvre Carroll avait confiance en ses adversaires. Il décida qu'il était essentiel d'atteindre la main de son partenaire pour que celui-ci puisse lui permettre une coupure en pique. C'est pourquoi il entama un petit coeur. Le 5 du mort remporta cette levée et ainsi Carruthers réussit son contrat étrange. Si Carroll avait entamé l'as de coeur, son équipe aurait gagné le championnat canadien pour la deuxième année consécutive.

Le résultat final fut:

	Handicap	1er q.	2e q.	3e q.	4e q.
Edgar	–	47	86	128	179
MOLSON	16	48	97	154	194



Toronto Team Wins CNTC Round-Robin

The 1987 Canadian National Team Championship was held June 6 to 10 in Québec City. 20 teams (see box) had qualified for this annual rendezvous of Who's Who in Canadian bridge.

The event was enhanced by some fine hospitality from players from the host city and as usual was conducted in an atmosphere of friendly (but intense) competition. Stan Tench directed the event with his customary authority, tempered as always with his patience and his ever-present smile.



Stan Tench

The first three days were devoted to a complete round-robin. Every team was to play 10 boards against every other team, with 80 Victory points at stake in each match. If you won a match by, say, 5 IMPs, the match would be scored as 45-35. The top four teams from the round-robin would qualify for the semi-finals on day 4. The winners of the semis met on day 5 for all the marbles: a trip to Venice as Canadian representatives at the 1988 Team Olympiad.

For a report on the semifinals and finals, please consult either the French article on page 10 or Eric Kokish's report in the ACBL Bulletin.

There were 3 favourites to make the semi-finals: The defending champions, the EDGAR team; the 1983 winners, captained by Mark MOLSON and augmented by none other than Eric Murray; and the perennial powerhouse captained by Allan GRAVES.

This team would line up for a change with Graves partnering Nagy and Kokish reunited with George Mittelman. The fourth playoff spot figured to be wide open, with the various Toronto and Vancouver teams expected to contend.

After six rounds, EDGAR was in the lead with 299 VPs, closely followed by two other Toronto teams, LLOYD and MACKAY. MACKAY had in fact won their first six matches, but always by a close margin. MOLSON was in fourth, while MORIN stood fifth. GRAVES languished below average, due to bad defeats at the hands of MOLSON and ARBOUR.

In round 10, EDGAR suffered an ominous 56-24 loss to MOLSON and surrendered the lead to LLOYD. ARBOUR won their fourth straight to take over third, while MACKAY hung tough in fourth and MOLSON stood fifth. DUQUETTE and GHITTER (sorry, ENGLISH, NPC) followed closely behind, while GRAVES remained in the second division.

In round 12, the impressive ARBOUR team shocked EDGAR 73-7 to take over first place and GRAVES started its move with a narrow win over LLOYD. But LLOYD bounced right back, blitzing TOMCZYK and after 2 days, 13 matches, the standings were 1. LLOYD 657; 2. ARBOUR 656; 3. MOLSON 617; 4. EDGAR 615; 5. WILLIS 565; 6. MACKAY 559.

Monday afternoon saw all 4 leaders win two out of three, but the big news was that GRAVES was in the midst of a stirring stretch run that moved them to fifth, still a big 51 VPs behind MOLSON.

In round 17, things got exciting: LLOYD won 65-15 over ARBOUR to reclaim the lead and CAMP (sorry, MILLMAN, NPC) crushed MOLSON 74-6. Suddenly GRAVES was only 10 points behind MOLSON, while HERON lurked a further 6 VPs behind, ready to pounce should MOLSON and GRAVES falter. LLOYD, EDGAR and ARBOUR were virtually assured of qualifying, barring total disaster in the last two matches.

Round 18 was the key: MOLSON won 59-21 over TYRELL, while HERON lost to MILLMAN. GRAVES had to defeat MAK (actually, WENIGER, NPC) to remain in the hunt. But one more time Nova Scotia would leave its mark on this event: This board was indicative of GRAVES' gummy but futile efforts:

Dealer South
E-W vul.

NORTH

♠ 742
♥ 6
♦ KQJ874
♣ KQ2

WEST

♠ KQ10
♥ 953
♦ 109653
♣ 107

EAST

♠ 96
♥ AKQ102
♦ A2
♣ AJ54

SOUTH

♠ AJ853
♥ J874
♦ —
♣ 9853

West	North	East	South
<i>Caldwell</i>	<i>Nagy</i>	<i>Alexander</i>	<i>Graves</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	3♦	3NT	Pass
Pass	Dbl.	Pass	4♦
Dbl.	Pass	4♥	Dbl.
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Alexander was slated to go down in his adventurous 3NT contract, but Nagy found an imaginative double. Since Graves had no diamond to lead and read partner's double as lead-directing, he decided to flee to the safe (?) haven of four diamonds, which Caldwell managed to double without modulating his tempo or volume. Alexander rescued his illustrious opponents from the fire but Graves' final double put them back into the frying pan.

Allan Graves might have defeated the contract with an unlikely trump lead from Jxxx. Instead he led a club; while he later ruffed the ace of diamonds he was unable to prevent Alexander from discarding his small diamond on a spade and trumping his club loser in dummy.

A few other whoopses at both tables gave the Maritimers a 58-22 win.

The last round was anticlimactic and the final scores were:

1. LLOYD 920
2. ARBOUR 890
3. EDGAR 874
4. MOLSON 849
5. GRAVES 824
6. HERON 815
7. BOWMAN 808
8. DUQUETTE 806



This team won the round-robin: L to R: Silverman, Lloyd, Thorpe, Sabino, Fergani, Paul.




The round-robin runners-up: L to R: Marcinski, Arbour, McAvoy, Betts, Smith, Lorber.

The LLOYD victory was a popular one: Three men and three women; a mixture of veterans and newcomers; a linguistic heritage as varied as our country itself – should this team go on to win the playoffs Canada would have a wonderful representative in Venice.

However, the conditions of contest for the semi-finals were cruel: As winners, LLOYD were allowed to choose either the 3rd or 4th place finishers as semi-final opponents. However, any IMP difference from the round-robin would be carried over. LLOYD had defeated ARBOUR but had lost to the powerful EDGAR and MOLSON teams. So they had to go into the playoffs down 13 IMPs to EDGAR, the defending champions. EDGAR, on the other hand, had lost heavily to both ARBOUR and MOLSON and (temporarily) had reason to rejoice over their fortuitous “draw”. Perhaps the conditions could be revised to avoid such an apparent in-

justice in future years.

The other semi-final would pit the second-place finishers, ARBOUR, against MOLSON. ARBOUR, featuring two of B.C.’s top pairs, had been eliminated in their zone finals, but after several teams withdrew they gained entry to this event. They augmented with Lorber-Marcinski, two brilliant young players from Montreal. But they would be underdogs against MOLSON, and once again the carryover would favour the team that finished lower in the standings.

That our board of directors is flexible enough to introduce changes may be seen from two other decisions. One announcement we support wholeheartedly is that future CNTC events will be non-smoking. One that we deplore is the fact that no longer is the host city guaranteed one entry in the finals. There were few kibitzers in Québec – they had nobody to cheer for. 

Lineups

1. Silver, Litvack, Green, Hughes (Montreal-Toronto)
2. Tyrell, D. Campbell, Boldt, Schneider (Saskatoon)
3. Camp, Stewart, Symonds, Balkam, D. Presse, Callaghan (Halifax)
4. Mackay, Cafferata, Safran, Camacho, Betteto, Sewell (Toronto)
5. Lloyd, Sabino, Thorpe, Silverman, Paul, Fergani (Toronto)
6. Andreychuk, Rosowsky, Jordens, Prokopetz, Anderson, Mitchell (Yorkton, Sask.)
7. Ghitler, Simon, Gladman, Alvarez, Penton, Tewari (Calgary)
8. Duquette, Morden, A. Smith, Oddy, Balcombe, Phillips (Toronto area)
9. Edgar, Schoenborn, Hobart, Kirr, Carroll, Turner (Toronto)
10. Mak, Ferguson, Holland, Boyle, Alexander, Caldwell (Halifax)
11. Ballantyne, Strebinger, Jacob, McOrmond, Borg (Vancouver)
12. Graves, Nagy, Mittelman, Kokish (all over North America)
13. Tomczyk, Bibby, Ribeyre, Grant, C. Campbell, McLellan (Victoria-Thunder Bay)
14. Willis, R. Lesage, Valliant, Lamothe, D. Lesage, Kent (Ottawa)
15. J. Bowman, Gamble, McIntyre, Gillespie, J. Gowdy, Dalton (Ottawa-Toronto)
16. G. Arbour, L. Betts, McAvoy, D. Smith, Lorber, Marcinski (Vancouver-Montreal)
17. Morin, Yuen, K. Sired, D. Sired, Mowat, Sokolow (Winnipeg)
18. Conway, Van Wallegham, Langevin, Thomas, D. Freeman, F. Freeman (Northern Ontario)
19. Molson, Baran, Guoba, Carruthers, Murray (Toronto)
20. Heron, Zaluski, Glaser, Riegle, Lindop, Bridson (Ottawa-Toronto)

In Memoriam



Helen Shields

by G.B. Weiler and Pat Scollie

Helen Shields of Thunder Bay, Ontario, former President of the Canadian Bridge Federation, died May 8, 1987 after a lengthy bout with cancer. During this period no one knew how much she suffered for she carried on in her usual cheerful manner, still retaining her keen interest in bridge.

Helen, with her late husband Kearney, who predeceased her in 1983, came to Fort William (now Thunder Bay) in 1956 with their three small children, Jeff and twins Kevin and Jane. The children helped many times in bridge tournaments – picking up the travelling slips.

Helen became deeply interested in duplicate bridge and from the start she showed exceptional card sense. She soon developed into one of the finest bridge players at the Lakehead. She had sound judgment, excellent strategy and was a keen analyst of bidding. Helen was a most pleasant, easy person to play with and she was eagerly sought after as a partner. She never criticized her partner or opponents on their play. She gave Pat Courtis, the founder of the Thunder Bay Unit (Unit 228), credit for her development into such a fine player.

Helen's excellent ability was soon recognized. She was past President of the Thunder Bay District Bridge Club, Unit 228 and the Canadian Bridge Federation. She was most instrumental in forming and developing the Heritage Seniors' Bridge Club of which she was an honorary member. This club is one of the most interesting and well attended clubs in the Unit.

Helen was most highly respected as a person both at and away from the bridge table.

Our heartfelt sympathies go to her three children and four grandchildren. We shall miss Helen and remember her always.



Harry Bork

by Eric R. Murray

In the late forties Harry Bork, Canada's eleventh Life Master (1951), stood out as the top bridge player in Hamilton, Ontario, and one of Canada's premier card players. His magnificent dummy play might in part be attributed to his partnership with the late Dr. Fraser B. Hamilton playing the "Sweet Sixteen" system that not infrequently resulted in contracts lesser mortals would eschew.

Harry became my mentor for the play and I scrutinized his every move. There was a hand where we reached 3NT with a reasonable play for seven tricks which were assured by an unusual opening lead. Harry's deceptive play induced two more errors and a top board was certain until I noticed he was contemplating. I writhed and squirmed whereupon Harry turned to his right hand opponent and, without malice, said, "I could end-play you but my partner won't let me." (He was right on both counts.)

Harry Bork will be remembered for his yeoman service on Canada's first Olympiad team in 1960 in Turin, Italy and for innumerable Canadian and Regional championships, but he will be best remembered as one of the finest gentlemen and kindest and most considerate players ever to grace our tables – in victory or defeat. Rancour and pretence were unknown to him.

Harry loved to philosophize and was known affectionately as "The Professor". He bore the untimely death of his son, Louis, stoically, continuing to warm others by his presence.

In April Harry Bork died, leaving to mourn his large family and all of us whose lives he touched.

Hinc illae lacrimae

Penticton Ladies Defeat 1120 Pairs in Rookie-Master Game

The statistics were impressive: Over 1100 pairs entered the annual rookie-master game. All provinces (plus the NWT) were represented. 53 clubs participated. The winners scored a huge 77.40%. Four clubs (St. Honoré, Québec; Victoria; Regina; Saskatoon) had more than 24 tables each – an outstanding achievement.

But of course the real winner was Canadian bridge. This event is a cornerstone in our drive to increase our membership. Thanks to National co-ordinator Janice Anderson, of Regina, and to all others who helped organize and run the games. And special thanks to all masters who agreed to partner a novice. We hope to see you all at next year's game.

Top Finishers

1. Dorothy Stewart-Rose Norman	Penticton Thur. PM DBC	77.40%
2. Dan Zabinsky-Brian McCool	Prince George BC	72.62%
3. Jack Wale-Reg Stevens	Br. Studio of Burlington	72.08%
4. Olga Porteous-Mary Rielly	Saskatoon DBC	71.40%
5. Michel Bergeron-Dominique Zummo	Le Deux Trefles	71.21%
6. Janet Beesley-Carol Probert	Moose Jaw DBC	70.08%
7. Ben Lampert-Mohan Rajagopol	Ted Horning's B.S.	69.58%
8. Rayo Carriere-Larry Audet	Kapuskasung DBC	69.05%
9. Dorothy MacDonald-Vic Walker	Victoria DBC	68.75%
10. H. Wojcik-S. Wozny	St. Lambert DBC	68.56%

The Negative Signal

by Barry Harper, Saskatoon

A High card = I like it. A Low card = I don't like it. Simple enough, so why is defense so tough?

It's because a lot of the time you have to plan the defense as an entire strategy, not just tell partner what you have. To do that you have to envisage partner's and declarer's hands and also deduce what each is trying to do. Sometimes almost impossible, but sometimes easy enough.

The following is an example of a situation that comes up relatively often: As East, you hold:

♠73 ♥7642 ♦A93 ♣J652

West	North	East	South
1♠	2♦	Pass	Pass
Double	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Your lead of the ♠7 reveals this dummy.
♠KQ1094 ♥J5 ♦10654 ♣103

Pard wins the ♠ Ace, declarer playing the 5, and leads the ♥ King.

If you play the 2 partner will not only know you have no high hearts, he will also assume you want him to switch. With five spades in dummy he is going to try and give you a spade ruff. But if you play the ♥7 he might think you have a high heart but he will know you don't have a stiff ♠.

Partner's hand was:

♠AJ862 ♥AK103 ♦K ♣974

You might ask why partner doesn't just cash his high cards and down they go. From his point of view there are three possible ways to beat the contract.

A. You have a stiff spade and either ♦Jxx for an uppercut or the ♠K (the second heart is a reentry).

B. You have a diamond honour and the ♠K

C. You have the ♦A or QJx

Based on declarer's bidding alone, A. seems most likely unless you tell pard you have no spade ruff coming.



Canadian Bidding Contest



by Sandy McIlwain

MAY HONOUR ROLL

There were a great number of returns this time, and the readers were in top form. While we welcome all responses, the contest is for individuals, and group entries, no matter how charming, are ineligible for the prize.

1/2.	Joseph Doucet	Toronto	590
	The Cow City Gang	Calgary	590
3.	Lou Bozzer	Timmins, Ont.	580
4-7.	Bill Cunningham	Sackville, N.B.	570
	Sandra Fraser	Town of Mount Royal, P.Q.	570
	Don Jackson	Richmond Hill, Ont.	570
	Pierre Stewart	Montreal	570
8/9.	Harold Hansen	Burnaby, B.C.	560
	John Thompson	Peterborough, Ont.	560
10-12.	Simone Aubin	Chicoutimi, P.Q.	550
	Sally Caty	Oakville, Ont.	550
	Ruth Karp	Ottawa	550
13/14.	Mark Moore	Windsor, Ont.	540
	Marc Toupin	Valleyfield, P.Q.	540
15/19.	P.M. Banks	Bright's Grove, Ont.	530
	Marc Langevin	North Bay, Ont.	530
	M.D. Lister	Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.	530
	Doug McAvoy	Hamilton	530
	Brian Thomas	North Bay, Ont.	530
20.	Henry Fliess	Don Mills, Ont.	520
21-24.	Benoit Hétu	Joliette, P.Q.	510
	Mario Taurasi	Barrie, Ont.	510
	M.S. Tucker	Brome, P.Q.	510
	Wes Vancoughnett	Pointe au Baril, P.Q.	510
25-29.	Doug English	Sarnia, Ont.	500
	Cam French	West Hill, Ont.	500
	Don MacDonald	St. Thomas, Ont.	500
	Bob Sowden	Nanaimo, B.C.	500
	Jim & Bev Swain	Trail, B.C.	500

Mr. Doucet is now a four-time winner. My thanks to everyone who answered. All your comments and problems are appreciated, although time constraints make personal answers unlikely.

THE AUGUST PANEL

Recent panels have left some parts of the country under-represented. This has a lot to do with people not answering their mail. My thanks again to all who took the time.

JOSEPH DOUCET (Toronto): began playing Duplicate at UNB in 1963. By far our most successful reader-solver, he has received perfect scores in the Bridge World's Master-Solver's Club and Bridge Magazine's Bidding Contest.

SANDRA FRASER (Town of Mount Royal, P.Q.): has a first and a second in the CLTC, has won one North American Title with two seconds, and has many Regional victories. She has played in four World Championships, and, with husband Douglas, placed second in the world in the International Bidding Contest.

RAYMOND FORTIN (Montmagny, P.Q.): came second in the 1983 CNTC, and has played seven times in the CNTC Finals. He was on the determined team that placed 29th overall in the Miami Rosenblum Teams, and has a string of Regional successes.

MARTIN O'REILLY (Vancouver): holds his cards upside-down. He was third by an eyelash in the Mixed Pairs at the Portland NAC's. Virtually unstoppable on Vancouver Island, Martin has mastered the art of coming second at Regionals. Served well on the Vancouver Unit Board.

JONATHAN STEINBERG (Toronto): is a frequent top ten finisher on the Richmond List. He has several Regional wins and over 2000 masterpoints. Played for Canada in the Open Pairs at the Miami Olympiad. Second in the NAC Swiss Teams in Winnipeg.

STEPHEN VINCENT (Burnaby, B.C.): learned his bridge in England. He has been one of our more successful tournament players of late, with a double regional win in Red Deer and CNTC final appearances. If you can't find him, he's on his boat.

LINDA WYNSTON (Willowdale, Ont.): was 22nd and top Canadian finisher in the Mixed Pairs at the Miami Olympiad (with Gary Whiteman). She came second in the 1985 CLTC. Won two Regional events at the 1986 Summer Nationals Regional in Toronto.

THE AUGUST SOLUTIONS

A) IMPS. Both vul. South holds.

	♠AQ94	♥4	◇A	♣KQ108743
West	North	East	South	
—	1♥	Pass	2♣	
Pass	2◇	Pass	2♣*	
Pass	3◇	Pass	4♣	
Pass	4◇	Pass	?	

*Game force

This one seems to be about who takes control of the auction, and when. Partner has been reluctant so far to do anything definitive. Is that encouraging or just scary? Sufficiently scared were

VINCENT: 4H. May not be the best contract but it's time to call a halt.

DOUCET: 4H. Reading partner for 6-6. If it's 5-6 after all, too bad.

WYNSTON: 4H. Sounds like 6-6.

O'REILLY: 4H. I started out looking for slam, but now I'm just hoping to find a makeable game. Besides, partner isn't barred.

Which sounds like 4H is pretty much bailing out, but consider:

FORTIN: 4H. Partner knows from previous bidding that this is a false preference. He might easily go on slamming with texture in his suits, or a stiff club honour.

True, but with a good doubleton we would have bid 3H at our last turn, but might we now be suggesting a stiff honour, rather than the 4-spot?

With 1-6-6-0, North would have bid 4H himself with a decent suit, even AJ109xx, since he could hardly want to go past game, and wouldn't keep you on the hook if he knew where to play the hand.

Somewhat less daunted —

STEINBERG: 5C. Sounds as though partner has a weak 5-6 in hearts & diamonds (couldn't reverse). Best to declare in my seven-card suit.

A practical approach, as we might just lose two

club tricks. We might even get a raise out of partner, as this slow bidding of a one-suiter shows pretty fair tickets.

And finally, fearlessly –

FRASER: 6D. What a horror show. A massive misfit, but I have an awfully good hand.

Correct on all counts, as partner's values don't seem to be in hearts, but should we give up on clubs as a trump suit? Perhaps a bit premature.

No one discussed or dared 4S, which might clean up the mess once and for all (you won't play there). This bypasses 4H, but those guys were just running for cover, anyhow.

Partner held: ♠K ♥AJ10xx ♦KQxxx ♣J. South at the other table bid 6C after the same sequence. Didn't take long to play it. North might correct the poor 4H to 5C. He will almost surely raise 5C to six. 6D was a little high as it turned out.

Score:	Action	Votes	Points
	4H	5	100
	5C	1	80
	4S	0	70
	6D	1	50

B) Matchpoints. E-W vul., South holds
♠KJ85 ♥KJ ♦1092 ♣AJ93

West	North	East	South
–	–	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♣
Pass	2♦*	Pass	?

*forcing to game

What do you answer to fourth suit forcing when you have to lie?

FRASER: 2H. No other bid available.

VINCENT: 2H. It is tempting to say that this is automatic. [Good of you to resist. – SM]

FORTIN: 2H. What else? KJ = 3 cards.

O'REILLY: 2H. It's not my fault if partner misguesses my shape. I don't have a diamond stopper.

STEINBERG: 2H. Tough choice between 2H and 3C.

O'REILLY and STEINBERG liked the KJ of hearts as well, which begs the question: What would they all do with K2? J2? Two small? They don't say, but if not here, the problem must start somewhere.

And there was a reasonable alternative:

WYNSTON: 2NT. Best describes my shape. DOUCET: 2NT. Tough choice. Would feel more guilty about a slow 2H preference than my actual slow 2NT.

It is just a little lie either way, but beware the partner who demands a stopper in the fourth suit!

As far as 2NT goes, your hand couldn't be flatter, and your 109x in diamonds will provide a play for game in no trump opposite 3 small, even two small, when 4H may be doomed by weak trumps. And if you back into NT when partner treats gently, you can be sure they'll make their best lead every time.

I suggest you check this one out with your regular partners, as we're a long way from the last word here, although 2H does have a lot to recommend it on this hand.

Score:	Action	Votes	Points
	2H	5	100
	2NT	2	70

C) IMPS. Both vul. South holds:

♠QJ ♥K ♦KQ9652 ♣AJ85

West	North	East	South
–	–	–	1♦
Pass	1♠	3♥	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	?

There were several easy choices here!

FRASER: Pass. Gladly.

WYNSTON: 3NT. If partner doesn't have a heart stopper, he's going to need bypass surgery.

STEINBERG: 4C. No other choice. Passing the double is a no-no – I've seen too many – 730's.

DOUCET: 4C. I rule out 3S and 3NT, and I think it's close between 4C and 4D. My style is to bid my other suit on these hands.

But there was some agonizing:

VINCENT: 3NT. The preempt makes it difficult to describe my hand, and my bidding so far is perfectly consistent with a flat 13-count. Partner may be doubling on general values. However, 3NT should make on power. [But who's showing the heart stopper? – SM]

And we had a couple of surprises:

FORTIN: 3S! This double should show 10+ HCP and say nothing about the heart suit.

3S leaves 3NT open. If partner bids a minor, I'll cuebid. As in problem B, two spade honours = 3-card support.

O'REILLY: 3S. I'll be alone on this one. [Surprise! — SM] I know I should have another spade and fewer HCP, but I can't commit this hand to game. Preempts work! Often you have to guess whether to over or underbid. I choose to underbid. Which suggests maybe I should have passed.

I'm quite sure the majority of our readers will pass as gladly as Sandra did. In fact, the only reason for bidding should be to try for slam. After all, we should beat this when partner has a King and an Ace, and he must have more, so we have 500 on account already. Hard to understand Steinberg and O'Reilly's trepidation.

Fortin makes the 3S bid sound fairly sensible, although many would consider it non-forcing, and his comments on the double are very sound.

3NT seems like a poor compromise. If this vulnerable preempt is on a poor suit we should destroy them. If it's on a good suit and out we should destroy them. If we play 3NT we might go down without the diamond ace, or if they run the heart suit. Regarding partner's heart holding, is he supposed to manufacture a bid on his flat 13-counts? Should he pass? Clearly double is called for regardless of his heart holding.

That leaves 4C as the best of this group, as it's clearly forward-going, and should take us places if we hear 4D next.

I personally bid 5D when I held this hand, but the best bid must be 4NT, showing longer diamonds than clubs, suggesting a better hand than 4C, and promising a heart control, for otherwise pass would be a standout.

Score:	Action	Votes	Points
	4C	2	100
	P	1	70
	3S	2	60
	3NT	2	60
	4D	0	50
	5D, 4NT	0	Less than you deserve

D) Board-a-match. N-S vul, South holds:

♠ 42 ♥ QJ74 ♦ K963 ♣ 854

West	North	East	South
—	1♥	1♠	2♥
Pass	2♠	3♣	?

WYNSTON: 3H. My 4-card support is worth one more bid.

VINCENT: 3H. Little defense and a generally unexciting hand. There could well be bad breaks and 3H should sound unencouraging. [Plus scores! — SM]

DOUCET: A modest 3H should convey this hand to partner.

Hoping for another chance were:

FRASER: 3H. I want to buy the contract and possibly will if I am "pushed" to the four-level.

and:

O'REILLY: Pass. I might have enough to make game, but if RHO had passed I would have bid only 3H. This hand is not good enough for 4H or 3D. Partner now has a chance to make another try, if he is so inclined. At the table I would likely bid 3H because I couldn't make an in tempo pass with these cards, at least not for the right reasons.

Not good enough for a game try, but worth a 'forcing' pass. Hmm! That partner of his must never stop bidding!

One last chance:

STEINBERG: 3D. It must be useful to show where my outside card is.

FORTIN: 3D. Automatic! Showing where my values are. This hand is not a minimum, and the bid is not game forcing.

Absolutely. Well, it should be automatic. Here's partner showing a good hand and undaunted by the spade bid, and you've got four good trumps and a descriptive bid available. Your shape is encouraging and you don't have as much as a ten in the opponent's suits. In other words, anything but a minimum, though a control short of a leap to game. If partner now bids four, we should spread it.

Score:	Action	Votes	Points
	3H	4	100
	3D	2	90
	Pass	1	60
	4H	0	50

E) Matchpoints. None vul., South holds:

♠ 764	♥ 865	♦ A952	♣ J72
West	North	East	South
1♣	Double	Pass	2♦
Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass
Pass	2NT	Pass	?

There appear to be only two serious bids for this problem, and our choice depends on what we make of the 2NT call.

Some thought it must be natural:

FORTIN: Pass. If partner has 5 clubs and 3 diamonds, he should think of bidding them. No double, no trouble.

VINCENT: Pass. I don't quite know what type of hand partner has, but there is probably no game. It is tempting to bid 3 clubs as it is difficult to construct a hand where partner doesn't have clubs, but this seems to be masterminding.

FRASER: I have nothing else to say and can only hope the auction doesn't end in a bloodbath.

The rest felt it couldn't be natural:

DOUCET: 3C. I'm confused by this one. I'll guess partner has something like 1-3-3-6 shape with indifferent clubs and a good hand.

O'REILLY: 3C. Maybe I have a blind spot on this one, but I can't picture a hand where partner wants to play 2NT when he couldn't bid over 2D or overcall 1NT at his first turn. He must be 1-4-3-5.

STEINBERG: 3C. Partner wants to compete to the three-level. 2NT is *not* natural.

WYNSTON: 3C. Sounds like 5 clubs and 3 diamonds.

This hand is from the July 1978 Bridge World and 80% of their panelists passed. It struck me as an aberration, as we can hardly have the high card (or the spade holding) necessary to make 2NT, and almost everyone agrees he should have some clubs.

The argument that he should bid them himself is valid. How about 1-5-3-4 with mediocre hearts? How else could he bid this hand?

Matchpoints is the mother of invention. How would you bid it?

Scoring:	Action	Votes	Points
	3C	4	100
	Pass	3	70

F) Matchpoints. N-S vul., South holds:

♠ A1085	♥ 63	♦ J87	♣ 7653
West	North	East	South
1♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
4H	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♦	Double	Pass	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Which card do you lead?

I've been disappointed twice on this one.

WYNSTON: DJ. I'll trust my partner.

STEINBERG: D7. My probable lead had partner not doubled, might as well stay with it. I won't be shocked if partner has a stiff spade.

DOUCET: D7. Very tempted to cash the Spade Ace at pairs.

FRASER: DJ. May be more important to tell partner about this card rather than how many I have.

VINCENT: D7. Seems fairly automatic. If I lead the Spade Ace and it's wrong, I'll soon be looking for a new partner.

FORTIN: D7. No second choice.

But hark, a lone voice cries out!

O'REILLY: SA. What is East doing? Personally, I feel he must have a void, but where, spades or diamonds? No Blackwood, but he passed 5D doubled, then drove to slam. It looks like it will take 2 spade tricks or a spade and a ruff to beat it.

We are permitted to assume that the opponents are behaving rationally. East's sequence shows a strong hand. What did he find out after his pass of 5D doubled? Nothing, apparent denial of the spade Ace. 6H, anyway. With diamond losers and a spade void would he consider the grand? Not likely.

Now, can we cash a spade and a diamond? East doesn't think so. I don't think so. Since only one panelist even suggested a spade void in East's hand, our Ace is a favourite to cash. So where does the setting trick come from but a ruff?

Not convinced? Neither were the 1986 NAOPC District 19 finalists, as the unbroken string of 980's seemed to indicate.

I rate the diamond leads equal.

Scoring:	Action	Votes	Points
	Diamond J or 7	6	100
	Spade Ace	1	60

NOVEMBER PROBLEMS

To enter the November contest, write your answers to the November problems, together with your name and address, on a sheet of paper or postcard and send to:

Canadian Bidding Contest:
c/o Sandy McIlwain
#6, 2160 - 39th Ave. West
Vancouver, B.C. V6M 1T5

The reader with the best score will receive a bridge book and an invitation to the expert panel.

A) ♠ QJ98 ♥ 7 ♦ A4 ♣ AKJ532
IMPs. N-S vul.

West	North	East	South
4♦	Pass	Pass	?

B) ♠ A105 ♥ 96 ♦ AKQJ1084 ♣ 7
Rubber. Both vul.

West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	?

C) ♠ KJ8 ♥ KJ2 ♦ A43 ♣ 10764
Matchpoints. None vul.

West	North	East	South
1♦	Double	1♣	?

D) ♠ K632 ♥ A943 ♦ AK952 ♣ —
IMPs. Both vul.

West	North	East	South
—	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♣*
Pass	1NT	Pass	2H#
Pass	3C	Pass	3D
Pass	3S	Pass	4D
Pass	4H	Pass	?

*Forcing

#Game forcing

E) ♠ AKQJ ♥ A75 ♦ Q8 ♣ J1062
Matchpoints. E-W vul.

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1NT*	Pass	2♥#
Pass	?		

*15-17

#transfer

F) ♠ A ♥ A8654 ♦ 932 ♣ 10653
IMPs. Both vul.

West	North	East	South
—	—	1♦	1NT
3♣*	?		

*preemptive



Schoenborn *continued from p.3*

doesn't very often get credit for. Almost nothing bothers him. That shows itself in two ways; if partner or the opponents are being tough on him, he continues playing his game very well, and if he gets a bad result, he has learned not to try to do something very quickly to get it back. So he shows a considerable amount of patience at the table.

He is particularly good on opening leads. He really analyzes the hand very thoroughly, where most people tend to try to reach a conclusion quickly without considering all the inferences in the situation.

He has worked long and hard on our bidding system, and I think that the fact that we both operate on much the same wavelength contributes to a large extent to the success of the partnership.

Digest: Thank you, Mike.





Atlantic Bridge Notes

by Norma Symonds, Halifax

The Grand National Flight "B" team from Unit 194 was successful in winning the right to represent our district (District 1) at the Summer North American Championships in Baltimore. The team of Ken Eisner, npc, Boyd Wells, Gord Tyler, all of Truro, and Bill Knoll Jr., and Herb Watters, New Glasgow, won the playoff in Ottawa in May.

Non-Smoking Policy

Both Units in Zone 1 have taken progressive measures to ensure healthier and more pleasant playing conditions at Sectionals. In February, Unit 194 (Nova Scotia & Newfoundland) passed a motion prohibiting smoking in the playing area at any Sectional. At its annual meeting in May, Unit 230 (New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island) decided to prohibit smoking at Sectionals beginning September 1. Unit 230 ruled to have a separate smoking area available during the games and also that the Midnight Speedball Swiss games would allow smoking. Thus far, Fredericton Bridge Club stands alone outlawing smoking at club games. This rule has been in effect for over a year, attendance is good and players are content. When are the rest of the clubs going to follow suit?

George Colter, Zone 1 CBF Director reported that the CBF has taken a stand against smoking as well. All CBF sponsored events are to be non-smoking. After the National Finals in 1988 Unit games held at the club level must be designated non-smoking.

Tournaments Scheduled

Senior sectionals are growing in popularity in Atlantic Canada. The first one, held in Moncton last year was very popular and this June in Halifax participation indicated satisfaction with this event. The outstanding features with a two day Sectional are that there is only one night's lodging expense and ample time is allowed for travelling.

Vin Dohaney, President Unit 194, and Al Laughland, delegate from Unit 230, attended a meeting in Ottawa in May to clarify the status of the Can-At. We will be losing our Regional to Quebec City in 1988. However, a Senior Regional with a concurrent Sectional is in the planning stages to compensate our loss. At the meeting a schedule for the next ten years was formulated. Zone 1 will lose the Can-At again in 1998.

Maritime Bridge Line

Due to CBF commitments, George Colter is no longer able to act as Maritime Bridge Line distributor for New Brunswick. During the past three years George has diligently kept mailing costs to an absolute minimum. His efforts are much appreciated by Unit 230. George was also responsible for the good communications between the units keeping the editor of the Bridge Line up-to-date on all the events and results in Unit 230. Bernie Boyle, Moncton, has volunteered to handle the distribution of the Bridge Line in New Brunswick. Marie Carragher, Charlottetown, has been doing a similarly admirable job in Prince Edward Island since Unit 230 began sharing the Bridge Line.

Halifax News

A gala Anniversary Week was held at Halifax Bridge World to celebrate its fifth anniversary and first year in the new quarters. Chairpersons Sharron Balkam and Joan McLeod provided a fulfilled week of bridge and entertainment attracting new and old players for the celebration. Myrtle Moulton was the top master point winner for the week.

At the Can-At Regional in Halifax George Colter presented a cheque for \$15,000 on behalf of the CBF to the Alzheimer's Society. This is one of three charities benefitting from our special games in 1987.

Continued on next page

THE THRILL OF VICTORY, THE AGONY OF DEFEAT

by Bill Cunningham, Sackville, N.B.

Average club players do not expect to win regional events. Their thrills come from such lesser achievements as placing high in a section or qualifying for a final session. On those rare instances when they beat the experts, average players get a special thrill. They will describe the hand and the play as often as their patient friends will listen.

I had my chance for this thrill in the Can-At in Saint John. Playing in the flighted open pairs with a stranger from Boston, we came to the Boris Baran-Mark Moson table. On the first board we scored above average when we set Baran in a two heart contract. Then came the Deal no. 26. With N-S vulnerable the bidding went:

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
Partner	Baran	Me	Molson
Pass	Pass	1♠	dbl.
Pass	2♥	3♦	3♥
dbl.	All pass		

NORTH (Molson)

♠ AQ
♥ AQ642
♦ 1076
♣ Q32

WEST (Me)

♠ K8752
♥ —
♦ KQJ942
♣ A6

EAST

♠ 63
♥ K973
♦ A8
♣ 109754

SOUTH (Baran)

♠ J1094
♥ J1085
♦ 53
♣ KJ8

I led the king of diamonds. Partner overtook with the ace and returned the eight. On the third round partner discarded a spade and Baran ruffed. He ran the jack of hearts and then the ten which partner won with the king. Partner switched to the ten of clubs, the eight from declarer, and I faced

that common question: what should I do, play low or play the ace?

These are plays that are hard for the average player to make because they go against the grain of normal good play. To beat Baran, I had to play the ace rather than holding it to capture one of his high clubs. Then I had to lead a diamond, giving him a ruff and sluff. A diamond return would uppercut dummy's trumps, promoting partner's nine of hearts for the setting trick. Did I play the ace of clubs and return a diamond? Of course not.

Only poor players and good players give declarer a ruff and a sluff. I'm an average player.

Down one doubled would have given us seven of the eight matchpoints and the thrill of beating the best. Baran and Molson won the event.

Atlantic notes continued from p.26

Playoff Results

The Canadian Women's Team trials were held in Halifax May 30-31. Carol Grover and Myrtle Moulton did a fine job of chairing this event. Gordon Maser's capable and pleasant directing was appreciated by all participants. The winning teams eligible to play in the National Final in Edmonton were: 1. Carol FAGAN, Dorothy Riteman, Ellen Millman, Linda Walker and 2. Carol GROVER, Anne Laffin, Kathy Macnab, and Bernadette Busby.

The COPC Unit Finals were held May 24 with the following pairs qualifying for the National Final in Edmonton: Unit 194: 1. Barb & Doug Miller, 2. Scott MacDougall-Elsie Adams, 3. Carol Grover-Les Barkhouse Unit 230: 1. Blair Gamble-Carol Mann.

Le bridge au programme scolaire à Marie-Victorin

par Kamel Fergani et André Trudelle

Denis Martin et les membres de son comité provisoire ont pris les moyens qu'il fallait pour redonner à la Fédération québécoise de bridge, à l'agonie, un nouveau souffle.

Martin et Kamel Fergani, co-auteur de cette rubrique, déjà directeurs de la Ligue de bridge de Montréal, ont été nommés sur le comité provisoire formé en avril dernier, à Québec, et qui avait pour but de relancer la FQB. Ce comité regroupait également Rollande Makarewicz et Gaby Julien, de la région du Saguenay et du Lac Saint-Jean; Pauline Lemonde et Maurie Larochelle, de Québec; de même que Marcel Bourbeau, de Sainte-Adèle.

En quelques semaines, ce groupe a abattu de la bonne besogne. Denis Martin a été élu à la présidence de la Fédération des Jeux Récréatifs. Fergani et Bourbeau ont été nommés directeurs de cette association qui regroupe neuf organismes dont le bridge. Grâce à ce blitz, la FQB a maintenant pignon sur rue à l'ombre du stade Olympique, au 4545 avenue Pierre de Coubertin, dans l'est de Montréal. (L'adresse complète : C.P. 1 000, succursale M, Montréal, Qué. H1V 3R2. Au téléphone (514) 252-3032.)

La FQB devient ainsi le premier organisme de bridge à occuper un local permanent au pays.

Les buts

Les buts visés par la nouvelle fédération sont les suivants : offrir tout le matériel voulu aux clubs intéressés via trois centres, l'un à Montréal, l'autre à Québec et le troisième vraisemblablement à Chicoutimi; dispenser tous les services essentiels en français, notamment le livre des règlements et tenir des examens en français pour tous ceux qui désirent devenir directeurs de tournois; développer le bridge au niveau collégial et universitaire et créer ainsi une nouvelle génération de joueurs; encourager à la compétition nationale et internationale les joueurs qui ne font pas partie de l'élite.

Pour souligner de façon plus tangible leur bonne volonté, le comité provisoire a annoncé que dès l'automne, le collège Marie-Victorin, à Montréal, inclura à son programme socio-culturel une série de cours de bridge pour les jeunes. Il s'agit donc d'une grande première au Québec.

Par la même occasion, le collège Marie-Victorin a accepté de prêter un local à un club de bridge, affilié à l'ACBL. Ce Club tiendra ses séances le vendredi soir, à Marie-Victorin. Il sera présidé par Réjean Blanchette, un mordu du bridge.

La politique

Le comité provisoire de la FQB doit donner place à un conseil d'administration en bonne et due forme au début de l'automne. Les membres du comité provisoire ont déjà énoncé la politique de l'organisme. Pour eux, il ne s'agit pas de faire ce que l'ACBL, la Fédération canadienne ou la LBM font déjà. Mais de combler les lacunes.

Leur politique est claire : dispenser des services à la majorité francophone du Québec sans négliger les besoins de la minorité anglophone. "Garder une ouverture d'esprit sans oublier les réalités", c'est ainsi que Kamel Fergani définit la position de la FQB.

En terminant, rappelons qu'un nouveau club de bridge a ouvert ses portes à Outremont. Il s'agit du cercle Vincent d'Indy, installé dans un local de l'Académie Saint-Germain. On y tient une séance hebdomadaire, le dimanche après-midi. Mark Yudin en est le directeur.

Carroll continued from p.5

made a call on.

Our bids are so well defined that we are able to take action immediately. Our strength is better defined because we play a club system. We can put pressure on the opponents.

Inside the CBF

by Aidan Ballantyne



The CBF Board met in Toronto in April. The most critical decisions reached by your directors are summarized as follows:

CBF Dues

The Board, faced with an impending financial crisis, voted to raise CBF Unit membership dues from \$1.50 to \$2.00 per unit member. Income thus generated will go to the General Account, principally to offset increased CBF Digest costs. The next

Digest issue will feature a complete discussion on CBF financing so that units and players can better understand the rationale for, and implications of, the dues increase.

Smoking/Non-Smoking Policy at CBF Events

The Board resolved that, beginning with next year's championships (playdowns begin this fall), Zone and National finals shall be non-smoking whenever smokers and non-smokers cannot conveniently be segregated into separate rooms. In case of non-smoking, mitigative measures such as smoking breaks will be implemented to lessen hardship for smokers. Unit and club smoking policies shall be in effect during preliminary playdown stages.

Continued on next page

Victoria Artist Wins Logo Design Contest

Clarice Rummel of Victoria was the winner of the "new -CBF-logo-design" contest. Ten people submitted suggestions. Congratulations to Mrs. Rummel and our thanks to everybody who entered.

The logo ultimately implemented by the CBF will likely be a variation on the winning entry and may incorporate elements from one or more of the other submissions.

Reproduction costs will undoubtedly be a factor in the final logo decision. The plan is to use the logo on playing cards and other bridge products, with the rights to logo use being sold to manufacturers of bridge products, in order to raise funds for the CBF and to serve as CBF promotional vehicle.

The winning design and the runner-up (designed by Jude Goodwin of Vancouver) are reproduced below.



The winning design



The runner-up

The COPC

The pairs championship has undergone several changes. Olympiad and International fund games shall no longer be club-qualifying. Instead, a 2 month club-qualifying interval has been established for September-October. During this period clubs may hold qualifying sessions at a rate of one qualifying game for every two regularly sanctioned games, to a maximum of three qualifying sessions. The other two COPC stages, the unit and national finals, remain basically unchanged (there is no COPC Zone Final).

The COPC has been renamed the Air Canada COPC (AC-COPC) and COPC winners shall continue to receive a free Air Canada trip to a tournament designated by the CBF Board. The winners of the 1988 and 1989 COPC finals shall represent Canada at the 1990 World Pairs Championship (with subsidy).

The 1988 AC-COPC National Final has been scheduled for July in Quebec City and shall be run in conjunction with the Can-At Regional.

Fonds de charité de la FCB: Rapport Annuel

En 1986, environ 32 000 participants ont contribué un total de 53 110, 38 \$ pour les oeuvres de charité. Cette somme a été répartie comme suit:

Association canadienne des maladies pulmonaires - 30 000 \$; Association Parkinson - 7 500 \$; Epilepsie Canada - 7 500 \$; Toronto Peel Post Polio Association - 5 000 \$ et "Man in Motion" - 1 000 \$; soit un total de 51 000 \$.

Les bénéficiaires désignés pour 1987 sont: l'Association de l'iléite et de la colite, la Société Alzheimer et l'Association pour les enfants et des adultes souffrant de difficultés d'apprentissage.

Une bonne nouvelle

En vue de réduire votre fardeau fiscal, tout don de cinq dollars ou plus au Fonds de charité de la CBF sera non seulement hautement apprécié; mais fera l'objet d'un reçu officiel pour fins d'impôt. Votre club ou votre unité pourra se charger de recueillir les dons; à défaut, vous pouvez les faire parvenir au président du Fonds. C'est lui qui émettra les reçus.

Nouveau président

Depuis 1980, Maurice Gauthier demande au Conseil d'administration d'être remplacé comme président du Fonds; le Conseil a finalement accédé à sa demande l'an dernier. Maurice était président depuis 1975, soit un mandat plus long que soit le président fondateur, E.R. Murray ou son successeur, D.J. Cannell.

Le Conseil d'administration remercie Maurice Gauthier de son dévouement exemplaire au bien-être de son prochain.

Soyez généreux et participez aux parties de charité, quelles soient locales ou à l'échelle du Canada ou de l'ACBL. Comme vous pouvez le constater, les fonds sont certes bien utilisés.

Moïse M. Deschamps, président
Fonds de charité de la Fédération
canadienne de bridge
209 - 2400, avenue Carling,
Ottawa (Ontario) K2B 7H2
(613) 828-2403



The CNTC

The 1988 National Final will take place in Vancouver in early June, in conjunction with the local Sectional. This should enable those accompanying national finalists to play some bridge and should also produce an intermingling of resident and visiting players.

The 1988 CNTC champs shall qualify for the next ACBL Bermuda Bowl Trials, likely a further edition of the tri-country playoff.

The CLTC

The Canadian Ladies' Team Championship shall be restructured according to the recommendations of a CLTC committee. The committee, comprised of 1987 CLTC

finalists, will have met in Edmonton by the time this appears in print.

CBF Position on ACBL Bermuda Bowl Trials

The Board resolved that the tri-country format should be maintained through 1989 and that the ACBL should work towards a 4-team trials including one representative from each of the four ACBL countries.

CBF-ACBL Relations

An ACBL committee is to meet this summer in Baltimore to discuss Canadian bridge administration problems in a North American context. The CBF shall make a formal presentation to this committee suggesting a restructuring of North American bridge administration. Details of the CBF proposal shall be reported in a future Digest issue.



CBF Charitable Fund: 1986 Annual Report

During 1986 approximately 32,000 participants raised a recorded total of \$53,110.38 for Charity. Grants were allocated as follows:

Canadian Lung Association - \$30,000.00; Parkinson Association - \$7,500.00; Epilepsy Canada - \$7,500.00; Toronto Peel Post Polio Association - \$5,000.00; and "Man in Motion" - \$1,000.00 for a total donation of \$51,000.00.

The 1987 designated beneficiaries will be: Ileitis and Colitis Association; Alzheimer Society; and Children and Adults with Learning Disabilities.

Now The News Everyone Has Been Awaiting:

To help reduce your personal income tax burden, any donation to the CBF Charitable Fund in the amount of \$5.00 or more, besides being greatly appreciated, will be acknowledged by an official receipt for income tax purposes. The donations may be made through your local club or unit, if they are willing to accept same, or directly to the Chairman of the Fund. Receipts will be mailed by the Chairman.

Change Of Office Of The Chairman:

Since 1980 Maurice Gauthier has been asking the Board of Trustees to be replaced as Chairman of the Fund and his request was reluctantly granted last year. Maurice had served as Chairman since 1975, a longer term than either the founding Chairman, E. R. Murray or his successor D.J. Cannell.

The Board of Trustees thanks Maurice Gauthier for his exemplary dedicated devotion to the welfare of his neighbour, and for his long and unselfish service.

PLEASE participate in charity games, be they local, Canada-Wide or A.C.B.L.-Wide. As you can see, the funds raised are certainly put to good use.

Moise M. Deschamps, Chairman
Canadian Bridge Federation Charitable Fund
209 - 2400 Carling Ave.,
Ottawa, Ontario, K2B 7H2
(613) 828-2403



The Maurice Paul Canadian Bidding Challenge



Conducted by Eric Kokish

The SemiFinals

The Matchups:

Paul-Thorpe (ONT) vs Jacob-McOrmond (BC), both playing 2/1 GF

Laliberté-Laliberté (QUE) vs Sekhar-Cannell (MB), standard vs mod "Western" K/S

Since you've met all these illustrious people in the quarterfinals, we won't introduce them again. Instead, we will proceed directly to the horrible task at hand, or is that hands?

(A) West East West deals, none vul

♠ AKQJ1042 ♠ 98
 ♥ AJ1073 ♥ 4
 ♦ — ♦ KJ1096
 ♣ 4 ♣ AKQJ9

Note the perfection for 7♣: the stiff heart together with a couple of trumps, enough percentage to survive a testing club lead. Note also that if you're

not going to bid seven, you do best to stop not at 6NT (by East) but at 6♣, where the over-trick is infinitely more likely. With a semi-misfit, this looks like a tough hand. Is it, though?

Awards: 7♣ = 10; 7♠ = 9; 6♠ = 6; 6NT (E) = 5; 6♣ = 4; 6NT (W) = 3; games = 2; 7NT = 1

Thorpe	Paul	Jacob	McOrmond
1♠	2♦	2♣	2♣
2♥	3♣	3♣	4NT
3♠	4♣	5♣	5♦
4♥	4♣	5NT	6NT
Pass		Pass	

Nothing looks ridiculous in the Toronto auction until the very end. Thorpe thought that she might have done better to jump to 3♠ over the game – forcing 2/1 response, showing a solid suit, but I think that's extreme, burying an important suit that might either be trumps (less likely) or help partner to evaluate spade potential (more likely). Her strength-showing campaign of spades, hearts, spades lost some of its lustre when Paul's "fourth-suit" 3♣ might have forced a spade rebid without a sixth card (ergo, not necessarily the planned strong auction). Similarly, Paul's eventual "preference" might have been forced rather than voluntary (Thorpe feared: x x AQJxxx KQJ10x, or some such hand). Paul had reason to believe that some of her strength would be wasted and with no honours in partner's suits, she was reluctant to pass the game level. A deceptively difficult hand after a fairly routine 1♠ start.

Jacob, by way of contrast, was always going to reach slam after his decision to open 2♣ (perhaps there's more in that than I'd care to believe). McOrmond's 2♠ showed a positive with at least 2 of the top 3 honours in an unspecified minor. His 4NT was Roman Key Card Blackwood, and Jacob showed his 3 key cards without getting involved with the void.



Now McOrmond asked for the trump queen and found that Jacob had it but held no side king. 6NT looks obvious until you consider that Jacob might have been void in **hearts!** Unwilling to rain too long on this parade, I will say that Jacob **did** figure to be off the $\diamond A$ on a percentage basis. Still, the spade grand slam was never really a possibility. Blackwood in the context of that “unknown” minor positive got the auction high quickly and talked Jacob out of any void – showing notion he might otherwise have had. 5-2, BC.

Jacques	André	Cannell	Sekhar
2♣	3♣	1♠	2♦
3♣	4♦	2♥	3♣
4♥	4♠	3♥	3NT
4NT	5♦	4♠	Pass
6♣	Pass		

Jacques Laliberté also thought his hand worth 2♣ and here André tried a positive in his solid minor, treating his diamonds as secondary. Unable to find a “perfect” continuation over 4♣, Jacques settled for Blackwood, only to find the response totally unproductive. He guessed to bid 6♣, which was reasonably pleasant for him on the actual combination.

Cannell felt that he had accurately described his 7-5 monster with his final bid, but felt that the real rot had set in when Sekhar opted for 3NT rather than 3♣ over 3♥. Well, 3NT is certainly a comprehensible, if perhaps imperfect bid, and I’m not sure in my own mind just how good a hand Cannell had shown with his sequence. Still, he would surely have driven to 6♣ over 3♣ preference earlier, so some of his objections are undoubtedly valid. 6-2, Québec.

(B) **West** East **West deals; East/West vul**
 ♠ QJ6 ♠ –
 ♥ K754 ♥ Q1063 With N/S directed to bounce around in their ten-card spade fit, E/W have to sort out (a) whether or not to defend, and (b) which strain to select if the (a) decision is “not to.” While a five-level contract might succeed, quite plainly it also might not. With a possible plus of 300, 500, or 800 (the new Math, you know), the percentage action, even at matchpoints, figures to be to take the money on defense. There will be several E/W minus scores on this one, so any plus figures to be close to average. Here, the plus may well be greater than the value of the E/W game. And so on.

Awards: 4♠ doubled = 10; 5♥ = 6; 5♦ = 4; 5♣ = 2; slams = 1; 4NT = .5

Thorpe	N	Paul	S	Jacob	N	McOrmond	S
1♣	2♣	3♦	4♣	1♣	2♣	DBL	4♣
DBL	Pass	Pass	Pass	DBL	Pass	4NT	Pass
				5♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Paul chose 3♦ over 2♣, temporarily burying hearts and the club fit in the interest of showing the good suit and sound values. Since the players were not told in advance about the interference bidding, real game conditions were simulated as much as possible. Here Paul might have gotten her hearts involved with a negative double had she known that 4♣ was forthcoming. Thorpe’s double of 4♣ was a penalty opinion and Paul judged well (similar to a good guess, but more complimentary) to pass, much of her hand remaining unbid.

It would be my *estimate* that Jacob’s double of 4♣ would be played by many experts as forward-going (super-responsive???) rather than penalty, but our far-Western pair have a firm business arrangement about this one. Still, McOrmond chose to pull (4NT showed club support) because (1) he noted the vulnerability (perhaps he thought Jacob had not done so); (2) he had not yet shown his big club fit; (3) he had slam potential; and (4) his

hearts (the one suit promised by the negative double of 2♣) were bad (did this mean that 4♣ doubled was going to make or that there wasn't going to be much duplication?). Jacob corrected to the known major fit. At this writing, he is still playing 5♥. 12-11, Ontario.

Jacques	N	André	S	Cannell	N	Sekhar	S
1♥	2♣	3♣	4♣	1NT	2♣	3♦	4♣
DBL	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	4NT	Pass
				5♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

Jacques Laliberté's four-card 1♥ opening worked well when it located the major suit fit immediately, André cue-bid to show it, and then respected his partner's decision not to go forward, counting on Jacques to know about his spade shortness and to have glanced at the vulnerability. Sound bridge.

In the Manitoba auction, Sekhar had to choose between a forcing 3♦ or a Lebensohl-related 3♣ cue-bid, involving hearts. Now Cannell might have doubled 4♣ with his slow minimum, but he gave Sekhar some encouragement with a forcing pass and now it was virtually impossible to defend 4♣. The hearts died unborn. 16-6 now for the brothers from Québec.

(C) **West** **East** **West deals; both vul**

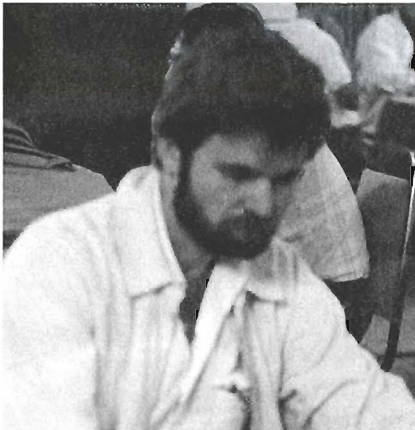
♠AJ4	♠73
♥A1097	♥K86543
♦A65	♦83
♣A97	♣542

Is it possible to reach this spectacular 3NT? It might just need a toy to show the fit-aces combo or a bid to show long heart weakness.

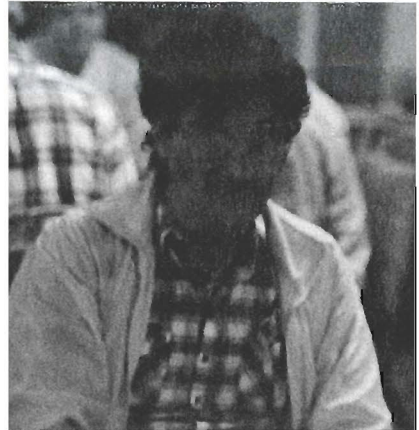
Awards: 3NT = 10; 2NT = 8; 2♥ = 6; 3♥ = 5; 4♥ = 1

Thorpe	Paul	Jacob	McOrmond
1NT	2♦*	1NT	2♦*
3♥	4♥	2♣*	2NT*
Pass		3♥	Pass

After similar starts (strong notrump and heart transfer), the Wests "super-accepted" in different ways, neither seeming to describe the specific type of great hand actually held. Paul boldly continued to game, perhaps true to her IMP-oriented background. McOrmond thought about shooting out 3NT (in deference to the bidding contest scenario) but eventually settled for "normalcy," given that the game was matchpoints. 16-13, BC.



Gord McOrmond



Dan Jacob

Jacques	André	Cannell	Sekhar
1NT	2♥	1♣	Pass
3♥	Pass		

The Lalibertés were, in effect, in the same “super-accept” situation as the two pairs in the other match, and André took the conservative road at the final fork. Cannell-Sekhar play weak notrumps, five-card majors, so Drewsie had to start with 1♣. Had Sekhar opted for a weak jump response of 2♥, the partnership might well have reached the magic notrump game. As it went, however, they reached an unpalatable 1♣. Ouch. 21-6, Québec.

(D) **West** **East** **West deals; East/West vul**
 ♠ A ♠ K
 ♥64 ♥Q10952 Reaching notrump and staying out of slam are two
 ♦AKJ73 ♦Q102 big issues here and I’d be pleased if I were able to
 ♣87654 ♣AKQJ reach 5♣ through the minefields laid for us by
 those guys with the boss suit. Feels to me like someone will have to judge well to do even
 that here.

Awards: 4NT = 10; 5NT = 8; 5♣ = 7; 5♦ = 6; 4♥ = 2; slams = 1; 3♠ doubled = 0

Thorpe	N	Paul	S	Jacob	N	McOrmond	S
1♦	2♠	3♥	3♣	1♦	2♠	3♥	3♣
4♥	Pass	5♣	Pass	Pass	Pass	3NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	5♥	Pass	Pass	Pass		
5♠	Pass	6♣	Pass				
6♥	Pass	Pass	Pass				

Thorpe was aware that the book action with her hand over 3♣ would have been a pass, but she liked her hand for hearts and so plumped for a mildly eccentric “playing strength” raise on rather inadequate support. Unfortunately, Paul took her seriously, and eventually it all became a matter of discipline (spade control, etc.), culminating in a slam featuring wafer-thin trumps.

Were McOrmond and Jacob just lucky to land on their feet? Well, maybe, but I like McOrmond’s 3NT. Facing a hand without heart support (Jacob’s pass said this), there was a good chance to buy spade help, and doubling 3♣ was a dubious move with all-around slow cards and notrumpy playing values. Here he hit a home run, but I think he was entitled to at least a ground-rule double for his take-charge decision. 26-14, BC. Daylight.

Jacques	N	André	S	Cannell	N	Sekhar	S
1♦	2♠	3♥	3♣	2♣*	3♣	6♣	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass		

Note that Jacques Laliberté’s assessment of his cards is similar to Thorpe’s. Here André decided not to jeopardize his plus with a slam try and he must have been disappointed to learn that he was in the fourth – best game available to his side!

Cannell’s 2♠ showed a minor two-suiter in the 12-16 HCP range. This forced the fictitious North to interfere one level higher, unluckily depriving the Manitobans of some badly-needed bidding space. Sekhar closed his eyes and punted. South called for a fair catch. 23-7 pour les Nordiques.

(E) **West** **East** **East deals; N/S vul**
 ♠QJ105 ♠A2
 ♥4 ♥Q862 Another perfecto. Limited high card power but
 ♦AK5 ♦8 little waste, lots of trumps and a key discard. A
 ♠A9432 ♠KQ10875 good combo on which to avoid 3NT.

Awards: 6♣ = 10; 5♣ = 6; 3NT = 2; 4♣ = 1

Thorpe	Paul	Jacob	McOrmond
	1♣		1♣
1♠	2♣	1♦*	1♥
2♦*	2♣	1♠*	2♣*
4♥*	4♣	2♦*	2♣*
4NT	5♦	2NT*	3♣*
6♣	Pass	3♦*	3♦*
		3♦*	4♣*
		6♣	Pass

Two maximum results, but the auctions were both flawed. In the Toronto sequence, Thorpe used a new suit (2♦) to force and then splintered in support of clubs. Paul, however, had reason to believe that spades were agreed, and so showed only one key card over Thorpe's RKCB (clubs, pard, clubs!) Endplayed now, Thorpe put it in 6♣, reflecting on the pleasures of reversed KCB responses (1/4, 0/3, etc). Bingo.

In the BC auction, Jacob started a relay sequence with 1♦, permissible with strong, usually balanced hands. He eventually discovered McOrmond's precise pattern, that he was minimum, that he held at most 3 controls, that he held the queen of hearts and queen of clubs (2 queens of the same "shape"). In the end, however, he could only guess as to whether McOrmond had a third control, and he was shooting when he bid 6♣. They agreed that a natural sequence (Jacob breaking the relays to set clubs over 2♣) would have been superior. Colour us agreeable. 36-24, BC.

Jacques	André	Cannell	Sekhar
	1♣		1♣
1♠	2♣	1♠	2♣
2♦*	2♣	3♥*	4♥
3♣	Pass	5♣	6♣
		Pass	

The Laliberté's seemed poised to put McOrmond-Jacob's natural sequence to the test when André dropped dropped the ball halfway down the field. The Québec boys like to open light and get out quickly, but this was just a misunderstanding.

The pride of Winnipeg also fell from grace when Sekhar interpreted Cannell's club-support heart splinter as being a natural 5-5. They survived, however, rather fortuitously. The match was much tighter now, 24-17, les Québécois encore en tête.

(F) West East East deals, none vul
 ♠43 ♠AK852 A weak hand with a great suit and lots of controls
 ♥753 ♥AK6 opposite – a slam is in the ballpark. This inevitably
 ♦9 ♦A8643 requires some trust when the "support" turns out
 ♣KQJ10985 ♣– to be a void, and it's always nice to pull off this sort of result. Scoring this sort of hand
 can be a nightmare. See. . .

Awards: 6♣ = 10; 5♣ = 7; 4♣ = 5; 2♠ = 3; 3♠ = 2; 4♠ = 1

Thorpe	Paul	Jacob	McOrmond
	1♠		1♠
1NT*	3♦	1NT*	3♦
4♠!	5♣	3♠	4♣
6♣	6♣	6♣	Pass
Pass			

Sometimes, a little discussion can be dangerous. After a forcing notrump response and a jump shift, what does a non-jump new suit at the four-level mean? For Thorpe-Paul, 4♠ over 3♦ would have been an advance cue-bid for diamonds (or spades). For McOrmond-

Jacob, 4♣ would hve been ambiguous, by agreement. Hence those weird-looking spade preferences. Thorpe's 4♣ purported to be weaker than 3♣. Well, maybe it was, but so what! Paul was clearly expecting a different hand when she continued over 4♣. Thorpe almost passed 5♣, of course, but wanted to see the light of a new day. She risked 6♣, expecting the worst. She was not disappointed.

McOrmond thought later that Jacob should have risked 4♣ over 3♦, ambiguous though it might have been. His own 4♣ was simply a cheap cue-bid (4♥ somehow feels so much better to me if one is to finish describing that non-too robust jump-shift – put me down for 2♦, please). Jacob's 6♣ was an attempt to show what he had, and McOrmond played him for precisely that. 46-24, BC. The match, as they say in North York, had gone West.

Jacques	André	Cannell	Sekhar
	1♣		1♣
1NT	3♦	3♣*	Pass
4♣	4♦		
5♣	Pass		

The Laliberté brothers were on pretty firm ground here, settling short of the reasonable slam in the best strain. 6♣ is not exactly a laydown, and I'm inclined to believe that in a real field, 5♣ would score very well. Just look at how much trouble our expert pairs seem to be having with the deal.

Is Cannell's hand too good for a non-vul weak jump response? Is Sekhar supposed to raise him up? For the answers to these and other equally relevant questions, look up the appropriate biographical sections in the Encyclopaedia of Bridge, or turn up at the next St Boniface Sectional. 31-22, Québec.

(G) West	East	East deals; both vul
♠6	♠KQ854	
♥K87	♥AQ103	Not much fit, two potential light opening bids.
♦A8753	♦62	Can our heroes stop in time?
♣A952	♣73	

Awards: 2♥ = 10; 1NT = 8; 3♥ = 6; Passed = 6; 4♥ = 4; 2♦ = 3; 2NT = 2; 3♦ = 1

Thorpe	Paul	Jacob	McOrmond
	1♣		Pass
1NT*	2♥	1♦	1♣
2NT	Pass	2♣	2♥*
		3♦!	3NT
		Pass	

Once Paul elected to open the East hand, the Toronto tigers did the best they could within the constraints of their system. A standard auction for "2/1 = GF" players who open light.

McOrmond's 2♥ was "4th suit forcing" even as a passed hand, although it usually delivers real length. With no tenaces, Jacob risked a dangerous 3♦ rather than bid 2NT. There was no stopping now, since Jacob could easily have held a good 6-4 on this sequence. A third-seat minor opening is usually sound for this pair, but Jacob was not inclined to risk an "at-the-table" 1♥ before his adoring public. Nor was he inclined to pass since McOrmond passed some heavy material in first- and second-seat. Not a good deal for their system. 46-26 now.

Jacques	André	Cannell	Sekhar
	1♣		Pass
2♦	2♥	1♦	1♣
3♥	Pass	2♣	2♥
		Pass	

André Laliberté, true to his colours, opened the East hand, leaving Jacques to find a suitable limit bid at his second turn. While 2NT is the textbook continuation, Jacques' 3♥ seems to me to have a lot going for it. That hand is definitely suit-oriented and there is no obvious trick source for notrump.

The Sekhar-Cannell sequence is the one I'd recommend to anyone interested in such a recommendation. It's perhaps incidental that 2♥ earns the best score. 37-32. Getting tighter.

(H)	West	East	East deals; E/W vul:
	♠ A876	♠ J954	Oh that trump flaw. This one may just be too hard, what with all those high cards.
	♥ KJ6	♥ AQ5	
	♦ A10	♦ KQ5	
	♣ KQ107	♣ AJ9	

Awards: 5NT = 10; 4♠ = 9; 5♠ = 6; 6NT = 3; 6♠ = 2; 6♣ = 1

Thorpe	Paul	Jacob	McOrmond
	1NT		1NT
2♣*	2♦*	2♣*	2♦*
2♥*	3♠*	2♥*	2♠*
6NT	Pass	2NT*	3NT*
		4♣*	4♥*
		4♠*	5♠*
		5NT*	6♦*
		6NT	Pass

Thorpe-Paul embarked on a Puppet Stayman sequence, with 3♠ showing a four-card fit and a maximum. Thorpe thinks she should have wheeled out 5♣ next, Roman Key Card Super Gerber. Then, when Paul showed 2 key cards and no trump queen, with fewer than four hearts (the initial 2♦ response), Thorpe would be able to see that very few hands could give her a good play for twelve tricks. Too bad. A very human result was achieved.

The BC boys finally got to use McOrmond's relay Stayman stuff. Jacob eventually learned that he was facing 4333 with 5 controls and a couple of queens (supposedly spades and diamonds: McOrmond blew the response, showing two of the same "shape" rather than the two of the same "colour" he actually held), and the king of diamonds. Jacob pictured: Qxxx Axx KQx Axx at worst, and tried 6NT, hoping for some key jacks. The tragedy of this sequence is that Jacob would have broken off in 5NT (to play) had McOrmond gotten the queen response right. As it went, he "knew" about the pointed suit queens and knew that McOrmond had 1 king to make up his five controls. He was thus committed to six, since the ♠K would make slam very good, while the ♦K would still leave a sound play if the jack of spades turned up with the queen.

So it ends 49-29. McOrmond-Jacob reach the national final, after a generally competent performance on a tough set.

Jacques	André	Cannell	Sekhar
	1NT		1♣
2♦*	2♠	1♠	1NT*
3♠	4♣	2♠*	2♣
4♦	4♥	3♣	3♥
4NT	5♥	3♠	3NT
6NT	Pass	4♦	4♣
		5♥	6♦
		7♣	7NT
		Pass	

The Laliberté's used a forcing Stayman sequence, setting spades early and soon found out, via RKCB that one key card and the trump queen were missing (5♥ showed two KC, no trump queen). With all those high cards facing a partner willing to cue-bid over his 3♠ slam try, Jacques (who could not be sure he wasn't facing a fourth heart, which might provide an extra trick) took his shot at slam, hoping the power would overcome any potential spade deficiency.

Sekhar had to choose between one strong notrump and three "better than standard" spades for his first rebid. Naturally, Cannell would have chosen 3♠. Eventually, Cannell thought that Sekhar had made two big bids- 3♥ (cue-bid for clubs!) and 6♦, and so 7♣ slipped off his tongue like butter (rancid butter, perhaps) ending the set on a bleak note.

The Laliberté boys hung on to win, 40-32. Yes, the hands were tough. But perhaps not as tough as some of our semifinalists made them.

So the final will be contested between Jacques and André Laliberté of Québec and Gord McOrmond-Dan Jacob of Vancouver. Don't touch that dial. Bring lots of popcorn and beer. This promises to be a thrillah. Standard Américain versus souped-up 2/1 Game Force. It is illegal to wager on an ACBL-sanctioned event.

BRACKET SHEET

Baran-Molson (Montréal)	Laliberté-Laliberté		
Laliberté-Laliberté (Québec)	47-31		
		Laliberté-Laliberté	
Cannell-Sekhar (Winnipeg)	Cannell-Sekhar	40-32	
Balkam-Stewart (Halifax)	34-28		
			?
Carruthers-Guoba (Toronto)	Jacob-McOrmond		
Jacob-McOrmond (Vancouver)	36-31		
		Jacob-McOrmond	
Paul-Thorpe (Toronto)	Paul-Thorpe	49-29	
Jones-Smith (Edmonton)	42-36		

Turner continued from p.5

Notice of Election

Elections will be held for Zone III Director and Zone VI Director for three year terms to expire December 31, 1990.

Declarations of candidacy must be submitted in writing no later than Friday, November 13, 1987 to:

Barbara Tench
 Director of Elections
 200 Clemow Avenue
 Ottawa, Ontario
 K1S 2B4

and invented our own. That is my favorite part of the game. Greg was of the same bent and was willing to go along with the ideas.

Greg is very systematic. I like to think of an idea and want to try it out; Greg insists on listing all the possibilities and what could happen. He catalogues them to make sure that they are in a rational order which can be remembered.

Greg plays the hand and defends better than I. When he goes into the tank, I'm always certain that he's going to come up with the right answer. He analyzes and concentrates well.

We have a great deal of confidence in our partners and each other.

Digest: Thank you, David.

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