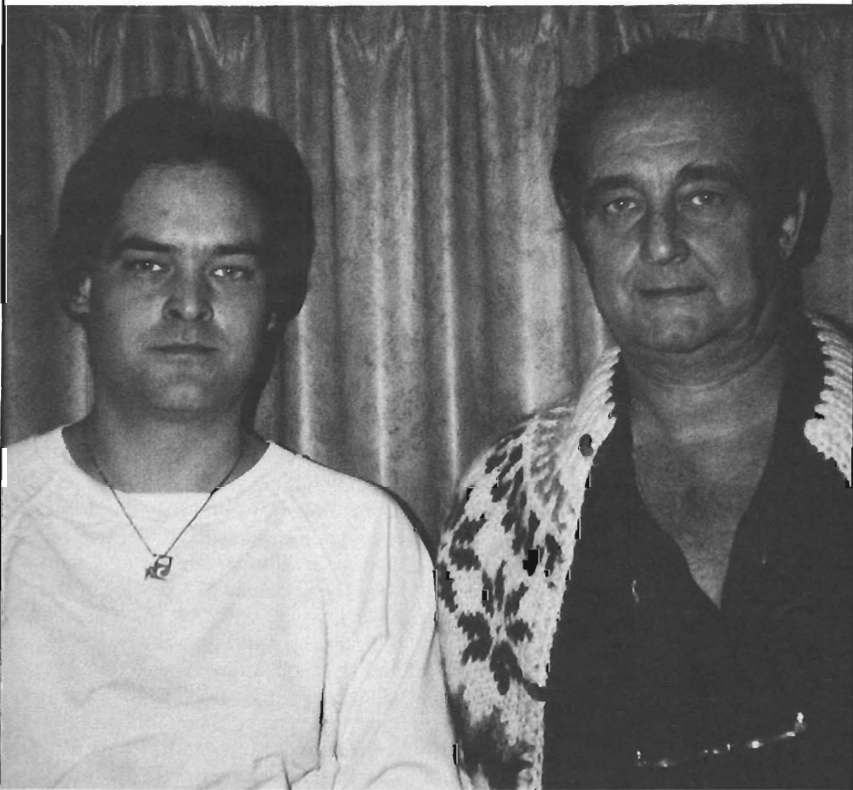


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CANADIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION
FEDERATION CANADIENNE DE BRIDGE

See p.6 "My Son the Bridge Player"



Drew and Doug Cannell

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EDITORIAL

We are pleased to report to our readers that the Kootenay crisis seems to be resolved. As readers may recall, a tiny unit located in Eastern British Columbia had refused to join the Canadian Bridge Federation. As CBF president Ballantyne pointed out, "if units get the impression they can obtain the benefits of CBF membership for free, then a lot of units are going to withdraw." Or to paraphrase the Kootenay people, "if you aren't going to treat us right and offer us something worthwhile, you can't make us join".

For a while, both David and Goliath flexed their muscles and the very existence of the CBF seemed threatened. But a typical Canadian compromise has been reached, mainly to the effect that the Kootenay players will face slightly more favourable conditions in the CNTC playoffs. It is to their credit that they accepted this compromise and ended the crisis. Even more important is the fact that these hinterlanders have forced the CBF to be aware of the power of small-town players and non-expert members. If worried leaders make good leaders, the quality of our leadership has just improved.

The Miami Pairs Olympiad: A Canadian View.

by Alvin Baragar

Organizational News

The meetings of the Executive Council of the World Bridge Federation were over before most of the players had arrived for the tournament. Mr. Denis Howard, a lawyer from Sydney, Australia had been chosen to succeed Mr. Jaime Ortiz-Patino as president. Ortiz-Patino is largely responsible for restoring a lustre to the world championships, first by the introduction of bidding screens to complete the physical separation of the members of a partnership that had been begun with bidding boxes, and now with the development of the WBF convention card that insures complete disclosure of bidding and play understandings. It is my opinion that the political structure of the WBF will have to be reformed; Howard will have the opportunity to begin this endeavour should he agree.

The convention card proved to be the first hurdle to be cleared. It was difficult to fill in, particularly for those who use elaborate relay or asking sequences, but as long as the present 'anything goes' philosophy is accepted, this will be a necessary evil. The full disclosure intent can be subverted by filling every space on the card so the opponent cannot find the information he needs; some restrictions on the amount of information needed to understand a bidding sequence should be included in the instructions given to govern the use of the card. Nevertheless, the players are better off with the new card than they were before.

The winner of each of the events has already been published in the Bulletin, so I will concentrate on Canadian performances. There were more than one hundred of us there, participating in the Mixed, the Open, the Women's Pairs and the Rosenblum Teams.

Mixed Pairs

Several pairs were well placed at various stages: Linda Sims and Lauren Miller 3rd after one session, Tony and Sharyn Reus 5th after one, 14th after two, and 38th after three, Joan Eaton and Nader Hanna 36th after two, and Rhoda Habert and Steve Goldstein 33rd after three, but only Linda Wynston and Gary Whiteman, 22nd, were in the top 50 after four sessions in this 210 table event. This fine performance was double satisfying because Linda and Gary were two of the nicest Canadians in Miami.

Rosenblum Teams

Five of our twelve teams entered the KO portion of this event directly, but only two (Robert Binsky, NPC, Mark Molson, Boris Baran, Marc Stein, Ghassan Menachi, Drew Cannell and Subhash Gupta, and Laurie McIntyre, NPC, Arno Hobart, Martin Kirr, Harmon Edgar, Mike Schoenborn, Dave Turner, and Greg Carroll) survived the first cut. Binsky lost to Meisl of Austria and McIntyre to Sundelin of Sweden on the second round, so everyone was in the everlasting Swiss, fighting for one of the three places that would give re-entry to the KO at the quarter-final stage, or to be among the top forty-five teams whose members would qualify for the finals of the Open Pairs, along with the remaining members of higher placed teams and the pairs nominated by their National Contract Bridge Organizations (NCBOs). Because after every round of the KO all the losers entered the Swiss with a score at least as great as the leader, intermediate scores don't mean much. At the time when participants in the qualifying stage of the Women's and Open Pairs had to leave the Rosenblum, eight of the twelve teams were in the top half of the field in the Swiss. At the end of the Swiss, eight of our teams were still in the top half of the field (a different eight) of 166 teams. The best placings were Eric Kokish, Peter

Nagy, Allan Graves and George Mittelman, 7th, Katie Thorpe (NPC), Dave Lindop, Ed Bridson, Doug Fox, Mark Arbour, John Caruthers and John Guoba, 24th, Kamel Fergani, Raymond Fortin, Pierre Daigneault, Lauren Miller, Paul Hagen, and Peter Herold, 27th, Duncan Phillips, Paul Thurston, Jordan Cohen and Mike Cait, 32nd, Binsky, 34th, Doug Fraser, Sandra Fraser, Nick Gartaganis, and Zygmunt Marcinski, 37th, and Greg Arbour, Laurence Betts, Sandy McIlwain, Mike Newcombe, 43rd.

Women's Pairs

Only Dianna Gordon and Sharyn Reus qualified for the finals, but several other pairs were in contention at various stages. Sandra Fraser and Renee Mancuso were 27th after four sessions, 12th after 6, and 40th after 8, while Francine Cimon and Mary Paul were 31st after 2, 12th after 4, and 37th after 6. Gordon and Reus were 2nd with one session to go, but slipped to 6th, a very good finish in a strong field.



Dianna Gordon



Sharyn Reus

Open Pairs

The only pair to gain the finals came through the repechage. The pairs who did well up until the final session of the semi-finals were Ted Horning and John Caruthers, 20th after 2 and 38th after 4, Eric Kokish and Peter Nagy 22nd after 2 and 19th after 4, Mark Molson and Boris Baran 18th after 4, Gerry Charney and John Guoba 31st after 4, and Maurice Paul and Katie Thorpe,

33rd after 2. Drew Cannell and G. Sekhar dropped into the repechage early, and then fought their way back to be second in this event after eight rounds. In the finals, they were 40th after 10, 21st after 11, 26 after 12, and ended up 31st. It is very difficult to come back from the repechage because you have no carry-over; they performed remarkably well when they might well have given up after their slow start. They deserve our congratulations!

The Swiss Plate

is a general consolation for all who have been eliminated with two or three days to go before the final banquet. Most players are too exhausted to play in this event, but some do. The 6th place finish of Doug Fraser and Nick Gartaganis was Canada's best.

Summary

It is very difficult to run an event such as this smoothly. The conduct of tournaments is very different in different parts of the world; I think the organizers are to be commended for co-ordinating their diverse approaches as well as they did. I do think, since this is a Pairs Olympiad, that the team event should not be regarded as primary. Not only did about one half of the entry to the quarter-finals of the Open come from the top fifty-three teams in the Rosenblum, but even at the awards banquet, the winners of the Rosenblum were the last to be recognized. While many of the world's strongest players regard team events as a superior test of bridge ability, I do not think there should be any comparisons made between the two forms of the game. As three years out of four are already devoted to teams, it would not be unreasonable to recognize the pairs game as a form of bridge deserving of its own Olympiad.

A pairs Olympiad is a very gruelling test. I want to commend those players who survived with a sense of humour intact and conducted themselves with dignity. Even though Canada may have done better in other years, I am proud of our accomplishments in Miami and am very happy that I was given the opportunity to be with the Canadian delegation.

Campbell captures the Richmond

Cliff Campbell scored well at many regionals during 1986, but by Christmas-time he was still second in the Canadian race for the most masterpoints. It looked as if Mark Molson, five-time winner of the *Richmond Trophy*, was about to win it again. But Campbell went to Reno at year's end, won some 53 points there including 34 for second in the Flight A Open Pairs, and beat out Molson by 18.

The Richmond is awarded annually to the Canadian who wins the most points during a calendar year. Top Canadians on the Richmond list in 1986 were:

1. Cliff Campbell, Thunder Bay ON	493
2. Mark Molson, Montreal PQ	475
3. Ken Warren, Pickering ON	426
4. Boris Baran, Montreal PQ	420
5. David McLellan, Thunder Bay ON	411
6. Gary Tomczyk, Ladysmith BC	410
7. Gary Whiteman, Don Mills ON	356
8. David Curry, Ottawa ON	350
9. Duncan Smith, Saskatoon SK	342
10. Jonathan Steinberg, Toronto ON	336
11. Daniel Doston, Montreal PQ	329
12. William Sheryer, Kitchener ON	323
13. Michael Kenny, Toronto ON	310
14. Sadru Visram, Toronto ON	303
15. Leo Steil, Vancouver BC	292
16. Ray Chen, Toronto ON	288
17. Greg Arbour, Vancouver BC	287
18. Arno Hobart, Peterborough ON	286
19. Eric Marchand, Montreal PQ	284
20. Doug Heron, Ottawa ON	280
21. Chris Hough, Toronto ON	273
22. James McAvoy, Victoria BC	273
23. Michael Cafferata, Scarborough ON	272
24. Stephen Brown, Ottawa ON	262
25. Marc LaChapelle, Montreal-Nord PQ	260
26. Don Brander, North Vancouver BC	257
27. Gary Mitchell, Regina SK	252
28. Anna Boivin, Montreal PQ	252
29. Linda Wynston, Don Mills ON	251
30. Vince Oddy, Scarborough ON	250
31. Martin Caley, Ottawa ON	250
32. Mark Stein, Mount Royal PQ	247
33. Laurence Betts, Burnaby BC	247
34. Martin Kirr, Toronto ON	244
35. Pat Roy, Sherbrooke PQ	238
36. Joseph Silver, Hampstead PQ	238
37. Doug Fraser, Mount Royal PQ	228
38. Edward Zaluski, Ottawa ON	225
39. Ed Bridson, Toronto ON	224
40. Jerry Aceti, Sudbury ON	222
41. Stephen Willard, Edmonton AB	221
42. Donald Pearsons, Winnipeg MB	221

43. Steve Vincent, Burnaby BC	221
44. David Kent, Ottawa ON	220
45. Nick Gartaganis, Edmonton AB	219
46. Frank Markotich, Scarborough ON	217
47. Mark Arbour, Scarborough ON	217
48. Michael Gamble, Ottawa ON	216
49. Allan Smith, Peterborough ON	214
50. Sandra Fraser, Mount Royal PQ	214
51. Michael Hargreaves, Victoria BC	212
52. Gerry Marshall, Calgary AB	211
53. Billy Zerebesky, Saskatoon SK	209
54. John Duquette, Oshawa ON	208
55. Zygmunt Marcinski, Dorval PQ	207
56. John Bowman, Nepean ON	207
57. Helene Beaulieu, Sherbrooke PQ	203
58. Mary Fines, North Vancouver BC	198
59. Wilf May, Surrey BC	194
60. Harmon Edgar, Montreal PQ	194
61. Rhoda Habert, Montreal PQ	193
62. Janine Rivard, Quebec PQ	193
63. Karl Weber, Toronto ON	189
64. Lloyd Harris, Sudbury ON	189
65. John Rayner, Mississauga ON	188
66. Marc Poupart, Longueuil PQ	188
67. Subhash Gupta, Calgary AB	187
68. Michel Lorber, Ville St. Laurent PQ	187
69. Aidan Ballantyne, Vancouver BC	186
70. Bill Osborne, West Vancouver BC	185
71. Pierre Daigneault, Chomedey PQ	185
72. Ken Gee, Regina SK	185
73. Don Brazeau, Vancouver BC	182
74. David Lindop, Toronto ON	181
75. Colin Revill, Burlington ON	181
76. Larry Hicks, Port Coquitlam BC	180
77. Jim Riegler, Ottawa ON	179
78. Eric Ditchfield, Oakville ON	179
79. William Cooper, Vancouver BC	178
80. Keith Balcombe, Oshawa ON	178
81. James Luxford, Toronto ON	177
82. George Mittelman, Toronto ON	176
83. Rashid Khan, Sackville NB	175
84. Gary Johannsson, Regina SK	175
85. Peter Jones, Edmonton AB	175
86. Nader Hanna, Toronto ON	174
87. William Biggart, Ottawa ON	172
88. Gerald Richardson, London ON	171
89. Ross Taylor, Hamilton ON	170
90. Alan Chapelle, Vancouver BC	169
91. Martin Newland, Ottawa ON	168
92. Marilyn Pearce, Simcoe ON	167
93. Chuck Messenger, Toronto ON	167
94. M. Kevin Conway, Kirkland Lake ON	166
95. Dan Jacob, Vancouver BC	166
96. Ted Hicks, Coquitlam BC	166
97. Peter Herold, North Vancouver BC	164
98. Randy Bennett, St. Johns NF	164
99. Dick McKinney, Edmonton AB	162
100. B. Udeschini, Sudbury ON	161

My Son The Bridge Player

by Doug Cannell

It was with a sense of *deja vu* that my wife Barbara and I returned to the Sheraton Bal Harbour Hotel in Miami Beach. In 1972 I covered the world Olympiad for the now Defunct Winnipeg Tribune at the Sheraton (then called the Americana). The lobby appeared to be the same and one of the first faces I saw was Sammi Kehela. It was as if the clock had been turned back 14 years.

This time we were here as private citizens to Kibitz son Drew in the open pairs. On arrival at the hotel we were told there were no Kibitzers allowed except press. Fortunately I was eligible for a press pass, but my wife was relegated to watching the Vu-graph.

The open pairs began on Sunday the 21st, Drew and his partner Sekhar were dropped into the quarter finals, and started off with two poor sessions. The format was to qualify 168 pairs out of 330. The remainder would drop into the repechage from which the top six would move into the final along with 42 pairs from the 168 left in the qualifying round.

Ten Canadian pairs made the cut to 168 with Fraser - Gartaganis sitting in 53rd, followed closely by Kokish and Nagy at the 58th position. Drew and Sekhar were well below the cut, a great disappointment but as it turned out, it was for the best.

In the next round of the qualifying Graves and Mittleman moved into contention for the final 42 pairs, standing 49th, but unfortunately no Canadian pair broke into the charmed circle. Meantime in the Repechage, Drew, and Sekhar caught fire and were in first or second throughout the six rounds of the Repechage, finishing in 2nd place overall to join the 42 qualifying from the 168 and the only Canadian pair to make the final 48 pairs. The problem was, along with the other 5 pairs from the Repechage, they had no carry over.

There would be six rounds of play to establish the winner of the open pair and Drew and Sekhar continued to play well and after the first round moved up to 16th. Unfortunately, they were unable to sustain the pace and vacillated between 16th and 40th, eventually finishing 31st. This was a fairly good accomplishment considering they started with no carry over, in a field that included most of the great international players.

Let's look at some of their good results, this one from the Open Pair Qualifying where Drew played in 3 N.T. with this layout.

Session 6 Open Pairs

Sekhar

N

♠: Q J 6

♥: 8 5 3

♦: A J 8 6

♣: 7 4 2

W

♠: A 10 5 2

♥: Q 10 7

♦: 10 7 5 2

♣: Q J

E

♠: 9 3

♥: K J 9 4 2

♦: 9 4

♣: K 9 8 6

S

♠: K 8 7 4

♥: A 6

♦: K Q 3

♣: A 10 5 3

The play went as follows – opening lead spade 2 spade Q holding the trick – diamond 6 to the queen. Drew could now count 8 tricks, but where was the elusive 9th trick to come from? The only possibility was the club suit, but if declarer broke that suit the opponents would undoubtedly find the heart switch. Some chicanery was required so Drew came off dummy with the heart 3 – east contributed the heart 2 declarer heart 6 and west won the trick with the seven. The subterfuge worked, west was under the impression the declarer was attempting to

establish a trick in the heart suit, so he now attacked clubs. The club queen was played followed by the club jack both holding the trick. Now the diamond shift and Drew was home taking the club finesse for his ninth trick plus 400. West might be faulted for not continuing hearts after winning the 7, but perhaps he was following the old Confucius proverb "If both opponents play same suit one must be crazy".

In the repechage Drew and Sekhar found this defensive gem against and an innocuous 2 heart contract by Masse and Schippers one of the Netherlands top pairs.

♠: 10 6 5 3	♠: K Q J 9
♥: K 10 6	♥: 4 2
♦: K J 9 2	♦: A 8 5 3
♣: K 7	♣: A 4 2
	♠: A 7 4 2
	♥: 7 5 3
	♦: 10 6
	♣: Q J 6 3
	♠: 8
	♥: A Q J 9 8
	♦: Q 7 4
	♣: 10 9 8 5

West	North	East	South
<i>Cannell</i>	<i>Masse</i>	<i>Sekhar</i>	<i>Schippers</i>
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦*
Dble!	2♥	All Pass	
* transfer to hearts			

Drew started off by making a marginal lead directing double of south's transfer bid of 2 diamonds Sekhar cooperated by leading the diamond ten which ran to the A. A heart to the queen was ducked smoothly by Drew and a spade went to the K and A. Sekhar continued the diamond 6 won by the 9 next came the diamond K then the club K won by dummy's A. Declarer cashed the spade Q and J. Jettisoning two clubs, then repeated the "assured" heart finesse losing to the K. Back came the club 7 won by Sekhars J and on the club Q Drew scored the heart 10 on the upper cut for the setting trick.

Of course declarer can circumvent the defence by withholding the club A on the

lead of the K but on the basis of the "assured" trump finesse it didn't appear to gain.

In the finals playing against Gabriel Chagas and Marcelo Branco of Brazil. This was one of the hands.

Finals Session 1 Board 10 DLR-E VUL-ALL

Chagas			
N			
♠: —			
♥: K Q J 9 8 3			
♦: A Q 9 6 4 2			
♣: 6			
Cannell		Sekhar	
W		E	
♠: K J 10 6 2		♠: A Q 9 7 4 3	
♥: A 4		♥: 10 5	
♦: K 5		♦: 8 7	
♣: J 9 8 5		♣: A 7 2	
Branco			
S			
♠: 8 5			
♥: 7 6 2			
♦: J 10 3			
♣: K Q 10 4 3			
E	S	W	N
P	P	1 ♠	2 ♠ *Michaels
X	3 ♣	X	3 ♦
4 ♠	P	P	4 NT
5 ♣	X	5 ♠	P
P	X	All	Pass

North South are cold for 5 diamonds or 5 hearts so a two trick set would be a good result for eastwest. Gabriel let the heart K won by the ace. Two rounds of spades then a heart put Chagas on lead Gabriel got out with his singleton club won by Branco's Q. A diamond gave Gabriel two tricks in that suit but with only diamonds and hearts left the resulting rough slough saw the losing club evaporate and a - 500 was a near top for east west.

In the final round aggressive bidding carried Drew and Sekhar to a touchy grand slam, here was the hand.

North (Sekhar)

♠: A K 10 9 3

♥: —

♦: A Q 7

♣: A K Q 5 2

West (Stauber)

♠: 7 6 2

♥: A 10 9 8 7 6 5

♦: K

♣: 4 3

East (Smolen)

♠: 8 5 4

♥: Q 3

♦: 10 8 5 3

♣: J 9 7 6

South (Cannell)

♠: Q J

♥: K J 4 2

♦: J 9 6 4 2

♣: 10 8

The play went opening lead heart A. Trumped by the diamond 7 spade to the Q. Diamond 2 diamond K diamond A. It was at this point that Drew and Sekhar both recalled a famous hand from the 1975 Bermuda Bowl which I will go into in a moment. Drew played two high clubs in dummy then ruffed a club low west throwing a heart. The heart K was played then a diamond to the Q leaving this ending.

North

♠: A K 10 9

♥: —

♦: —

♣: Q

West

Inconsequential

East

♠: 8 5

♥: —

♦: 10 8

♣: J

South

♠: J

♥: J 4

♦: J 9

♣: —

Now for the 1975 hand. At the conclusion of this hand Drew lifted the screen and said, "shades of Eddie Kantar 1975" Stauber echoed, "just what I was thinking." Sekhar produced a note that he had handed to Stauber that read do you have the K10 after he had played the stiff K of diamonds. The Kantar story related to the hand Belladonna played against Kantar and Billy Eisenberg in the 75 Bermuda Bowl. Belladonna playing in a suit contract with AQ stiff in dummy, led a trump towards the AQ Kantar holding K10 failed to fly with the K so Giorgio finessed the Q then felled the then singleton K bringing in the suit without a loss. If the K had been played immediately Belladonna would probably have tried the trump coup and gone down as a result. Italy would have lost and the USA would have won.

One more hand from the first session of the finals with wild distribution:

Finals Session 1

Board 9 DLR-N VUL-EW

N

♠: 8 5

♥: K J 9 8 6

♦: J 10 4

♣: 8 3 2

Cannell**W**

♠: 6 2

♥: A Q 5 3

♦: A Q 9 8 5 3

♣: Q

Sekhar**E**

♠: K Q J 9 3

♥: —

♦: K

♣: A K 10 9 7 5 4

S

♠: A 10 7 4

♥: 10 7 4 2

♦: 7 6 2

♣: J 6

N

P 1♣

2♥! 2♠

P 3♠

P 5NT*

E

P 1♦

P 3♥

P 4NT (Keycard for spade)

P 6NT

S**W**

P 1♦

P 3♥

P 4NT (Keycard for spade)

P 6NT

Now Drew proceeded to play his black suit — winners catching east in a trump coup.

Continued on page 9

Atlantic Bridge Notes

by Norma Symonds, Halifax, N.S.

Several Sectional tournaments have enjoyed outstanding success lately. In August the Campbellton Sectional under the capable management of Marielle Savoie and her committee showed a record turnout of players and drew rave reviews for its hospitality. In October in Charlottetown this was equalled when Ernie Carver and his workers accomplished a similar feat. These people have perfected the formula for running a successful Sectional.



Norma Symonds

Gyl Baldursson, Dartmouth, has been appointed editor of the Maritime Bridge Line filling the vacancy left by my resignation. Gyl's ready wit and friendly manner will assist him in his new position.

George Colter, Fredericton, is working hard as a director of the CBF. In addition, George finds time to assist with the Bridge Line and is coordinating the CNTC and North American teams.

Some recent winners deserve recognition. Alice Manzer and Gord Chippin, both of Fredericton, won the Zone Final of the North American Pairs in late November in Truro. They will represent us in St. Louis at the Spring NAC. Four of our players went to the

World Championships in Miami last September – Sandy Fox, Sackville, N.B., Rashid Khan, Charlottetown, P.E.I., Ted Moffat, Dartmouth, and Edward Risley, Halifax. The Epsom Simultaneous World Pairs produced some top winners locally. Gyl Baldursson, Dartmouth and Gary Brown, Wolfville won Zone 1 and were twenty-sixth in North America. They were followed very closely by Sam Baney, Halifax and Phil Emin, Lower Sackville, N.S.

Four Fredericton players represented us last July in the North American Flight "B" Teams at the NAC in Toronto. Sam Ghosh, Arun Datta, Pardeep Banerjee and Bernie Vigod tied for third in this prestigious event. Sam Ghosh has sent us a hand from the District 1 playoff in Ottawa:

Continued on page 10



My Son the Bridge Player

Continued from page 8

On the lead of the diamond J 12 tricks were available with careful play for 1440 an excellent match point score.

Of course all the hands were not good results. In particular a defensive lead that Drew would love to take back. The opponents reached 6NT with Drew's left hand opponent bidding hearts twice. Holding the K5 in hearts he decided to put declarer to the test at trick one and put the ♡5 on the track. The suit was divided as follows.

Sekhar

♡: 10 9 2

Dummy

♡: A Q 7 6 4 3

Declarer

♡: J 8

Drew

♡: K 5

Declarer had to bring the heart suit in without losing a trick as he was missing an outside A. It doesn't pay to be cute sometimes.

Atlantic Bridge Notes

Continued from page 9

NO SWING

S.N. Ghosh

Hands that make the headlines are usually those which produce big swings. However, some interesting deals are often buried in a stand off board. Here follows an interesting no-swing board from our match against the Ottawa team in the GNT Flight B District Championship.

North Dealer
N-S Vulnerable

♠: K 3 2
♥: A K 9 3
♦: Q 9 5
♣: K 10 9

♠: 5 4 ♠: 7 6
♥: J 10 8 7 ♥: 5
♦: 10 6 3 ♦: J 8 4 2
♣: J 6 4 2 ♣: A Q 8 7 5 3

♠: A Q J 10 9 8
♥: Q 6 4 2
♦: A K 7
♣: —

Bidding:

N	E	S	W
1NT	3 ♣	4 ♣	P
4 ♥	P	5NT	P
7 ♥	P	7 ♣	All pass

At our table we quickly got into a 7S contract via the bidding shown.

The opening lead of C-2 was covered by C-10, C-Q and ruffed. Trumps were drawn in two rounds. The hand is a lay down if hearts break. To keep open the possibility of a squeeze against west if hearts fail to break, diamonds were cashed. Next came two rounds of trumps. On the penultimate trump West was in trouble. This is the position before the penultimate trump was led.

♠: —
♥: A K 9 3
♦: —
♣: K 9

♠: — ♠: —
♥: J 10 8 7 ♥: 5
♦: — ♦: J
♣: J 6 ♣: A 8 7 5

♠: 9 8
♥: Q 6 4 2
♦: —
♣: —

West reluctantly let go ♣6, dummy pitched ♥3 and East ♦J.

Now ♥Q, followed by ♥A revealed the 4-1 heart break. ♠K was led from the dummy, covered by ♠A, ruffed by the last trump smothering ♠J, and promoting ♣9 for the thirteenth trick. Well played hand.

We were very pleased at our table, at reaching the grand slam in spades instead of hearts, because declarer not being clairvoyant, will fail in a 7H contract.

In the other room, our opponents promptly got into a 7H contract played by North after our partner overcalled in 2C with the East hand. However the expected swing did not materialize. After the opening lead of a trump (♥5), declarer had no trouble picking up the entire heart suit and claiming 13 tricks for a push board.

Well, we won the match.

I'm Confused

continued from page 26

the last minutes drop off the time clock, the noise level steadily rises and yet teams are still playing. Whether they're playing for the lead or not, they all deserve a lot more respect than we give them. Let's all work to end this "traditional" inconsiderate behaviour. If you have to berate your partner or celebrate or tell your story, take it out in the hall or just keep quiet.

"Ladies and gentlemen, it's game time, find your places please."

Tomorrow it should be easy.

Du sang nouveau à la Ligue de Bridge de Montréal

par Kamel Fergani et André Trudelle

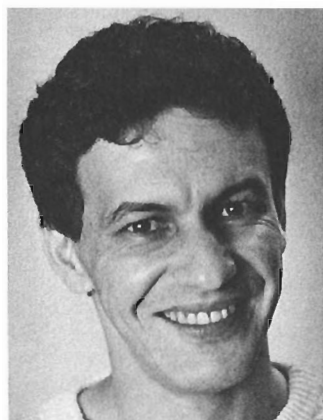
Des changements sont intervenus au bureau de direction de la Ligue de bridge de Montréal. Comme on le sait, ces postes ne comportent aucune rémunération. Il est donc normal qu'après quelques années de collaboration et de bénévolat des officiers profitent d'un peu de répit.

Pour une rare fois depuis nombre d'années, les francophones sont en majorité au sein de l'exécutif avec sept membres sur 13. Lors de la dernière élection, trois nouveaux directeurs ont été élus: le R.P. Serge Giroux, Jean Parent et Robert Thibault. Ce dernier, de Saint-Jérôme, était déjà à la LBM, mais sans avoir passé par le scrutin.

Le nouvel exécutif a réparti comme suit les différentes tâches: madame Joan Stephens reste à la présidence et Denis Martin à la vice-présidence. Larry Crevier est devenu secrétaire et Mark Yudin poursuit son travail de trésorier. Mari Retek garde la présidence du comité des tournois, mais s'apprête à quitter dès qu'on aura trouvé un successeur de taille. Les événements spéciaux relèvent toujours de Bob Hart. Kamel Fergani (co-auteur de cet article) s'occupe du Mélange de bridge et du comité d'éthique. Nick Krnjevic et Robert Thibault sont affectés aux communications et aux relations avec les clubs, de même que Jean Parent. Marie-Josée Monty continuera de s'occuper de la publicité et de l'information et Mac Paterson des novices.

Conscient que certains tournois devraient retourner au centre-ville, à la demande générale, la LBM a formé un comité de trois membres comprenant Mari Retek, Edie Maislin et Denis Martin qui prendra les mesures qui s'imposent.

Puisqu'il est question de Mari Retek, précisons qu'elle a accompli de l'excellente besogne depuis cinq ou six ans. Elle a su rétablir l'équilibre d'un budget déficitaire à son arrivée. Elle possède une vaste



Kamel Fergani

expérience de l'organisation des tournois et il est à souhaiter qu'elle restera comme conseillère auprès de ceux qui seront appelés à la remplacer.

Un autre comité comprenant Krnjevic, Crevier et Fergani travaille à trouver des commanditaires en vue des prochains tournois. Tâche qui n'est pas toujours facile.

Les bridgeurs de la région de Montréal sont invités à utiliser B-R-I-D-G-E-M, ce numéro de téléphone est très précieux. Il renseigne instantanément les intéressés sur toutes les activités dans les différents clubs.

Ceux qui veulent communiquer des nouvelles à B-R-I-D-G-E-M doivent rejoindre Marie-Josée Monty au 935-8920 ou au 842-6192.

Le tournoi mondial

Plusieurs Montréalais ont eu l'occasion de se rendre à Miami en septembre dernier participer aux championnats du monde. Compte tenu du calibre de jeu à cet événement, joueurs canadiens et québécois se sont courageusement défendus.

Le meilleur résultat, dans l'ensemble, a été celui de la Torontoise Dianna Gordon et de

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One For The Committee

by Eric Kokish

The following deal was the most controversial of the 1986 CNTC, and it cost the HABERT team a semifinal place:

DLR: West VUL: None

North		East	
♠: 8 5 2		♠: K 6	
♥: 6 2		♥: Q 8 5 4	
♦: K J 10 4 3 2		♦: —	
♣: K 8		♣: J 10 9 6 5 4 3	

West		East	
♠: A J 10 4 3		♠: K 6	
♥: A J		♥: Q 8 5 4	
♦: A 7 5		♦: —	
♣: A 7 2		♣: J 10 9 6 5 4 3	

South	
♠: Q 9 7	
♥: K 10 9 7 3	
♦: Q 9 8 6	
♣: Q	

Marchand		Garinther	
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♠	P	1NT (1)	P
2NT	P	3♣ (2)	P
3♦	P	5♣	P
6♣	P	P	P

- (1) Forcing, but limited
- (2) Alerted by West as showing not clubs, but diamonds

When East, Gregoire Garinther, tried 3♣ over West's (Eric Marchand's) raise to 2NT, he was aware that he might be making a system error. This was confirmed when West alerted and explained that 3♣ was a transfer bid, showing diamonds. East's duty in such a situation is to bid as if he were not privy to the alert and the explanation. East, apparently without undue discomfort, jumped to 5♣, a bid that makes some sense (although many would continue with 3♥, 3♠, 3NT, or 4♣ instead) in the context of an UNALERTED 3♦, which would show values in diamonds and a club fit.

West alerted this, but could not give a confident explanation, citing such options as "ace-asking," "shortness of clubs," and

"natural, two-suited." Conceding that his partnership was not on firm ground, having adopted this treatment only recently, West found an ingenious (in my view) battlefield solution to his problem. He bid 6♣, catering to all East's possible hand types, albeit at a potentially dangerous level. Whether West would have been entitled to pass the "suspicious" 5♣, thereby "fielding" the system error, would have been (again in my view) an equally interesting problem. East passed 6♣, of course, and the slam was made. It was not bid at the other table and HABERT won 11 IMPs.

The opponents asked for a committee to appeal the director's ruling, which had been to allow the score to stand. The committee, nonparticipants all, eventually decided that East's 5♣ might somehow have been predicated on the mis-alert (East explained to the committee that when he bid 3♣, he thought his partner might interpret that as "checkback Stayman" and his plan had been to raise 3♥ to 4♥ or to bid 5♣ over anything else) since it was but one of many logical (or more logical) choices. They considered this sufficient "damage" to N/S to throw out the board, wiping out the HABERT gain.

To make matters even more bizarre, the substitute deal that the committee ordered up for the next day cost HABERT a further 8 IMPs on a flat-out king-jack guess. The committee's decision thus cost HABERT the remarkable total of 19 IMPs. They missed qualifying by 14! Was there a further appeal possible? Effectively, there was not, according to Chief Director Stan Tench. And there it rests. My opinion? A misjudgment by the Committee. How were N/S damaged by the misinformation? E/W were in jeopardy throughout, although the 5♣ bid might have been an inferior and potentially tainted action. West, and almost certainly East bid ethically (there was no allegation of table action). West bid cleverly to escape disaster. Perhaps unlucky for N/S, but very much part of the game, I believe. What do you think?

Rapport De L'est Et Du Nord Du Québec

par Maurice Larochelle

Une des raisons qui font que les tournois de Québec sont très appréciés, c'est Aline Bisson qui, pendant six ans, a fait partie de la direction de l'Unité de Québec. Elle s'occupait en particulier de la publicité et de l'hospitalité.

Celle-ci vient d'obtenir son Life Master, ceci lors d'un tournoi qui avait lieu à Springfield, Mass. Je profite donc de l'occasion pour la proposer comme la **personnalité du trimestre**.



Aline Bisson

Cela fait maintenant 20 ans qu'elle pratique le duplicate. D'ailleurs sa partenaire de la première heure, Lucienne Laverdière, obtenait elle aussi son Life Master à peu près en même temps et nous en profitons pour la féliciter.

Aline admet que le bridge est demeuré sa grande passion tout au long de ces 20 ans. Ce jeu l'aide à demeurer alerte, même s'il affecte un peu son sommeil. quand elle fait un mauvais coup en effet cela la chagrine au point de ne pas en dormir; quand elle fait plutôt un bon coup, elle est si excitée qu'elle n'en dort pas non plus. Un espèce de cercle vicieux, quoi!

Aline affectionne particulièrement les tournois à l'extérieur de Québec. D'ailleurs lors de ce tournoi à Springfield, son équipe se rendait jusqu'en semi-finale du Knockout, catégorie B; ses partenaires étaient Janine Rivard, Pauline Lemonde et Valentine Deschamps.

Une main de ce tournoi l'empêcha de dormir encore une fois. Elle était en Sud, en face de Janine Rivard. Avec les mains ci-dessous elles aboutirent à 5 trèfles, après la séquence indiquée, où l'annonce de 2 SA était une extension de la convention Lebensohl.

NORD

♠ : A 10 X
♥ : A V 9 X X
♦ : R 10 X X
♣ : A

SUD

♠ : X
♥ : X
♦ : A D X X X
♣ : 9 X X X X X

OUEST	NORD	EST	SUD
—	—	2 ♠	P
P	CTRE	P	2 SA
P	3 ♣	P	4 ♣
P	4 ♥	P	5 ♣
FIN			

La mauvaise nouvelle est que 6 carreaux était tout cuit. la bonne nouvelle est que 5 trèfles fut réalisé, les atouts étant 3-3. Une autre bonne nouvelle est qu'à l'autre table, Nord gagea 3 coeurs au lieu de contrer et Sud passa. Ce contrat chuta de trois, les coeurs étant 5-2.

Ce qui m'amène à mon deuxième propos: l'utilisation de la convention lebensohl après un contre d'appel sur un barrage au niveau de deux. Je vous propose la structure suivante qui s'inspire de très près à celle imaginée par Eric Kokish et publiée dans ce même Bulletin en août 1979.

PRENONS LE CAS DU 2 ♠ — CONTRE:

- 3 ♣, 3 ♦, 3 ♥ : naturel et constructif; 8-11 points.
- 3 ♠ : impératif de manche, avec quatre coeurs, mais sans arrêt des piques;
- 3 SA : naturel; 11 P.H. +.
- 4 ♣, 4 ♦ : naturel; impératif.
- 4 ♥ : encourageant; bonne suite au moins

continué à la page 28



A Brief History of Canadian Team Championships

Once again, Unit and Zonal competition for the 1987 CNTC title are well under way. But let's wander down Memory Lane and have a look at our past CNTC winners.

While the first official CNTC final did not take place until 1980, there were several forerunners, designed mostly to pick Canadian teams for the Olympiad.

1968, Winnipeg.

Winners: Eric Murray, Sami Kehela, Percy Sheardown, Bruce Elliott, Al Lando (NPC), Wolf Lebovic (ANPC)

1971, Ste. Agathe.

Winners: Bruce Gowdy, Duncan Phillips, Gerry Charney, Bill Crissey (Murray-Kehela and captains Lando and Lebovic were added to the team).

Runners-up: Sam Gold, Buddy Marsh, Ralph Cohen, Peter Nagy.

1977, Toronto.

Winners: Don Cowan, Mike Cummings, Maurice Paul, Mary Paul.

Runners-up: Doug Fischer, Kai Cheng, Gim Ong, G. Sekhar, Allan Mowat, David Sokolow.

1980, Toronto.

Winners: Allan Graves, George Mittelman, Eric Kokish, Peter Nagy, Eric Murray, Sami Kehela.

Runners-up: Frank Markotich, Wayne Timms, Nigel Zeller, Ross Taylor, Keith Balcombe, John Guoba.

1981, Ottawa.

Winners: Allan Graves, George Mittelman, Eric Kokish, Peter Nagy, Eric Murray, Sami Kehela.

Runners-up: Dave Willis, John Valliant, Denis Lesage, Rick Lesage, Dave Stothart, Mark Siegrist.

1982, Regina.

Winners: Nick Gartaganis, Zygmunt Marcinski, Gordon Crispin, Voyteck Pomykalski.

Runners-up: Alan Doane, Gerry Callaghan, Victor Goldberg, John Stewart, Eric Balkam, Mike Betts.

1983, Toronto.

Winners: Mark Molson, Boris Baran, Allan Graves, George Mittelman, John Guoba, John Carruthers.

Runners-up: Andre Liberte, Raymond Fortin, Francois Gauthier, Kamel Fergani, Jean Bernier, Maurice Larochelle.

1984, Toronto.

Winners: Subhash Gupta, Doran Flock, Gordon Campbell, Mike Chomyn, Bryan Maksymetz, Drew Cannell.

Runners-up: Joe Silver, Irving Litvack, Eric Kokish, Keith Balcombe, Ross Taylor.

1985, Montreal.

Winners: Boris Baran, Mark Molson, Eric Kokish, George Mittelman, Pascal Menachi, Mark Stein.

Runners-up: Ed Bridson, David Lindop, Doug Fox, Mark Arbour.

1986, Ottawa.

Winners: Michael Schoenborn, Harmon Edgar, Arno Hobart, Martin Kirt, Greg Carroll, David Turner, Laurie McIntyre (NPC).

Runners-up: Boris Baran, Mark Molson, Drew Cannell, Eric Murray.

The most successful individual to date is **George Mittelman** with four wins.



MAURICE PAUL

A true gentleman passed away on 14 December, 1986, at the age of 63 years.

Maurice "Moose" Paul was one of Canada's top 25 master point winners, and would help anyone who asked him a question.

"Moose" won the first CNTC in 1977 as well as innumerable other events, such as the 1957 Can-Am Open Teams and 1971 Mixed Pairs, the 1958 Summer NAC Marcus Cup, the Toronto Regional 1963 KO Teams and the 1980 Men's Swiss, the 1973 District 2 GNT, and the 1967 Intercity Championship (vs. Chicago).

Maurice Paul created the first Team-of-Four League in North America in 1956 in Montreal. He was chairman of the Unit 166 Conventions committee, coach of the Canadian Women's Team at the 1984 Olympiad, and had held many administrative posts in bridge.

We extend our sincerest sympathies to his wife, Mary, who was his regular partner for the past several years. Moose will be fondly remembered.



CANADIAN BIDDING CONTEST



Sandy McIlwain

It is with pride that we introduce our new editor for the Canadian Bidding Contest, Sandy McIlwain. This enormously gifted (but somewhat eccentric) champion has the ability to get right to the gut of a problem and to make us understand a good bidder's thought process. Besides, he's a funny writer and doesn't take himself too seriously. We like that in a bridge player.

THE FEBRUARY PANEL

Andy Anderson: (Brandon, Man.) calls himself a small town player and a latecomer to the bridge scene. He doesn't get to many tournaments, but is a consistent winner at those he does attend.

Sam Buffa: (Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.) is our current reader champ. A relative newcomer to the duplicate scene, he seems to be well on his way to future glories.

Drew Cannell: (Winnipeg, Man.) has played in several World Championships, for both Canada and Panama, and was on Canada's first-ever Bermuda Bowl team last year. He and partner G. Sekhar were the first Canadian winners of the Grand National Pairs in 1986.

Maureen Culp: (Whitby, Ont.) is a former president and founding member of the Trent Valley Unit Board (now #246). She was a finalist in the 1985 CLTC, and played in the Mixed and Women's Pairs at the Miami Olympiad.

Pierre Daigneault: (Chomedey, Que.) is a multiple CNTC and GNP finalist. He has won many regionals and represented Canada at Biarritz and Miami. One of Quebec's top players.

Harmon Edgar: (Milliken, Ont.) is a member of the 1986 CNTC champions. Nicknamed "The World's Largest Rookie" by his partner, Michael "The Shoe" Schoenborn, Harmon has won numerous regionals and was seventh in the Winnipeg Reisinger.

Arno Hobart: (Peterborough, Ont.) was also a part of the current CNTC championship team, after several appearances in the final round. He says he and partner Marty Kirr "are probably the only two Austrians in Canadian bridge". Numerous regional wins.

Connie McAvoy: (Victoria, B.C.) has played for both B.C. and Saskatchewan in the CLTC. She has won both regionally and sectionally, and she and husband, Jim, made a good showing in the Mixed at the Miami W.C.'s. A fine player and all-time great kibitzer.

Mark Molson: (Montreal), has won the Richmond Trophy five times, likely six by press time. He is Canada's third-leading masterpoint holder, has won two CNTC's, and played in several Olympiads and other international tournaments.

Paul Prince: (Edmonton, Alta.) has won several regionals and has represented District 18 in the GNP “a few times”. He says he prefers rubber bridge, but doesn’t hold enough cards and ends up playing duplicate.

Sharyn Reus: (Roxboro, Que.) has played for Canada in the last four World Women’s Olympiad Teams. She recently won another CLTC championship, and with long time partner, Dianna Gordon, was sixth in the Women’s Pairs at the Miami Olympiad.

Frank Roberts: (Victoria, B.C.) surprised almost everyone last year by leading his Victoria team to the CNTC finals. A softspoken gentleman, he would have had a perfect score on these problems if I hadn’t monkeyed with the last one.

Gloria Silverman: (Toronto) won the 1986 CLTC after several strong showings. She represented Canada in the Mixed and Women’s Pairs in Biarritz and Miami, and has been a CNTC finalist and a GNP finalist. She is on the Unit 166 Board of Directors.

Gary Tomczyk: (Ladysmith, B.C.) was one of B.C.’s ‘hottest’ players in 1986 with multiple regional wins and a raft of masterpoints. He credits his knowledge of the game to “a very expensive 6-month lesson in a Calgary rubber club in 1982”. Lock up your daghters.

David Waterman: (Vancouver) is one of our best young bridge minds, although a traditionalist to the core. He has been in the CNTC finals, has won regionals, and won the B.C. stage of the inaugural COPC. We expect you’ll be hearing a lot more from him.

FEBRUARY SOLUTIONS

A) Matchpoints. None vul. South holds:

♠ : Q 10 8 3 ♥ : A Q 4 ♦ : K Q 8 5 ♣ : 7 6

West	North	East	South
1♥	Dbl.	Pass	?
Scoring:	Action	Votes	Points
	4♠	6	100
	2♥	6	80
	3NT	3	60

Most of the panel were split evenly between the mark-time cue bid and the practical bash to game in spades.

The 2H bidders were confident:
MOLSON: 2♥. Kind of automatic – will drive to 4♠ or 3NT if partner only has three spades.

CANNELL: 2♥. To quote Al Roth: “What’s the problem?”

CULP & REUS, somewhat optimistically, chose the cue bid to keep slam options open. Even ANDERSON, who chose 4♠, felt 2♥ was the ‘proper’ call.

But the spade bidders unanimously made a convincing argument, summed up by:

HOBART: 4♠. I would like to make the value bid of 2♥, but the most likely response will be 2♣. This will get spades played from the wrong side. Even on a 4-3 fit, I may still make an extra trick by ruffing hearts.

In defense of the cue bidders, partner could (should?) return the cue to restore equity, but will he be showing extras? Will he do it on Jxxx xx AJx AQxx? Will you end up in spades if he does?

Sensing the dangers of the cue bid but reluctant to drive to four spades were:

DAIGNEAULT: 3NT. The matchpoint bid.
SILVERMAN: 3NT. Maybe both games will score ten tricks.

TOMCZYK: 3NT. Nine tricks could be all there are in the hand.

Good points. However, it is difficult to construct hands for North that will take even as many tricks in NT as in spades (played by South). For instance, any time West holds two Aces or the spade AK, you will be forced to scramble in NT after a heart lead.

EDGAR: 4S. Should play better than NT. (Are you listening, Irving?)

Exactly. Partner's heart shortage and our fiercely guarded Queen will prevent an attacking defense against spades, even on a Moysian fit. On the actual hand,

W: ♠ AKx ♥ KJxxx ♦ x ♣ Qxxx

N: ♠ Jxx ♥ x ♦ A10xxx ♣ AKxx,

with trumps breaking, a club ruff in hand squeezes West for 11 tricks.

B). IMPs. None vul. South holds:

♠-♥: K Q 9 8 5 ♦: Q 9 6 3 2 ♣: A 8 7

West	North	East	South
—	1♣	1♦	1♥
1♠	Dbl*	Pass	?

*Penalty double

Scoring:	Action	Votes	Points
	2♦	7	100
	2NT	3	70
	Pass	2	60
	2♠	1	50
	3♣	1	50
	2♣	1	40

McAVOY: Pass. A plus is a plus and I'm ready for 2♦.

CULP: Pass. Guess everyone is on a massive misfit.

And then there was Drew:

CANNELL: 2♠. Spade void and opening values. With two spades I'd pass and with one spade I'd cue 2♦.

Reasonable, but hardly standard. And what are these 'values' worth opposite partner's spade strength?

Somewhat surprisingly, 2♠ was the first choice of the British panel, followed by 2NT, 3♣, 3NT, 2♦, and Pass. (Take heart, ladies, Terence Reese was among the passers!) Perhaps 2♦ would be non-forcing in the British style? Should it be?

C). IMPs. NS vul. South holds:

♠: Q 9 7 5 4 2 ♥: 3 ♦: K 8 ♣: Q 6 4 3

West	North	East	South
—	—	1♥	Pass
1♠	2♦	2♥	Pass
3♦	Dbl.	Pass	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	?

ROBERTS: This is a problem?

BUFFA: West's spade bid has taken the wind out of my sails.

While I think our best chance to show this hand might have been a 3♣ call over 3♦ -X-P (can't have good spades [no overcall]; must have diamond help [not totally insane]), bidding now does seem out of the question, unless the auction tells more than it appears to.

Partner's double can't simply show what he's known to hold (sound values and a good suit), and he can't have a great suit, so he must have a good playing hand for his first bid, e.g. no wasted heart values.

The opponents appear to have reached game on extremely limited high card points (how much can West have for his cue bid? 6? 5?), which suggests a big fit. Which means East, not partner, will likely be short in spades. Either that or North has good clubs and long diamonds.

In other words, we could easily be spreading 4♣, or 5♣, or 5♦, but what the heck, I'll go along with:

SILVERMAN: Pass. Could be missing a magic game.

D). Matchpoints, EW vul. South holds:

♠: K J 4 ♥: Q 8 6 4 ♦: J 8 6 5 3 ♣: A

West	North	East	South
—	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1NT	Pass	3♦ (non-forcing)
Pass	3♥	Pass	?

Scoring:	Action	Votes	Points
	3NT	10	100
	3♣	5	80

This problem divided the panel into two camps. First the spade bidders:

CANNELL: 3♠. Value-showing, looking for the proper strain.

DAIGNEAULT: 3♠. Will pass partner's next bid, even 4♦. Would bid 3NT at IMPs.

TOMCZYK: 3♠. Pass the buck back. Will pass 4♦.

EDGAR: 3♠. Trying for 5♦ or an outside chance at 3NT.

The 3NT bidders had by and large heard enough, although doubt was on many of their minds.

BUFFA: 3NT. Could be one light.

ROBERTS: 3NT. Roberts' Law — When 3NT is going down, let partner play it.

MOLSON: 3NT. Difficult choice at match-points. With 8 points in my short suits, just a simple 3NT and pray!

REUS: 3NT. Since 8 of my HCP are in the black suits.

SILVERMAN: 3NT. Should have a reasonable play.

HOBART: 3NT. Points in my short suits, extra trick in my fifth diamond.

PRINCE: 3NT. 3H may be a good MP score. But I have 8 points in the blacks partner doesn't know about.

With somewhat more emphasis:

WATERMAN: 3NT. Your cards are in the black suits. Incidentally, I disagree with 3♦ — a straightforward 2NT would have been much better.

The hand is a close call, North may pass 3NT with no club help when 5♦ is cold, while 3♣ may not only chase us out of a good 3NT, but help the opponents to the best defense when we get there. However, the direct 3NT in the long run should lead to scoring more game bonuses, and more matchpoints from inaccurate defense.

Besides, prayers are answered more frequently in bridge than in life.

E). Rubber. None vul. South holds:

♠-♥: K 8 7 ♦: K 7 3 ♣: A K 8 7 6 3 2

West	North	East	South
—	—	3♦	?

Scoring:	Action	Votes	Points
	4♣	12	100
	3NT	2	50
	Pass	0	30
	5♣	1	20

Another problem that came perilously close to unanimity.

DAIGNEAULT: 4♣. No reasonable alternative. 3NT is wild; 5♣ is pushy; Pass is crazy. The more I think, the less I see the problem.

However,

EDGAR: 4♣. Despite playing with the 'Shoe' (3NTism).

CANNELL: 4♣. Tempting to try 3NT.

Sentiments echoed in some degree by WATERMAN, HOBART, ANDERSON, BUFFA, REUS, and

CULP: 4♣. I guess 3NT will be a popular action. [Almost]

HOBART chose 4♣ "to keep partner in the picture". ANDERSON, McAVOY and ROBERTS bid 4♣ with latent thoughts of slam. Most chose 4♣ as a nice, respectable bid.

BUFFA: In rubber, 4♣ is safe.

A couple did more than consider 3NT wistfully. TOMCZYK thought the risk acceptable not vulnerable.

MOLSON: 3NT. The likely game — obviously not perfect, but my best shot.

And fearlessly,

SILVERMAN: 5♣. Might talk LHO into doing something foolish. [Like drooling before he doubles?]

For everyone who looked at their 5+ losers and passed, you'll be glad to know they all showed up and brought a friend. Partner had Qxxxx - xxx - xxx - x, and West was more than happy to double anything you bid.

However, resulting doesn't alter the merits of a 4♣ call, which on balance should lead to the most good things happening (and the least bad).

F). IMPs. Both Vul. South holds:

♠: Q 7 ♥: K 8 7 ♦: K Q J 9 6 5 2 ♣: 5

West	North	East	South
3♣	Pass	3♠	4♦
4♣	5♦	5♠	Pass
Pass	6♦	6♠	Pass
Pass	Dbf.	(All)	Pass)

Which card do you lead?

Scoring:	Action	Votes	Points
	♥K	5	100
	♥7	8	90
	♣5	2	20

SILVERMAN: K♥. Since I'm leading a heart, I'll lead the one that makes life easiest. Partner didn't double because of my singleton.

EDGAR: 7♥. Partner could have bid 5♠ if he wanted a club lead.

TOMCZYK: K♥. The king to discourage partner trying to give me a ruff at trick two.

DAIGNEAULT: 7♥. 5 of clubs lead deserves zero even if it works!

WATERMAN: K♥. Partner must have a trick in hearts. The K to avoid ambiguity.

HOBART: K♥. If dummy is 2-1 in hearts and diamonds, partner may go wrong.

CANNELL: K♥. I'm probably alone on this one. [Right, Drew]

ROBERTS: 7♥. My guess is that heart tricks will run away.

Which was, in fact, the case, and dummy was 2-1 in hearts and diamonds. Declarer had: AKJ10xx J109xx - QJ. Clubs were solid. You and Eddie Kantar picked up a big swing on this board by leading a heart. Eddie picked his up at the 1972 Denver Spingold, where the lead at the other table was a club, against the same contract, doubled after this sequence:

West	North	East	South
3♣	Pass	4♠	5♦
5♣	6♦	6♠	Pass

I'm giving top marks to the king of hearts lead, for the excellent reasons given above. Sue me.

MAY CONTEST

Readers, if you enjoy this column why not let the editors know by participating in the May contest? Simply write your answers to the May problems on a sheet of paper, and include your name and address. The winner will be invited to join the expert panel and will receive a book prize.

Also, we need good problems. Please help us out. Address all correspondence, including contest answers, to:

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

MAY PROBLEMS

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

♠: A K 8 6 5 3 ♥: A Q 9 7 ♦: ♣: 8 7 5

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

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

♠: Q J 7 5 ♥: K Q 8 7 6 2 ♦: K 7 ♣: 2

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

*negative, denying four spades

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

♠-♥: A Q 7 ♦: A J 10 6 ♣: K Q 8 6 4 3

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♣
1♣	Pass	1NT	2♣
Pass	2♠	Dbl.	?

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

♠: K J 7 4 3 ♥: Q J 8 6 3 ♦-♣: 7 5 2

West	North	East	South
3♦	Pass	Pass	?

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

♠: 9 7 6 5 ♥: 9 8 3 ♦: K Q 7 3 ♣: A Q

West	North	East	South
—	1♦	1♥	Dbl*
3♥**	3♠	4♥	?

*negative double

**preemptive, promising 4 trumps

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

♠: 9 8 7 6 4 2 ♥: 3 2 ♦: K 4 ♣: 10 8 5

West	North	East	South
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Which card do you lead?

Montréal

continué de la page 11

la Montréalaise Sharyn Reus que nous félicitons chaleureusement. D'ailleurs, lors du dernier Can-Am, ces deux excellentes bridgeuses ont été honorées par la LBM.

Tirée des quarts de finale de Miami, Kamel Fergani a rapporté cette main à l'intention des lecteurs du Canadian Bridge Digest.

Donneur: Sud

Aucune vulnérabilité

Nord

♠: R 9 8 5 2

♥: V 9 8 7

♦: 10 2

♣: R V

Ouest

♠: D V

♥: A

♦: D 9 7 6 5 3

♣: 10 7 3 2

Est

♠: A 10 7 3

♥: R 10 6 3

♦: A V

♣: A 8 5

Sud

♠: 6 4

♥: D 5 4 2

♦: R 8 4

♣: D 9 6 4

Enchères:

Sud	Ouest	Nord	Est
pas	pas	pas	1♣
pas	1♦	pas	1SA*
pas	3SA	pas	pas
pas			

*15-17 balancée

Entame: 2 de ♥

Le jeu

Sud entame du 2 de ♥ pour l'As en Ouest, le 9 en Nord et le 3. Retour du 3 de ♦ vers l'As, puis Valet sur lequel Sud jette le 8, mais Dame d'Ouest. Retour du 5 de ♦ Nord joue le 2 de ♠ et Est le 5 de ♣. Sud prend du Roi. 5e tour: 4 de ♥, 2 de ♣, Valet de ♥ et Roi en Est.

6e tour: 3 de ♠, 4, Valet et Roi.

7e tour: retour ♥ pour deux levées en défense plus deux déjà encaissées.

Le contrat de 3 SA est réalisé de justesse. Commentaire de Kamel, en Est: "Deviner la position des ♦ m'apparaît la clé de cette donne. Il fallait surprendre le Valet de ♦ de la Dame. Il me semblait donc obtenir un résultat très supérieur à la moyenne. Tel ne fut pas le cas. Je conclus que déjà, en quarts de finale, le calibre de jeu était particulièrement fort."



Part III: Maverick, the Cowboy

The Fearsome Foursome

by Colin Ward, Winnipeg

When we left our heroes, the Fearsome Foursome, the Maggot (aka "The Ghost of Cleanliness Past") was exulting over the defection of his scurrilous partner, Attila, at the hands of a Grand Old Dame, Pearl. His teammates, Maverick and the Titan (aka "The Happy Hooknose") looked forward to their next opponents. I, meanwhile, was apologizing for our Tournament Director's perverse sense of humour. He had paired this unsuspecting group of rustics against none other than... the Beast!

"Every area has its scoundrel. Why, even Punkydoodle's Corners – your home town – might have such a character," I extrapolated, casting a sidelong glance at the infamous Attila. "Ours is a reprobate called 'The Beast': an obnoxious, unscrupulous swine –"

"Dibbs on the Beast!" screamed Maverick and Attila in unison.

"You two WANT to play against this jerk?"

A vicious argument ensued as the Cowboy and Attila fought tooth and nail for the "pleasure" of seating themselves at the Beast's table. They overlooked an obvious solution.

"Why don't you two play TOGETHER?" I asked foolishly.

"When hell has hockey!" they roared in response.

"Besides," continued Attila, "that would leave the colourless but not odourless Maggot paired with the equally drab Titan. The bland leading the bland! And the olfactory factor: the Ghost of Cleanliness Past opposite the Happy Hooknose. It's too cruel to contemplate!"

Eventually, though, all objections were overcome. The unlikely duo of Attila and Maverick took their seats against their antagonist, the Beast.

Despite all his faults I found it easy to admire the Cowboy. Arch-nemesis of Attila, Maverick is renowned for his gracious charm, his incredible luck and, in the laissez-faire environment of Punkydoodle's Corners bridge circles, his ventures outside the Rules, Regulations and Ethics of bridge. Here in the formal confines of the Big City Regional, however, he would be on his best behaviour. His habit of passing signals and cards under the table (which Attila calls "The Punkydoodle's Corners Subway System") was not in evidence. Nor would Maverick sing for a certain lead from partner: the "Troglydite Song" for a club, "Diamonds are Forever" for a diamond, "Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" for either rounded suit, Dylan's "Black Diamond Bay" requesting a non-heart lead, etc. (Because of the atonal, dirge-like quality of the Cowboy's voice this system of "suit preference signals" has been dubbed "The Dreary Convention").

"The Cowboy couldn't hold a note in an envelope!" quips his usual partner, the Titan. Even this apparent handicap has worked in Maverick's favour: he collected \$600.00 in bounty when his crooning brought the wolves down from the hills surrounding Punkydoodle's Corners.

The man's good fortune is legendary. After watching him chalk up his third consecutive doubled game contract – none of which were bid with the majority of High Card Points – Attila rushed to the local Post Office and tacked up an imposing likeness of the Cowboy; a caption underneath read: "The Law of Average's Most Wanted Man".

"He has the karma," says the Maggot enviously, "of four prophets, three martyrs, two vestal virgins, one Pope and several assorted saints. He is *clearly* 'God's Favourite

Atheist'!"

Nothing was going to prevent Maverick from facing off against the Beast. He needed to keep abreast of the latest "advances" in underhanded bridge. Attila's reasons were analagous: it wounded his pride to hear people describe the Beast as being more abrasive than he himself was!

The Beast's opening salvo was the age-old Garlic Gamit. After two passes it was Attila's turn to bid. To Attila's left sat the Beast, staring at a balanced yarborough – marking Attila with 16+ HCPs.

"Would you like some potato chips?" asked the Beast, proffering the latest and most noxious flavour (Garlic, Onion and Anchovy).

"Ugh! I'll pass, thank you!" winced Attila.

"Me too," concluded the Beast. "Next hand!"

Attila had been hornswoggled. He wanted to call for a director but his partner stared him down. "Directors cramp my style," Maverick would explain later.

As it was, the Cowboy's disgust ensued much in evidence. I couldn't discern, however, whether he was more perturbed at the Beast's *trying* such an ancient ploy or Attila's *falling* for it.

Dummy: S-AQ10x, H-KQJxx, D-Q10x, C-J.
Beast: S-KJxxx, H-Ax, D-Jxx, C-AKx.

After 1S:4C (splinter): 6S the Cowboy led a diamond to his partner's King. Spotting the opportunity for a Trump Commotion the Beast ruffed in at trick one – only to hear Dummy ask on cue: "No diamonds, partner?"

"Nope...uh...whoops! I *do* have one tucked in here. Sorry, gents!" As he apologized he played the diamond Jack. Attila switched to a club and the Beast made 6S.

Maverick's contemptuous glare focused like a laser on his erstwhile ersatz partner. Attila tried to ignore it. He began to fidget with his score sheet, fumble with his cards, and innocently light a cigarette. Long moments of suspended silence lurched by before the Cowboy spoke.

"Partner," he asked solemnly, "were your parents related?"

Dummy: S-xxx, H-AJ97, D-AKx, C-KJx.
Beast: S-Jxx, H-K1086, D-Qxx, C-AQx.

Against 4H the defence cashed their three spade tricks and exited a club. The Beast won this *in hand* and then led the Jack of hearts *from the table*. Attila's quick objection betrayed the location of the missing trump Queen.

"My apologies again," said Declarer, as he played a heart to the Ace and then finessed through Attila. Making 4H.

"Ah, yes," smiled the Cowboy knowingly. "A Blue Cross Coup!"

"Why do you call it that?" chuckled the Beast.

"Try it on us again," growled Attila, "and you'll find out!"

Thrice provoked, the Cowboy was not yet moved to retaliatory measures.

On the next hand the Beast opened 1D on S-AKxx, H-void, D-AQxxx, C-AKxx. Maverick's pre-emptive 3H overcall was doubled "co-operatively" on his left. Attila passed. The Beast was just about to cuebid 4H when he remembered the "Rabies Rule":

If partner is frothing at the mouth it's always right to leave his double in!

Seeing that his partner was visibly hydrophobic at the moment the Beast decided that his most co-operative course of action here was a pass. This worked out remarkably well opposite S-xxx, H-KJ9xxx, D-xx, C-xx. Down only six, 1100.

"Bid three, made three," giggled the Beast obnoxiously.

And *still* the Cowboy exercised restraint!

Ironically, the final straw came from a coincidental equivocation. Bridge in Punkydoodle's Corners is played in a vacuum. Conventions and terms thought to be universal elsewhere are unheard of there, and vice versa. Ray Bradbury's "Martian Chronicles" – in the original Martian! – would be far more comprehensible to us that the Foursome's convention card.

continued

Fear continued

Returning to the scene of the crime, Attila had dealt and opened an artificial 2H, duly alerted. Before passing, the Beast indicated some HCP strength by subjecting Maverick to the third degree. (Naturally, had the Beast held a yarb he'd show no such curiosity, clammup up like a witness taking the Fifth Amendment). His inquisitiveness allowed his partner to balance with an ugly 12-count, leading their side to any easy 3NT, making four.

In the peculiar nomenclature of Punkydoodle's Corners this all-too-common "defence against alerts" is called "Third (Degree) and Fifth (Amendment)".

opposite their teammates' contribution of +1430 for 6S, making.

On the next hand, holding S-AQxx, H-xxx, D-x, C-AKxxx, the Law of Average's Most Wanted Man heard LHO's 4H opening bid come around to him. With no one vulnerable he tried 4S, an asking bid (asking for mercy). Pass. Pass. In bidding such a tentative contract the Cowboy relied upon the "Richter Rule":

If the opponent's double registers above 2.5 on the Richter scale, run. Otherwise, sit it out.

The Beast's double sounded like a violation of the Nuclear Arms Accord. Maverick bolted to 5C, caught partner with S-x, H-xx, D-Kxxxx, C-QJ10x and rolled home with +550 when doubled again.

Having dispensed with the basics, the Cowboy now moved on to a more advanced technique: the Psycho Psyche.

"Three spades," he pre-empted.

"But you haven't taken your cards out of the slot!" complained the Beast.

"Three spades," persisted Maverick.

A director was summoned. There are rules against "frivolous bids" but one look at the blood in Maverick's eye told the director that these did not apply. Nevertheless, the Cowboy was ordered to look at his hand and change his call as necessary.

"Thank you," complied the Cowpoke, sorting and surmising his holding.

"THREE SPADES!"

Beast's Pard

S-xxxxx

H-K

D-Jxx

C-K10xx

Cowboy

S-xx

H-Qxxx

D-Qxx

C-Axxx

Attila

S-K

H-Jxxx

D-AK10xxxx

C-xx

The Beast

S-AQJ10x

H-A10xxx

D-void

C-QJx

Pass. Attila converted to 3NT. Double. All passed. The spade Queen lead handed Declarer his ninth trick and +750 to add onto +1430 from the other table.

"I bid spades. Didn't anyone ever teach you," Maverick asked the Beast, "not to lead the opponents' suits?"

The match completed, our heroes left their victims to brood over the cause of their disaster.

"They cheated us!" cursed the Beast's partner roundly.

"Worse!" cried the Beast, "They OUT-CHEATED us!!"



EYE APPEAL by Dr. Harry Mann

If you have good vision lateral
In bridge it's triple A collateral.

A Well-Defended Hand

by Brian Pauls, Winnipeg

The deal which follows came up in a tournament many years ago. East-West were Ira Rubin and Jeff Westheimer. I held the South cards. It was an experience at the time very novel for me — I felt like a carcass picked over by vultures.

North

S - K 10 5 4

H - J 9 7 5

D - A 3

C - 7 6 5

West

S - 9 8 6 2

H - 8 3

D - K Q 8 7 6

C - A 3

East

S - Q 3

H - A 4

D - J 10 9 2

C - K J 10 9 4

South

S - A J 7

H - K Q 10 6 2

D - 5 4

C - Q 8 2

After two passes, I opened the bidding with One Heart in third position. West passed, North called Two hearts and everyone passed.

West led the King of diamonds. I called for dummy's Ace and East followed suit with the Jack.

At trick two, I played the Jack of hearts. East put on the Ace (West following suit) and shifted to the Jack of Clubs which held. On a small club continuation, I played low but West took the Ace. He led a low diamond to East's nine. East now took the King of Clubs, West discarding a diamond, and exited with a trump. West also following suit as I won the trick.

And there it was. An ideal hand to strip out and force the opponents after capturing their five certain tricks, to break spades, eliminating my need to guess the location of the queen.

Instead, the opponents had taken their five winners and I was thrown in. Each player had disclosed nine high card points (East: Ace of Hearts; Jack of Diamonds;

King-Jack of Clubs — West: King-Queen of Diamonds; Ace of Clubs). Either could hold the queen of spades.

I finally resolved it — when I had recovered my poise after the play to the first six tricks — as follows: West apparently started play with two clubs, two hearts, and five or six diamonds. If five, he had four spades, so the odds were 4-2 that one of his spades would be the queen. I finessed against him, only to lose to the doubleton queen. An unbelievable experience.

This was one of the few occasions during my many years of playing tournament bridge that I congratulated the opponents, and actually felt almost proud to have participated (if unwillingly) in such a work of art.



World Bidding Contest

Six hundred and forty pairs from twenty-one countries participated in the 1986 world bidding contest. Eighty-four of those pairs were Canadian, with four of our pairs cited in the overall rankings. Don and Gladys Campbell of Saskatoon were fourth, Lescault and Pelletier fifteenth, Sherman Kwan and Paul Sontag of Vancouver nineteenth, and Rivard and Masse, twenty-first. Two of the pairs participated in a game or games that were not reported through me, so I do not have complete names and addresses.

The 1987 contest will be held between April 3 and April 20. Ask your club manager to contact the CBF Director in your zone to get the hand records from me if you are interested in participating this year.

F.A. Baragar
6608 - 84th Street,
Edmonton, AB, T6E 2W9



I'm Confused

by David House

The familiar voice of Phil Wood booms over the microphone: "Ladies and gentlemen, it's 7:52 and time to find your places. And just to note again, the ceremonial milling-about has been cancelled for tonight."

I'm confused. I'm ready to play but I don't know where to sit, and so I wander through the rows of tables hoping to find a teammate.

"Four minutes to game time. Find your places." That's easy for him to say. It should be easy for me to do. It isn't.

I'm no stranger to confusion. When I played Swiss Teams in my first tournament in 1980 I was very confused. Our results verify that. I knew nothing about IMP tactics and a first-round win wasn't to be. Then it was time to try again. Where to go? "Easy," said my partner as she took out a felt marker and scribbled the number 18 on the back of my hand. "That's our team number," she said, "and if you look at that board on the wall behind the directors at the reporting table, you will see A3 written on the card below number 18. That means we are to go and sit N-S at table A3 and our teammates will sit E-W at B3."

Simple, and I caught on fast. We even won a few matches.

I attended my first Nationals in Miami in the fall of 1983. When we entered our first Swiss Teams, I was confused. I couldn't find the 'racks' on any of the many walls of this cavernous room we were in. I discovered they had an 'assignment ticket method' in use there, and as the day dragged on I not only rediscovered confusion, but started to get really miffed. A few days later I played in another Swiss in the same room. When it ended I was angry. In two days I'd seen it all. Hundreds of people surrounding 4 card tables with assignment tickets on them, elbowing others aside to get their assignment and then wandering in search of their team-

mates. Of course, there was always one in the washroom, one at the coffee concession, and another so short as to be almost impossible to find.

"Who's got the slip?", "Didn't you get it?", "I'm sure I put it inside my convention card, but it's not there.", "Maybe you dropped it somewhere.", Oh, here it is in my pocket.", "This isn't our ticket, we're team 118, not 181", "All matches are posted!", "Where's the ticket for 181!?"

Believe me, if you weren't there, it was a zoo. I asked Phil Wood why they didn't use assignment racks here, as we have done in districts 18 and 19 since 1968. He said, "Because they do it this way." That's all I could learn then and I figured things would change with time as others discovered this more efficient method. Nothing has changed.

I talked with Max Hardy about this and he told me that he likes to use an even more efficient and less error-prone method, employing an overhead projector. Using this system, he says, allows room to post each team's current record along with its assignment. This can help correct a wrong assignment because of a mis-reported ticket before it's too late. Though I haven't seen this in use, it seemed even more simple and sensible. Max said that often he also has room to post the leader board on the screen. He told me that this technique was pioneered by Becky Schneider and Gary Blaiss. I went to talk with Becky Schneider at the tournament today and she told me that tomorrow they will use an overhead projector posting method in the semifinal of the North American Swiss tomorrow. I look forward to seeing how well this works if we can Q. How about some feedback? How do you feel about this matter? The game is already complicated enough. Let's keep it simple where we can.

And while we're talking Swiss Teams, here's an old horse that's apparently not been flogged to death. Traditionally, as

Continued on page 10

Molson Brews, Baran Stews

As reported in the Daily Bulletin at the Toronto NACs.

They say that the best stories are those that happen in real life, and this deal from the LM Pairs finals should satisfy any doubting Thomases.

Board: 27 S Q
 Dir: South H J6
 Vul: None D 10654
 C KQ10743

S AK9742 S J853
 H AK32 H Q105
 D 732 D AKQJ98
 C Void C Void

S 106
 H 9874
 D Void
 C AJ98652

WEST (Baran)	NORTH (Sutherlin)	EAST (Molson)	SOUTH (Morse)
1S	3C	3D	3H!
3S	Pass	4C	4S!!
5H	Pass	5NT	Pass
7C	Pass	7D	Pass
7NT!!			

The auction on deal 27 went as shown, with Morse as South throwing assorted monkey wrenches into the bidding after his partner had overcalled in clubs. Baran-Molson went through a series of cuebids and the Grand Slam Force before arriving at the only makeable slam – 7D (7S by West goes down on a diamond lead). At this point, however, Baran chose to read his partner's earlier club cuebid as showing the ace rather than a void – after all, he was looking at a void himself, and South had never supported clubs (though his bids were certainly suspect). So because this was match-points, Baran decided to convert the diamond slam to 7NT, which was about to suffer a highly undignified fate.

But a funny thing happened on the way to down seven. North, forgetting that East had bid 5NT earlier and was therefore the declarer, put the CK on the table. Since this was a lead out of turn, East could now bar

a club lead and thus wrap up the grand. But while Baran was exhorting North that he was not on lead, Molson absentmindedly tabled the dummy, thereby accepting the lead out of turn! Down seven after all – justice may be blind, but right now she is wearing a very big smile.

(Editor's Note: The way I heard the story, Molson *intentionally* tabled dummy, thinking Baran held the Club Ace.)

WBF Rankings

The following Canadians are currently ranked as World Life Masters and World Masters by the World Bridge Federation:

World Life Masters

Eric Murray	Toronto ON
Sami Kehela	Toronto ON
Gerald Charney	Toronto ON
William Crissey	London ON
Bruce Elliott	Toronto ON
Percy Sheardown	Toronto ON
Duncan Phillips	Toronto ON

World Masters

Eric Kokish	Montreal PQ
Peter Nagy	Montreal PQ
George Mittelman	Toronto ON
Dianna Gordon	Toronto ON
Sharyn Reus	Montreal PQ
Francine Cimon	Montreal PQ
Allan Graves	Vancouver BC
Mary Paul	Toronto ON
Irene Hodgson	Toronto ON
Karen Allison	now New York
Sydney Isaacs	London ON
Marilyn Pearce	Simcoe ON
Bruce Gowdy	Toronto ON
Sandra Fraser	Montreal PQ
Franco Bandoni	Toronto ON
Don Cowan	Toronto ON
Katie Thorpe	Toronto ON



MICKEY MILLER

A consummate gentleman passed away suddenly on 1 December, 1986.

Mickey Miller was known for his impeccable manners at and away from the bridge table. He was one of the most respected players in the game.

Mickey was Canada's 16th Life Master. As well as countless other victories, he won the 1951 Reisinger, the 1955 Toronto Regional Open Teams, the 1959 Can-Am Open Teams, and, after "retiring" from bridge for about 17 years, returned to win the 1984 Toronto Regional Mixed Pairs and the 1985 Niagara Falls Seniors' Regional Flight A Pairs.

He devised several conventions, such as the Boland Convention, the Miller 5♣ Convention, the Miller Adjunct to the Flint 3♦ Convention, and in 1960 a variation of the Grand Slam Force (7♣ to show two top honors in the agreed suit). He was completing a new variation of lebensohl just before he died.

Charles Goren said Mickey was "the finished product at the table". He could bid, defend, and especially play the hand superbly, and always maintained his gracious demeanor.

Our heartfelt sympathies go to his wife, Susan. We shall miss Mickey, and remember him always.

Larochelle

continué de la page 13

cinquième; environ 12 P.H.

- 4♠ : les mineures; contrôle à pique; intérêt pour le chelem.
- 4 SA: Blackwood.
- 2 SA dans les autres cas, soit avec moins de 8 points ou plus de 11. L'annonce de 2 SA est impérative et demande au partenaire de gager 3 trèfles, sauf avec un surplus.

LA SUITE QUAND LE CONTREUR A GAGÉ 3♠ SUR 2 SA

- Le répondant passe, gage 3♦ ou 3♥ avec un jeu faible.
- 3♣ : impératif de manche; dénie les coeurs et dénie un arrêt des piques.
- 3 SA: montre quatre coeurs et un arrêt des piques.
- 4♣, 4♦ : invitationnel.
- 4♥, 5♣, 5♦ : moins bon que si gagé sans passer par 2 SA.
- 4♠ : même chose que directement, mais sans contrôle à pique.
- 4 SA: quantitatif; 16-18 P.H.

QUAND L'OUVERTURE EST À 2♥

La suite est un peu la même, sauf que 2 piques montre un jeu faible (moins de 8 points), 3 piques est impératif et dénie un arrêt à pique, alors que 3 piques après avoir passé par 2 SA est invitationnel.

QUAND L'OUVERTURE EST À 2♦

Je conseille la même structure, sauf que le cue-bid à saut montre une majeure et une mineure. Avec les majeures, on peut commencer par 3♦.

REVENONS À LA MAIN DE TOUT À L'HEURE

A mon avis, sur 2 SA, Nord ne doit pas gager 3 trèfles avec un singleton. S'il est assez fort en effet pour contrer malgré le singleton, il est assez fort pour gager 3 coeurs ensuite.

Ceci dit et à partir de la structure proposée, je crois que Sud est trop faible pour gager 4 piques. Cependant il est assez fort pour gager directement au palier de trois (Je préfère 3♦ à 3♣). Les enchères auraient pu être les suivantes: CONTRE -3♦ -3♥ -4♣ -6♦.

The Canadian Premier Bridge League

by Bruce Watson, St. John's, Newfoundland

Author's Disclaimer: I'm no dissident. This tale is futuristic. There is no Canadian Premier Bridge League. In fact, the very idea of Canadians forming their own league when we can belong to a perfectly good organization south of the border is completely alien to the Canadian persona. Such a radical notion would never occur to us. And if it did we would certainly never act on it. It could only be done by a disgruntled expatriate American.

"Bzzzzziittt"

These new voice-activated cam-puters that were gradually replacing the telephone were starting to get annoying. With all this technology you'd think that they could at least come up with a decent "ring". Anyway, I yelled out our password (which had to be frequently changed for security reasons) and took up a position within five feet of the monitor inside a thirty degree "window" as required.

The things were generating a whole new etiquette too. I could tell it was Grandma's face appearing on the screen but she was bit-mapped, which indicated a serious call. It would be mildly insulting if I didn't switch into high-resolution mode also.

As usual, she didn't waste any time getting to the point.

"Listen Jerry. Your father and I had a slight difference of opinion the other night involving a four-level forcing pass. Sometimes he just can't work things out at the table. Anyway, I was hoping you would partner me tomorrow for the Premier League game.

"Well now, Nan. Maureen and I had planned to see Star Trek XII."

"I know. I phoned her and she agreed we should go Sunday. My treat."

"The three of us?"

"Of course."

"Well, okay I suppose."

"Good," said Grandma, "and Jerry, come for lunch tomorrow. There are a couple of things I want to go over with you before the first session."

The Canadian Premier Bridge League had been born just two years ago. In the late 70's it had been clear that the loose arrangement that the CBF had with the ACBL was caus-

ing problems, especially relating to participation in national and international events. For example, no ACBL member could be prevented from playing in ACBL-sanctioned national championships. This was inconvenient when the national championships were Canadian. Furthermore, ACBL-events allowed no "non-standard" conventions while world events were quite wide-open in this regard. Thus it was more difficult to prepare for international events.

Eventually, the executive of the CBF had realized that there was only one thing wedding the Canadian Trials to the ACBL: the masterpoint. Give up the masterpoint in these elite events and they could have their cake and eat it too. So the CBF had created a League. It was not in competition with the ACBL-sanctioned clubs. Within Canada, it simply sat above (and slightly to the left of) the ACBL.

The new League had broken well from the gate thanks to two radical moves taken by the executive. First, they had replaced the masterpoint with something every Canadian loves: prize-money. The League took 20% of the entry fees, "like the track," Nan had said. The remainder, after expenses, was redistributed in prize-money with first place overall getting 50% of the matchpoint pool.

"Not as large as I would have liked," Grandma had said, "but with a few side-bets I'll come out all right."

Secondly, they had completely banned smoking and no one had died.

When I arrived on Saturday Nan had a nice "little" lunch ready.

"Musn't overeat before a session, Jerry," she warned. Over coffee she reminded me of a few things that she like to use.

“... upside-down attitude and count, Lebensohl for getting out after reverses, and SDI!”

“You got League clearance for that?” I asked.

“Finally” she responded. “Zone III was holding it up. Sometimes I think they’re more conservative than the ACBL. And of course they had to change it a little. Here’s what it looks like now.”

She handed me a file card on which the following was neatly typed.

SDI: A defence (by an unpassed hand) to forcing openings:

Pass: 13+ balanced

1♦: More cards in minors than majors; tends to be balanced

1♥: More cards in majors than minors; tends to be balanced

1♠: Spade-Diamond two-suiter; any strength

X: Heart-Club two-suiter; any strength

2♣ through 2♠: That suit and the next higher ranking; any strength

1NT: Unspecified six-card or longer suit; any strength.

SDI was Grandmother’s latest creation. Her theory was that the most dangerous hands to come in with directly over a big club were the balanced ones of average strength. She had continued her argument like this in front of the local conventions committee. “If we have no points than they have a game, and if we have some shape then we probably have a safe spot somewhere. A big club opener is like announcing an incoming missile. It might land in hearts, spades, notrump, or whatever. By deploying our defence we neutralize their missile wherever its going. The system is actually a strategic defence initiative, or SDI for short.”

Personally I was a little skeptical, especially since she had named it after an American political ploy from the 80’s that had no theoretical chance of success and hadn’t worked in practice.

But, armed with SDI, we launched into the first session. We met only two pairs playing a big club but, on those four hands, our

opponents had two one club openers. On the first, with neither side vulnerable, Grandma overcalled one diamond with

♠ J 7 2 ♥ K 5 2 ♦ K 10 7 ♣ 8 7 5 3.

I had only three diamonds but it didn’t matter. The opponents ignored us completely and bid their normal three notrump.

On the other I had to choose between one heart and two spades on

♠ Q 10 8 4 2 ♥ 6 3 ♦ K 5 ♣ 10 8 6 2

Although two spades was allowed systemically (as a borderline two-suiter), one heart seemed more than enough red against white. This was passed around to opener who doubled. I removed this to one spade and again our opponents bid to three notrump. But this time four hearts was slightly better. Grandma was all smiles.

No smiles after the first session though. Among other things I had had my usual opening lead problems and our 192 was a board behind the Fulbrights’. This particularly annoyed Grandma who did not relish coming in second to “Deano” as she referred to Dr. Fulbright (before retirement he had been Dean of Liberal Arts at West something-or-other State).

Four years ago Grandma had landed on her feet after psyching a takeout double against him. Deano, always a stickler for proper procedure, had hauled her up before the Appeals Committee. The committee had allowed the result to stand but the damage had been done.

So before the start of the evening session I was prepared for a stern lecture from Grandma. But to my surprise, all I got was a pleasant “Let’s bear down, Jerry,” and oblique references to how these games nicely augmented her pension.

Anyway, all of this must have had some effect because things went mostly our way in the final. With one round to go Grandma confided that two average boards would probably suffice. So I went for a cup of coffee and Grandma departed for the ladies’ room. When she returned though, she had modified her strategy.

“I overheard,” she said. “that the Fulbrights are having another good session.”

"Two average-plus boards, Jerry," she continued, "just to be safe. Our opponents for the last round are the Fulbrights."

Grandma did get a good result on the first board of the set, landing a tricky three notrump that wouldn't be bid at every table.

On the last board of the event Mrs. Fulbright, on my right, dealt and passed.

"Alert," said Deano.

I asked what this was all about.

"Forcing pass," said Deano. "Thirteen plus with any distribution."

In order to gain a little time I picked up their convention card and started to study it. Also, I started to feel a little uneasy. Did Grandma use SDI against a strong pass? Surely not. For starters, the double to show the odd combination two-suiter in hearts and clubs was impossible. So with confidence, I also passed.

"Alert," said Grandma.

"Yes," said Deano.

"Thirteen plus," answered Grandma, "but ours, Dr. Fulbright, shows balanced distribution."

"Thank you," said Deano, giving Grandma an icy stare. He was looking at

♠ K742 ♥ A103 ♦ J1092 ♣ 97

and decided to lay a trap for Grandma. From his point of view, he may or may not have a makeable game. And, since Grandma was forced to protect, he just might collect a large penalty.

"Pass," said Deano.

"Pass," said Grandma.

An eerie silence followed, with no one wanting to place their cards back in the board. Finally, although it couldn't have been more than a couple of seconds, there was a choking and sputtering from the general direction of Mrs. Fulbright.

"How can you pass," she shrieked at Deano. "The first, and probably only, thirty count of my entire life and you pass the hand out."

This was the complete deal.

N
♠: 10 9 8 6
♥: 7
♦: 7 6 5 3
♣: 10 6 4 3

W
♠: K 7 4 2
♥: A 10 3
♦: J 10 9 2
♣: 9 7

E
♠: A Q J
♥: K Q J 4
♦: A K Q
♣: A K J

S
♠: 5 3
♥: 9 8 6 5 2
♦: 8 4
♣: Q 8 5 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Deano	Grandma	Mrs. Fulbright	Me
—	—	Pass	Pass
Pass	Pass		

I must admit that Deano reacted decently enough. "I guess we both psyched a pass," was all he said to Grandma.

"Yes," she answered. "I don't know what came over me. I haven't psyched anything in four years, especially a pass."

While we waited for scores Grandma asked, "What do you think of SDI now, Jerry?"

"It has some potential Nan," I replied diplomatically, "but I'd prefer to give it a longer test. I wish a legitimate pass situation had come up."

"Yes," Grandma answered. "You had a straightforward one club call against the Fulbrights."

"I was wondering how to show that heart-club two-suiter," I said. In Grandma's defence, one club did seem to fit logically with the rest of the scheme as a replacement for the double.

"Oh, it all fits," Grandma said while glancing down at the scores. "Sometimes you just have to work things out at the table."

"By the way," she continued, "I've got an idea for encrypting defensive signals against notrump. I'll tell you about it tomorrow during the movie."



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