canadian bridge digest

CANADIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION FEDERATION CANADIENNE DE BRIDGE

See p.6 My Friend the Bridge Player



Eric Murray

Canadian Bridge Digest

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Editorial

One of the purposes of this magazine is to provide an outlet for would-be Canadian bridge writers. Your contributions are welcome; don't wait for an invitation — we may not know you. Is there anything you would like to share with our readers? Perhaps you have witnessed an interesting or amusing hand, or you have invented a new convention, or maybe you would just like to tell us about developments in your home town. Or would you like to submit an original cartoon? Please send your contribution to the editor (address above) before September 1. If possible, include a photograph. Thank you.

This edition of the Canadian Bridge Digest introduces a new feature: The Canadian Bidding Challenge for the Maurice Paul trophy; eight famous pairs; representing most of the regions of the country, were invited to participate. We were most fortunate to convince Eric Kokish, this country's foremost bridge writer and bidding theoretician, to act as challenge editor. It made us feel good to see sixteen name players, one name writer and half a dozen volunteer monitors freely give of their time to make this project possible. We hope you will enjoy the series.

Les amateurs de bridge du Québec auront occasion d'accueillir les meilleurs bridgeurs du pays, lorsqu'auront lieu les championnats Canadiens par équipes au Château Bonne Entente à Québec du 6 au 10 juin. Les spectateurs seront évidemment bienvenus. C'est un événement à ne pas manquer.

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Canada Wins Tri-Country Playoff

Condensed from an article by Eric Kokish

Canada made its first Bermuda Bowl appearance in 1985 in Sao Paolo, earning that right by defeating Mexico and Bermuda in the first-ever Tri-nation playoff. In mid-February, the reigning team champions of these three nations met in Mexico City to play off for the second North American place in the 1987 Bowl in Ocho Rios, Jamaica, in October.

In the round-robin segment of the playoff, the Canadian team of Michael Schoenborn-Harmon Edgar, Arno Hobart-Marty Kirr and Greg Carroll-David Turner defeated both of their opponents to qualify for the final, where they met Mexico, who had bested Bermuda.

Mexico faced an uphill battle, and while the players fought hard and played enterprising bridge, they never came really close and the final margin was exactly 100 IMPs.

All three Canadian pairs live in the Toronto area, and the team is relatively young (all players are in their thirties or early forties). Although the team played in the Miami Olympiad last year, the 1987 Bermuda Bowl will be the most important event in their combined experience. They are in a strong position to practice hard as a team for the Bermuda Bowl and they will have another tough Canadian Teams Championship under their belts before the date with destiny in Ocho Rios. They hope to make a stronger showing than the Canadian San Paolo squad did, and everything is in their favour to make that happen.

The Mexican hosts, headed by Jacobo Podbilevitch and Mapita Reich, provided first class hospitality for the visitors and Tournament Co-ordinator Guillermo Poplawski ran an immaculate tournament with the assistance of Director Gary Blaiss. The second Tri-Country playoff was played in a spirit of excellent sportsmanship and a tradition has been established in just two runnings of this event.

Here are a couple of key hands from the final. First a brilliant play of a type that we have never previously encountered:

	North (Schoenborn) ♠ AQJ74 ♡ AK109 ◊ J5 ♣ 74	
West ◆ 95 ♡ 864 ◇ KQ83 ◆ K1065	South (Edgar) ◆ K1082 ♡ 732 ◇ 1074 ◆ AQ8	East ◆ 63 ♡ QJ5 ◇ A962 ◆ J932

Harmon Edgar declared 4♠ from the South side after a canape 1♥ opening by Schoenborn. West led a trump and Edgar decided to eschew the 25% double heart finesse. Instead he led a second trump and played three rounds of hearts. He hoped that West would win, and seeing the ♦ J in dummy, switch to clubs. Alas, it was East who won the third heart, and he switched to a low diamond to West's queen. On this trick, Edgar "unblocked" the ♦ J from dummy, feigning A10x. This seemed to have the desired effect, for West switched to a club to give up the contract.

And now, a bidding triumph:

West	North Schoenborn ♠ A109863 ♡ Q ◊ Q65 ♠ 1043	East	South <i>Edgar</i> ♦ K2 ♡ 954 ◊ AK ♣ AKQJ72
–	-	1♡	3 ♥ (1)
Pass	3 ♠ (2)	Pass	5 ♣ (3)
Pass	6 ♣ (4)	Pass	Pass

- (1) Solid minor, asks for heart stopper
- (2) No heart stopper, more or less encouraging, since 4 ♠ would have been weak.
- (3) I can count 10 tricks now.

(4) And two heart ruffs or the ⋄Q makes 12.

L'AVANTAGE DES FICHES AMBULANTES FRANÇAISES

par Kamel Fergani et André Trudelle



Andre Trudelle

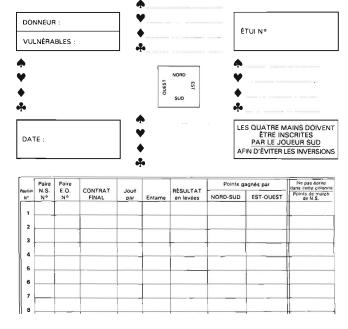
Deux Montréalais ont profité de quelques jours de vacances à Paris pour jouer au bridge dans quelques clubs de la capitale française. L'expérience leur a beaucoup plus. Ils ont été étonnés de trouver autant de clubs dans la région parisienne, quelque 80, et surtout de la popularité du jeu. Dans certains clubs, Le Bridgeur, avenue Foch, et l'Amicale

du XVe notamment, les habitués peuvent profiter d'une douzaine de séances hebdomadaires.

En plus de se rendre compte que les clubs français utilisaient, depuis un certain temps, semble-t-il, les boîtes à enchères et l'ordinateur, les deux Montréalais ont constaté l'avantage des fiches ambulantes qu'on emploie lá-bas. A la première table, le joueur situé en Sud inscrit sur la fiche les quatre mains, la date, tous les détails que nous donnons ici, mais, en plus, l'entame. Et par la suite, à chaque table, Sud continue à inscrire l'entame avec le résultat enregistré. Cette coutume permet une discussion plus intéressante des mains à la fin du tournoi.

Souvent, des bridgeurs se demandent comment tel ou tel contrat a chuté ou a été réussi contre toute vraisemblance. Mais à partir de l'entame, les explications sont plus faciles

TOURNOI PAR PAIRES



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À quand une telle coutume en Amérique du Nord?

Au sujet des ordinateurs, plusieurs clubs de la région de Montréal en ont fait l'essai. Le club de la Rive-Sud est entré depuis quelques mois déjà dans l'ére de l'informatique. D'autres clubs ont suivi et suivront. A Longueuil, le club s'est procuré un Compu-Pak de 640K de RAM, avec deux lecteurs de disquettes, un moniteur et une imprimanate. Le logiciel provient de Barclay's Bridge Supply, de l'État de New York.

Mélange de bridge

On y a mis du temps, mais les difficultés sont nombreuses. Il faut obtenir les textes des auteurs bénévoles, préparer la mise en page, chercher des annonceurs. Mais c'est fait!

La toute dernière édition du Mélange de bridge, dont la Ligue de bridge de Montréal est particulierement fière, a enfin atteint les membres de l'ACBL de la région.

À eux de juger. . .

Dans un autre ordre d'idée, la Fédération québécoise de bridge, qui a pour but de promouvoir le bridge à travers toute la province, devait recevoir une nouvelle orientation, le mois dernier, lors du tournoi disputé au Château Bonne-Entente, à Sainte-Foy.

À cette occasion, on devait procéder à la nomination des administrateurs. Il en sera un plus longuement question lors de notre prochain article.

À signaler, la naissance d'un nouveau club dans le quartier Saint-Henri, celui des Loisirs Saint-Zotique, situé au centre récréatif, au 75 Sir Georges-Etienne-Cartier, à la hauteur du 4545 de la rue Notre-Dame ouest.

Georges Giasson est le responsable du club (933-2860) et Denis Martin en est le directeur des tournois. La séance hebdomadaire a lieu le lundi soir à 19 h.

Le problème qui suit, rapporté par Kamel Fergani, provient des Championnats mondiaux de bridge tenus l'automne dernier à Miami, dans le tournoi Rosenblum. La main a été jouée par le docteur Raymond Fortin, partenaire de Kamel.

Donneur: Sud Vulnérabilité: tous

NORD
♠ DV74
♡ RV85
◊ 10742
4 4

OUEST	EST
♦ 8532	♦ aucun
♥63	♡ 10742
♦5	♦ DV983
♣ AV8752	♣ D1063

SUD
♦ AR1096
♡AD9
♦AR6
♣ R9

Encheres			
Sud	Ouest	Nord	Est
(Fortin)		(Kamel)	
2♣	Passe	2 ♦ +	contre
2 💠	Passe	4 🕈 ++	Passe
4 ♦	Passe	4♡	Passe
6 	Passe	Passe	Passe

= 2 ♦ indique aucun ou un contrôle;

++ = 4 - indique un Splinter.

Entame: 5 de ◊

Aprés l'entame à ◊ , le contrat semble sur la table...jusqu'à se revèle le mauvais partage des atouts. Le déclarant ayant appris par les enchères qu'ouest avait un singleton à ◊, deux lignes de jeu se présentent à lui:

1 - Si l'As de 🗣 est en Est, il suffit de vider les atouts, de déposer un \Diamond perdant sur le ♥ puis de tirer petit ♣ vers le Roi.

2 - Si l'As de 🗣 est en Ouest, il faut tout de suite jouer le Roi de 🕈 pour donner une coupe au mort et empêcher Est de prendre la main et revenir ◊, ce qui fera chuter le contrat.

Le docteur Fortin a correctement adopté la deuxième ligne de jeu, celle qui fonctionne, en se disant que si Est avait contré 2 ♦ avec une couleur commandée par D V, il aurait aussi contré le Splinter à 4 🗣 s'il avait eu l'As. Cette main, jouée par les deux Québecois contre une équipe de Taiwan, a rapporté 12 IMPs à l'équipe.

98cbd5 May/mai 1987

MY FRIEND THE BRIDGE PLAYER PART 1

by Doug Cannell, Winnipeg

When I first began playing Bridge in the middle fifties, Canadian players such as Shorty Sheardown and Bruce Elliot were names to conjure with. It was about this time that a new face began to appear in the ACBL Bulletin, one Eric Rutherford Murray. Initially his regular partner was Doug Drury, who subsequently moved to San Francisco. He was replaced by Sammi Kehela, and it was generally accepted that this would be a partnership that would rank with the best in the world. A prognostication that would shortly be proven true. In 1964 and 1965 Murray, Kehela, Sheardown and Elliot won the Spingold Trophy two years in succession. Murray had previously won the Mixed Team in 1962 and subsequently represented North America in the Bermuda Bowl playing with Charlie Coon and Sammi Kehela.

As a neophyte Duplicate player from Middle Canada, the opportunity to play against or kibitz name players was limited to attending Nationals or journeying to the Easter Regional in Toronto. Finally the opportunity arrived, the Summer Nationals of 1962 was to be in Minneapolis. It was here that I had the first chance to observe the formidable Mr. Murray as he played with Agnes Gordon, Charlie Coon and Helen Portugal to win the Mixed Team event.

In 1965 Eric wrote all the Canadian Units, inviting them to send a representative to the Summer Nationals in Chicago, the object to form a Canadian organization to select players to represent Canada in international events, and to take control of charitable donations collected in Canada, presently administered by the ACBL. At the time I was Vice President of the Manitoba Unit and was designated to represent our Unit at the meeting.

The meeting took place at the Palmer House in Chicago and there was a fair representation from units across Canada. Henry Smilie from B.C., Aaron Goodman from Montreal, Don Dobson from Halifax, plus others whose names now escape me. Murray was elected President of the newly formed organization which we called the Canadian Bridge Congress. The writer was elected Vice President, Aaron Goodman Treasurer and Henry Smilie Secretary.

I would like to correct an impression that was made in a previous article in the Digest that the writer was the first President of the CBF. While this is technically true, it occurred because it was decided that as there was already a CBC in Canada we should change the name to the Canadian Bridge Federation. The name was officially changed in 1967 in Montreal, just after I assumed the Presidency of the organization. Make no mistake it was the driving force of Eric Murray that created and brought to fruition the Canadian Bridge Federation, albeit under the name of Canadian Bridge Congress.

My initial impression of Eric was his imposing physical characteristics and his dominating demeanour. But more than these, his acerbic wit. As the object of his acerbity on more than one occasion, I can attest to the devastating effect it can have on one's ego at the bridge table.

My first encounter at the table occurred when I was in Toronto on business and called Eric on the phone. My secret desire was to engineer a bridge game with him, so I asked him if he was busy that evening. The negative reply brough a suggestion from me that perhaps we could have a game. "Are you crazy Cannell, I never play in the local clubs, but maybe I can persuade someone to play with you." was his response. I protested that

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it wasn't necessary. He then stated that if I came over to the house, he would barbecue a steak for me. I accepted the invitation and after dinner, Eric reiterated that we would go over to one of the local clubs and see if he could persuade someone to sit across the table from me. In spite of my protestations we proceeded to the club and Murray disappeared until just before game time. He reappeared and informed me that he had canvassed the entire club but no one was willing to take me on, therefore it seems he would have to make the supreme sacrifice. In retrospect, I think it was his plan all along, although I'm sure he would vehemently deny it.

The first three rounds went very well and I was in a state of euphoria. Here I was playing with not only the best Canadian player, but one of the world's acknowledged greats and apparently holding up my end rather well. Then disaster struck. The first hand out of the box in the fourth round produced this bidding, with Eric the dealer.

North (Murray)	East	South (Cannell)	West
Pass Dble	Pass Pass	Pass ?	1 🕈
My Hand: ♠x ♡ Qx ♦ KJxxx ♣ A10xxx			

I conceived a problem as to how to show both minors with one bid. Obviously the correct bid is two diamonds and if given another opportunity, show the club suit. Brilliant logic came to me in a flash: the unusual no-trump! Now even the beginner who has just learned the unusual no-trump would know that this was incorrect, but I was sitting opposite one of the great players in the world and he would interpret the bid as unusual. He didn't, he bid three no-trump. The opponents passed quietly and

proceeded to cash the first seven tricks. Eric reached across the table and removed my hand from the board. He replaced it, then raising both hands in the air, and in a voice that reverberated off the Royal York some ten miles away, said "Cannell you're from some other planet". Every head in the room turned, directing their gaze at me. I wanted to crawl under a rug but there was no place to hide. The rest of the evening continued in stony silence except for perfunct bids.

That incident occurred early in 1967. Later that year, the first all Canadian team trials were held in Winnipeg to select the Canadian Olympiad team. We arranged to meet the out of town teams and drive them to their hotels. I was standing in the concourse of the Winnipeg air terminal and the first one to disembark was Eric Murray. Seeing me standing there some one hundred feet away, he dropped his bags and in a stentorian voice he made the following statement "Cannell I canvassed everyone on the aircraft including the pilot who has never played a game of bridge in his life and they all agree that your two no-trump bid is the worst bid in the annals of bridge."

I have to add I played with Eric once more and exonerated myself somewhat, though I'm sure Murray would never admit it. We played in a side game in the Easter Regional in Toronto, winning the event with a 213 ½ score. (I carefully preserved the card).

With little encouragement Murray would regale anyone who will listen, with the following story. One Christmas season, he and his wife Helen, were invited to two parties on the same evening. On arrival at the first house the hostess introduced Eric to one of the guests as Canada's leading Bridge player. The guest's reply was "Oh you must be Bruce Gowdy". Eric said "Helen get my coat, we're going home". They proceeded to the next party, where the hostess was a former Winnipeger and a good friend of my wife's. When Eric heard she was from Winnipeg, he inquired if she knew the Cannells.

"Of course", was the reply, "Barbara is an old friend, but I would suggest you never play bridge with her because she has all those masters points and she doesn't suffer fools gladly." Eric's reply, "Helen get my coat, we're going home."

There are of course numerous Murray stories, but one of my favourites was when he and Sammi were competing in the premier pair event in an ACBL Nationals. Eric and Sammi were in contention and in the final round had their usual large number of kibitzers at their table. Also in contention were Jim Jacoby and Dr. George Rosenkranz. This was at the time Jim Jacoby and his late father Ozzie, were writing their Bridge Column which always began with: Father to Jim, "Let's discuss transfer bids today." Jim to Father, "OK, here's a hand from a recent tournament." Then, in Murray's words the following episode occurred. "Jacoby and Rosenkranz arrived at our table dragging a few kibitzers along. On the second hand Jacoby dealt and passed, I passed, as did Rosenkranz. Sammi opened the bidding with four spades which Jacoby doubled and all passed. Due to a fortuitous lie of the cards, Sammi brought home the contract. I turned to Jacoby and said, "Father to Jim, why did you double four spades? Jim to Father, none of your damn business."

The wheel has come full circle and my son Drew has been playing with Eric in the CNTC. According to Drew, he not only hasn't lost his biting sense of humour, but his skill at the table shows little or no erosion from the lack of playing regularly. After a session in one of the qualifying rounds in Montreal where they had a few bidding misunderstandings, Murray raised his formidable hands and exclaimed "and I thought your father couldn't bid."

After the team trials in Ottawa in '86, I had occasion to call Eric to see if he would sit on the Appeals Committee of the WBF in Miami. It was about eleven o'clock in the evening in Toronto, so without identifying

myself I apologized for calling late and said, "Thope you weren't resting after the Ottawa tournament". Without hesitation back came Murray, "Cannell, was it necessary for you to have children."

I don't see Eric nearly as much as I used to, but over the years I have grown to appreciate the real Eric Murray. Under that brash overbearing caustic demeanour is a tremendous concern for people. I am personally aware of two instances where young bridge players ran into some personal problems. The first one to come to their aid in a very quiet, off-the-record manner was E.R. Murray, Q.C.

(Part II to follow.)



A Play Problem

by Mel Stover, Winnipeg

↑1087 **↑**AQ6 ♥AQ1052 ♥9

♣ J107 **♣** A

My partner arrived at 6 diamonds on the lead of the jack of hearts. Partner went up with the ace and led the queen. East ducked, partner discarding a spade and West ruffed. The spade finesse lost and we were down one. Four hours later it suddenly struck me that the hand was a sure thing (almost). How would you have played the hand?

Solution on page 23



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HELP CANADA COMPETE: SUPPORT THE INTERNATIONAL FUND!!

The annual income to the CBF international fund amounts to about \$30,000. It is generated mainly through Olympiad Fund Games and through a portion of CBF unit membership fees. A relatively small share is contributed through individual donation. Unfortunately, given this income level, the CBF is finding it increasingly difficult to meet its obligation of supporting Canada's international representatives. The two main reasons for the present deficit are: rising per capita expenses (due to inflation and a weak Canadian dollar); and an overall increase in subsidy demand given expanding opportunity for international participation.

The CBF Board hereby appeals to Canadian players, clubs, and units to increase their contribution to the International Fund. Financial support of our very best players is merited insofar as it represents an investment that pays dividends to the whole Canadian bridge community:

- What our top players learn from competing internationally is recycled to others (for example, our internationalists are often our most prolific bridge writers and skilled bridge teachers);
- International participation and good performance attract national media attention and thereby serve to promote the game nationwide.

International participation publicizes
 Canadian bridge in other countries and
 this may lead to additional opportunities
 for Canadian players, both at home (for
 example, as hosts of major tournaments)
 and abroad (for example, in the form of
 invitations to participate in other interna tional competitions).

Individuals may contribute to the fund in several ways: by playing regularly in Olympiad fund games; by sending donations directly to the fund (send to Dick Anderson, CBF treasurer); and by purchasing CBF pins (these may be bought from your zone director at \$2.00 per pin).

Clubs may co-operate: by running Olympiad Fund Games; by organizing other fund-raising games; and by purchasing CBF pins to award as prizes (\$1.50 per pin for bulk orders of 100+ pins).

Units may increase their contribution: by paying a sum over and above their CBF "dues"; by purchasing CBF pins in bulk as prizes for unit-sponsored events; and by running special fund-raising games.

In return, units and clubs should feel justified in asking their local internationalist for a favor here or there, say a free panel show or seminar!

The CBF Board thanks you for your support!

Upcoming CBF Events

CNTC (Teams)
CLTC (Ladies' Teams)
COPC (Open Pairs)
Olympiad Fund Game*
*does not carry COPC qualification

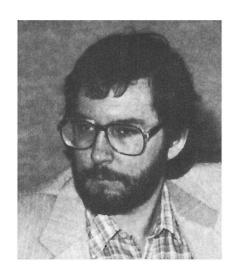
June 6-10, 1987 July 4-8 July 11-12 Dec. 7 Quebec, Que. Edmonton, Alta. Edmonton, Alta. Canada-Wide

Inside the CBF

by Aidan Ballantyne

There has been but one significant administrative development since the last column: the ACBL agreed to a CBF request to raise the masterpoint awards for CNTC and CLTC winners. One argument the CBF made in favour of raising the awards was that this would increase the prestige of our national events and help to attract Canadian media attention. This, in turn, would help promote bridge in Canada. There is no doubt that CBF events have tremendous publicity potential. The nationalistic, or patriotic, element of our championships can be understood and appreciated by even the non-duplicate or non-bridge playing public. The championships are therefore uniquely suited to establishing bridge in the Canadian public eye. From that perspective, CBF events (and the CBF, as parent organization) are worthy of wholehearted support on the part of Canadian players and Canadian ACBL units whose mandate includes bridge promotion.

Action on the CBF front is about to heat up since the CBF Board is to meet April 11-14, 1987, in Toronto. By the time this column appears in print, the Board will have ruled on a number of items, perhaps the most significant of which are:



International Events

The Board will decide selections for upcoming world events. It has already been decided that the 1986 and 1987 CLTC winners shall play off for a spot in the 1988 Women's Team Olympiad. It is likely that the 1987 CNTC winners will be chosen to represent Canada in the 1988 Open Team Olympiad. Regarding the 1987 COPC winners, the Board shall endeavor to arrange a European trip encompassing 3 major tournaments, similar to the prize given the 1986 winners. It should be clarified that the European trip involves little or no cost to the CBF and is possible only because Air Canada, the CBF sponsor, provides the tickets and because our European hosts, through arrangements made by Britain's Paul Hackett, cover a generous portion of on-site expenses.

National Championships

The COPC will no doubt undergo the greatest changes. The Board will likely approve a switch from the present club-qualifying format, whereby individuals qualify in Olympiad and International Fund Games, to a club-qualifying interval, similar to that used for the ACBL's North American Open Pairs. The first qualifying interval will probably be set for September 1987, in connection with the 1988 COPC.

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The Board will also consider implementing a subsidy plan for at least a portion of the COPC finalists.

In addition, consideration will be given as to how to use the COPC as a vehicle for selecting Canada's World Championship pairs. This is in line with the established goal of steering away from committee selection of international representatives and implementing head-to-head competition as the exclusive means to deciding representation.

Internal Administration

The issue of CBF dues will be rediscussed in light of an ACBL offer to collect dues on our behalf.

The matter of alternate zone directors will also resurface since the federal ministry of consumer and corporate affairs turned down a CBF bylaw amendment providing for their election.

CBF-ACBL Relations

Currently, the main bone of contention between the ACBL and CBF involves selection of North American representatives to the Bermuda Bowl. This issue was described in some detail in a previous column. The latest development is that, apparently, the ACBL has agreed to form a committee, made up of representatives from the U.S., Canada, Mexico, and Bermuda, to further study the question. The Board will have to decide the CBF stance, for once and for all.

On another, somewhat related, matter the ACBL has continued to defer on the CBF request for an independent study of bridge administration in Canada. The study would address at least the following concerns expressed by the CBF Board on behalf of Canadian players, clubs, and units:

- The relatively high expense of ACBL membership, sanctions, and other services resulting from the comparative weakness of the Canadian dollar
- The complexity of Canadian bridge administration given the dual presence of the CBF and ACBL and the concomitant problem of jurisdictional overlap.

- Canadian unit frustration at having to bear the full cost of a Canadian bridge institution (even though the merits of the CBF are widely recognized)
- 4. Breakdown in ACBL service to Canada due to: mail service problems; spot inefficiencies in Memphis; relatively slow ACBL response time (perhaps resulting from sheer scale of operations); poor communication between CBF and ACBL: potential problems in implementing the ACBL marketing plan in Canada; and other problems due to political, legal, and institutional barriers separating our two countries.
- 5. CBF difficulty in appropriating government and private sponsorship due to the fact that the CBF is not a wholly independent Canadian entity (for example, many CBF decisions require ACBL endorsement since the ACBL is the sanctioning authority for all CBF events).

The independent study would consider a number of options including (but not limited to): continuation of the status quo; establishment of a ACBL branch office in Canada; and formation of an independent bridge league. Regarding the latter, there are many possible variations. One that has been suggested is a Canadian league which has administrative and financial autonomy but still is an integral part of a North American federation including separate U.S., Canadian, Mexican, and Bermuda organizations. Federation (formerly ACBL) headquarters could continue to publish the Bulletin, administer a common masterpoint plan, and perform other functions universally enjoyed by ACBL members. Each national bridge organization would contribute a share of the funds required for such centralized activity.

The CBF Board, depending on ACBL reaction to its proposals, shall continue to plan strategy in an attempt to solve at least some of the many problems characterizing Canadian bridge administration.

Stay tuned for updates on these and other matters!

Rapport du Nord et de l'Est du Québec

Par Maurice Larochelle

Sur la scène internationale du ski, les Canadiens avaient été baptisés les "Crazy Canucks" à cause de leur style casse-cou. Les bridgeurs de la région de Québec mériteraient peut-être une telle appellation. La plupart des bridgeurs en effet ont appris qu'une ouverture minimale requiérait 13 points. Les bridgeurs d'ici toutefois ont appris qu'on pouvait ouvrir les enchères avec 13 cartes.

Cela ne les empêche pas de bien gager si l'on se refère aux résultats du "World Bidding Contest", tel que rapporté par F.A. Baragar dans le Bulletin de février dernier.

Quelque 640 paires de 21 pays en effet ont participé à cette compétition internationale d'enchères en 1986, dont 84 paires canadiennes. Quatre de celles-ci se sont classées, dont Mimi Lescault et René Pelletier avec une quinzième place, ainsi que Janine Rivard et Noëlla Massé en vingt-et-unième position. Bravo!

Dans un autre ordre d'idées, vous savez sans doute que de nouveaux règlements de bridge sont entrés en vigueur le 31 mars dernier. Puisque plusieurs de nos bridgeurs ont des difficultés avec la langue de Shakespeare, je vais résumer les principales modifications à partir d'articles déjà parus dans le Bulletin et à partir d'une traduction de ceux-ci réalisée par l'unique Rollande Makarewicz de Chicoutimi:



Rollande Makarewicz

- Quand le déclarant joue de la mauvaise main et que les adversaires insistent pour qu'il joue de la bonne main, il peut jouer à une autre suite.
- Sur une entame hors tour, une nouvelle option du déclarant consiste à étendre son jeu pour devenir le mort.
- 3) Un nouveau terme: le consentement. Cela se produit lorsqu'un joueur accepte la concession ou la réclamation d'un adversaire. Il peut retirer un consentement à l'intérieur de la période allouée pour lever un protêt, mais seulement s'il a consenti à la perte d'une levée que lui ou son partenaire aurait dû normalement gagner. A moins d'avis contraire, le temps alloué pour la levée d'un protêt est de 30 minutes après l'affichage des résultats.
- 4) Un défenseur n'a plus le droit de demander à son partenaire s'il n'a plus de carte, quand celui-ci ne fournit pas à une suite jouée.
- 5) Un joueur n'a pas le droit de regarder sa feuille de convention. Il n'a pas droit non plus à une aide de mémoire, de calcul ou de technique.
- 6) Une carte de pénalité mineure est une carte inférieure au valet qui a été exposée par inadvertance par un défenseur, par exemple une carte échappée. Dans ce cas, il peut jouer un honneur au lieu de la petite carte, bien qu'il ne puisse jouer une autre petite carte avant celle exposée.
- 7) Dans les cas de renonce, quand la paire en faute gagnait la levée, on transférait autrefois celle-ci en plus d'une autre levée au déclarant. C'est encore vrai si le fautif gagne la levée, mais si c'est son partenaire, une deuxième levée n'est pas accordée quand le joueur fautif ne gagne plus de levée.
- 8) Le boni pour réussir un contrat surcontré passe à 100 points.
- 9) Le pénalité par levée de chute, quand un contrat non vulnérable est contré, passe à 300 points à compter de la quatrième levée de chute.

98cbd12 Canadian Bridge Digest

Je vous invite à consulter Rollande Makarewicz ou un directeur pour avoir plus de détails.

Concernant ce dernier changement en 9 ci-dessus et puisqu'il est contre mes principes d'écrire un article sur le bridge sans au moins inclure un main, laissez-moi vous présenter la donne suivante qui a été jouée lors de la finale Etats-Unis-Pakistan du Bermuda Bowl de 1981.

DONNEUR: Ouest VULNERABLE: Nord-Sud

OUEST

♦ V9852

NORD
♠AR
♡AD
♦ V9
♣AR109642

EST

↑ 103

♥ 973

♦ D87632 ♣ D8

♥854	
♦ R4	
♦ V53	
	SUD
	♠ D764
	♡RV1062
	♦ A105

Ceux qui ont une bonne mémoire se souviendront que les Américains avaient gagné la finale par près de 90 IMP, grâce notamment à une performance éblouissante de Eric Rodwell et Jeff Meckstroth.

La main ci-dessus est la douzième du match et le Pakistan menait alors par 8,5 IMP. Malgré des interférences adverses, les Américains John Solodar et Russ Arnold atteignirent et firent sans peine le contrat de 7 coeurs en Nord-Sud pour 2210 points.

A l'autre table aussi, mais après cinq rondes sans interférence d'enchères, les Pakistanais en Nord-Sud gagèrent 7 coeurs. Meckstroth en Ouest, confiant que les adversaires avaient bien gagé, prit le risque calculé de dire 7 piques, sachant qu'il aurait le haut du pavé s'il faisait ne serait-ce que deux plis. Le contrat fut contré bien sûr et défait de neuf plis, mais cela ne faisait que

1700 points pour l'autre camp, laissant un bénéfice net de 510 points ou 11 IMP aux Américains.

Avec le nouveau règlement, la pénalité aurait plutôt été de 2300 points. Meckstroth devra donc imaginer d'autres astuces, mais je ne suis pas inquiet pour lui!

Et comment fut votre trimestre?



New CBF Logo to be chosen

The call for a design of a new logo for the CBF brought an excellent response from readers. At their next meeting, your directors will select the winning design and discuss the various types of arrangements that could be made with manufacturers of playing cards. The Digest will keep you informed of progress in this area.



May/mai 1987

William Matheson Anderson

C.B.E. B.A. F.S.A. F.F.A. F.C.I.A.

Life Master No. 357

June 18, 1905 - September 24, 1969

by Eric R. Murray

"I used to claim I was the best actuary among bridge players but quickly abandoned that claim after meeting Bill Anderson, after which I claimed only to be the best bridge player among actuaries."

Oswald Jacoby

In the late 1940's Charles Goren determined to make expert bidding easier for the ordinary players. Many years before, Milton Work had begun to use point count evaluation for no trump bidding, but the cumbersome and frequently ineffective honour count system still prevailed for suit bidding.

Charles Goren knew Bill Anderson was a mathematical genius and so he relied on his friend to conduct the mathematical research and theory over a two-year period on which to base Goren's 1949 runaway best seller Point Count Bidding in Contract Bridge. Thus this Canadian was a major contributor to a bridge revolution and to the basis for almost every bridge system played today. In addition, in the 20 years I knew Bill Anderson he was recognized as the foremost authority on bridge percentages. He received world-wide requests to calculate the mathematically best line of play on complicated hands and he never failed to respond down to the most minute fraction.

Bill Anderson in 1924 became the youngest actuary in Canadian history. Twenty years later he was awarded an honorary fellowship in the Faculty of Actuaries in Scotland — only 14 of which had been awarded since the Faculty's inception more than 100 years before. On graduation from the University of Toronto with honours in mathematics and physics he joined the North American Life Assurance Company where he rose to become President and had been Chairman for six years until his death. During this period his contributions to social improvement in Canada were monumental.

But statistics are dry and Bill Anderson was not. He was not only a genius able to expound intelligently on almost any subject,



Drew McCaughey (L), president of North American Life, and CBF director Doug Drew (R) unveil a portrait of Bill Anderson

but wonderfully affable and beloved by all whose lives he touched. He loved the game of bridge, and with his wife Marjorie (née Crawford) won a National and many Regional titles. Marjorie (who was perhaps the better bridge player) won several other major titles.

This warm and intelligent human being was an inspiration to me. I would like to think that someday Bill Anderson will receive the international recognition he deserves from the world of bridge, for without his efforts the novices' task would be infinitely more difficult and the game might never have achieved the popularity it now enjoys.

98cbd14 Canadian Bridge Digest

SORRY, PARD

by Ray Chen



Being the partner of a very experienced player (Chuck Messinger) provides many valuable lessons. One such lesson is the importance of even temperament and courtesy to both partner and opponents.

Playing in the district finals of the 86-87 N.A. Pairs, Chuck and I had a good game going into the last round. I picked up this hand: \bigstar KJx \heartsuit AKx \diamondsuit Axx \bigstar Axxx, and the bidding went:

1♠ (forcing) 1♠ 2♠ 2♠ 3NT pass pass pass 2♠ showed 5-8 points with 5♠.

A spade was led away from the Ace and partner had KQxxx in clubs. With 9 top tricks, I tried to safely make 10 by attempting to duck a diamond into my LHO and hoping he would cash the spade Ace. A tragic thing happened on the way to the forum while cashing club tricks, I revoked! Realizing it might be curtains for the event, I glance up at Chuck and hear this comment: "SORRY, PARD, I guess I did not do my job as a good dummy should, checking your discards".

More agony followed when told of a full board's lead going into the last round and we ended tied for second. Michael Roche-John Raynor won and a tie-breaking formula awarded the second trip to the St. Louis NABC to Doug Baxter-Ron Bishop, who had had a Cinderella story coming from the last qualifying spot with no carry-over.

Many sympathies and encouragements came from friends and players I hardly

know. Together with Chuck's comment, I felt more like a winner. Another lesson learned.

A special thanks to the organizers, especially George Berton who spent days talking to ACBL to ensure a fair tie-breaking formula. Thanks to John Armstrong for encouraging me to relate my story.

Tomczyk leads Richmond Trophy

Gary Tomczyk of Parksville BC took an early lead in the 1987 Richmond Trophy contest and was 64 points ahead of 1986 winner Cliff Campbell when the ACBL computer list was published. The list, dated April 3, includes points won at the Spring NABC in St. Louis but none thereafter.

As this article went to press, Tomczyk and Bernie Lambert (fourth on the list) had added 64 and 58 more points to their totals at the regional in West Monroe LA.

Tomczyk, Campbell, Michael Gamble (who stands third), Lambert, Mark Molson and John Carruthers all won more than 100 points during the first three months. All six won an event or had strong seconds at St Louis.

Richmond leaders on the list were-

	ichinolia leaders on the list	were:
1.	Gary Tomczyk, Parksville BC	218
2.	Cliff Campbell, Thunder Bay ON	154
3.	Michael Gamble, Ottawa ON	127
4.	Bernie Lambert, Calgary AB	126
5.	Mark Molson, Montreal PQ	106
6.	John Carruthers, Toronto ON	105
7.	Sadru Visram, Toronto ON	99
8.	Leo Steil, Vancouver BC	90
9.	Robert Crawford, Vancouver BC	79
10.	Greg Arbour, Vancouver BC	79
11.	Marc LaChapelle, Montreal-Nord PQ	77
12.	Daniel Doston, Montreal PQ	77
13.	Ken Warren, Pickering ON	76
4.	Sandra Fraser, Mont Royal PQ	70
15.	Doug Fraser, Mont Royal PQ	70
16.	Mark Liberman, Don Mills ON	68
17.	Gerry Marshall, Calgary AB	65
8.	L.C. McIntyre, Ottawa ON	65
9.	Laurence Betts, Burnaby BC	63
20.	Dan Jacob, Vancouver BC	63
21.	Dudley Camacho, Scarborough ON	61
2.	Ray Chen, Toronto ON	61
23.	Maria Moore, Toronto ON	59
24.	Doug Baxter, Thornhill ON	58
25.	Bill Moore, Toronto ON	56

CANADIAN BIDDING ONTEST



by Sandy McIlwain

FEBRUARY HONOUR ROLL

Only four readers broke the 500 point barrier on the February problems:

1. Vic Rand	Calgary, Alta.	530
2/3. Mike Hartop	Moncton, N.B.	510
2/3. Tony Reus	Roxboro, Que.	510
4 Wes		

Vancoughnett Pointe au Baril, Ont. 500

Thanks to everyone who responded. I appreciate your comments and enjoy reading your problems. As always, the bridge book of your choice to the high scorer, plus an invite to a future panel.

THE MAY PANEL

Steve Aarons (Toronto, Ont.) played for Canada in the Rosenblum World Teams in New Orleans and Miami, and placed 10th in the World Mixed Pairs in New Orleans with Irene Hodgson. He was Captain of the Canadian Open Olympiad Team in Seattle in 1984, and serves on the NAC National Appeals Committee.

Ron Borg (Richmond, B.C.) has played in three CNTC Finals, and represented Canada in two World Championship Open Pairs. He is one of BC's leading masterpoint holders and is Captain of the 'Borg Machine', a team that ritually terrorizes BC tournaments.

Alan Chapelle (Nanaimo, B.C.) arrived here from Scotland in 1967. After several sectional and regional wins, he broke into the CNTC Finals in 1986, playing with favourite partner Rhonda Betts. Couldn't attend Miami WC's because of work. Must be a misprint.

Gord Chapman (Acton, Ont.) has won several regionals and many sectionals, and played in three CNTC Finals. He is currently in retirement, from which he intends to emerge in 3 or 4 years. "A crazy bidder before it became fashionable to be one."

Joan Eaton (Toronto, Ont.) plays regularly in the CLTC Finals, finishing a close second in Vancouver in 1984. In Miami WC's was 3rd best Canadian pair in the Mixed with Nader Hanna, and 3rd best Canadian pair in the Swiss Plate with Laurie McIntyre.

Kamel Fergani (Montreal, Que.) began playing bridge in 1977 and has won "around twelve" regionals. He came second in the CNTC in 1983, and his team was 27th (placing in the overalls) in the recent Rosenblum Teams. Serves on the Montreal Unit Board.

Gerry McCully (Surrey, B.C.) has played in two CNTC Finals, and recently attended his second GNP/NAOPC Final in St. Louis. Doesn't travel much, but a fearless competitor.

Canadian Bridge Digest 98cbd16

Vic Rand (Calgary, Alta.) is our reader champ. He began playing bridge in Montreal in 1967 and has recently returned to the game after a two-year "sabbatical". He will receive Hugh Kelsey's **Challenge Match** for his fine showing.

G. Sekhar (Winnipeg, Man.) won the North American Open Pairs in 1986 (with Drew Cannell). He and Cannell were 31st in the Miami World Open Pairs. Also played for Canada in Las Palmas. Runner-up in 1977 CNTC. A credit to the game.

Gary Whiteman (Don Mills, Ont.) won the 1986 COPC with Ken Warren. Gary taught bridge and directed in Toronto for several years, and recently began playing more tournaments. His favourite event is the CNTC. Interviewed in the November 1986 Digest.

A) IMPs, both vul., South holds:

West	North	East	South
_	_	_	1 🛧
2NT	P	3♣	?
♦ AK8653	♡AQ97	♦ - 4	№ 875
Scoring:	Action	Votes	Points
	3 Hearts	4	100
	Double	3	90
	Pass	3	70
	3D	0	50
	35	0	30

Fit or misfit? How many hearts (spades, even) does North have? And what to do about it? Wade right in, you say?

McCULLY: 3H. Too much offense to let this one go. Wishful thinking to expect pard to balance.

EATON: 3H. Best chance to find game. 3D appeals, but may show a better hand than I have.

However, 3D might better suggest your shape. But the not unlikely 3D-X-P-P creates difficulties better left unformed.

CHAPELLE: 3H. More flexible than 3S. At matchpoints it would be tempting to double. AARONS: 3H. Will have a close ear to the table if it goes P-P-D.

And a hand on the calculator. 3H will lead to 4H any time pard has (for instance) one spade, three hearts, and the "working" AQ of diamonds. 500? 800?

If not hearts, then what? How about -

BORG: Double. Show cards. Well, I could have opened with less.

RAND: Double. For takeout.

CHAPMAN: Double. I'm sure this shows spades and hearts. If partner converts I am not unhappy. 3H is ambiguous as to suit length.

At least it certainly will be from now on! The double contains its own ambiguities, but I like the chances of beating 3C a lot more than those of making 4H, or 3H/3S doubled.

Of course there is always the quiet choice:

FERGANI: Pass. I hope partner will act if he is short in clubs.

WHITEMAN: Pass. Partner has a yard of diamonds and not many points. At matchpoints I'd taunt the animals by doubling. SEKHAR: Pass. Partner still has a bid (and a fair idea of what I have). Any contract is possible.

(Both Whiteman and Sekhar felt systemic constraints against bidding in this position.)

The pass is flexible, gives partner an out with a bad hand, and will lead to very few hopeless heart contracts. It may also miss some good spade partials and the occasional heart game or partial. And what about 3C doubled? What would North's double show? Clubs? Hearts? If you pass and defend it'll be at 50 a pop.

I upgraded the double as the wistful second choice of both other camps.

B) IMPs, N-S vul., South holds:

♠ QJ75	♥ KQ8762	♦ K7	4 2
West	North	East	South
_	_	1♣	1♡
Dbl.*	2♡	P	P
3♣	P	Р	?

*Negative

[Note: This is the problem as presented to the panel. The readers somehow received the addendum "denying four spades". This was an unintentional complexity. While the large majority of readers made the same choice as the panel, I'd like to apologize for the confusion and extend my sympathy to the readers who passed, thinking West was stronger.—SM]

Scoring:	Action	Votes	Points
_	3 Hearts	10	100
	4 Hearts	0	50
	Pass	0	40

While the panel was in agreement on their bid, they had very different feelings about the hand:

McCULLY: I've gone for 500 before. [On the last hand, even — SM]

CHAPELLE: Pass...no. 3H...no. Pass... oh, 3H.

EATON: May not make, but I don't think they have enough to double.

AARONS: They're unlikely to double.

FERGANI: I hate double partial swings.

RAND: Good shape, good overall values. BORG: The bid I would have made the previous round. Good playing hand. Mediocre defense.

SEKHAR: Why didn't I bid 2S or 3H before? CHAPMAN: Would have bid 2S the last time. Game may only require an Ace and a King and some luck.

WHITEMAN: Four is tempting, now that you know about the club fit.

I'm a bit surprised that no one bid four, as the 3C bid has surely improved the hand, and the psychological edge of getting balanced into a vulnerable game should linger for some time to come. Admittedly it's a shot, and you have to pay off when you're wrong.

Two spades would have worked well on the last round, as LHO could hardly stop off to double before showing all those clubs, and partner would be in on the game. But partner's hand didn't look so good before the 3C call, did it? Nor did our diamond King look so solid as it does now. Game, anyone?

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

C) 11.11.0,	1 5 1411, 50	atti moias	,,		
♦ – ♥AQ7 ♦AJ106 ♣ KQ8643					
West	North	East	South		
_		_	1♣		
1♠	Р	1NT	2 💠		
Р	2♠	Dbl.	?		
Scoring:	Action	Votes	Points		
	Pass	6	100		
	Redouble	3	80		
	3D	1	50		
	2NT	0	40		
	3NT	0	20		
	3C	0	10		

SEKHAR: Pass. I think East has erred. BORG: Pass. My hand improved with the double.

AARONS: Pass. With the definite expectation of chalking up my vulnerable game, or punishing the opponents if *they* run.

EATON: Pass. Looks like game to me.

A solid majority felt this ominous-sounding auction was about to come to a most satisfactory conclusion. Partner should be aware of our spade shortage by now, and can only interpret our pass as a willingness to play the contract despite this flaw. One panelist was so confident he turned the cube.

WHITEMAN: Redouble. If partner thinks he can make two spades, I do too.

I don't know if this is the right bid here, but it has great appeal for its potential effect on the opponents. East-West may scramble, but it won't be pretty. Might partner run? Not unless he was planning to anyhow.

More thoughts on partner's hand and the redouble:

CHAPELLE: Redouble. Partner should have a spade stopper and the club Ace for the 2S call. Redouble cannot be for penalties, should show a good hand. It looks like we should play 3NT.

CHAPMAN: Redouble. My bidding on this hand is even worse than hand B. I can think of six bids, primarily Double, ahead of 2C. I expect partner has diamonds, not hearts, and moderate club support. If partner is showing a penalty pass of 1S he sure better be able to make it with this dummy!

RAND also held to the spade-diamond theory. But if North does have a second suit, he's bound to bid it on his own rather than shoot out 2S.

The moral: If it's broke, let partner fix it. After all, he got us into this.

This was a real hand, against a good team, and the opponents were cooked. So were you if you bid past 2S.

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D)	Match	points,	E-W	vul.,	South	holds:
	CT-710	- aa - a 7 a .				

♦ KJ743	♡QJ863	♦ — ♣7	752
West	North	East	South
3◊	P	P	?
Scoring:	Action	Votes	Points
_	Double	3	100
	Pass	4	90
	3S	2	70
	4D	1	60

This was a hard hand to score, as a plurality of the group chose to pass, but the majority favoured a bid of some sort. The bidders split their votes between the three reasonable alternatives.

FERGANI: 3S. I don't fancy a double with just ½ a defensive trick. I intend to bid 4H over partner's probable 3NT.

AARONS: 3S. Double is too rich for my blood. Partner may convert for minus 670 or even 870.

BORG: Double. For Takeout! To be or not to be...

RAND: Double. Partner may be waiting for a double.

WHITEMAN: Double. I learned this word from Ken Warren, so I can blame him if we are minus 670.

McCULLY: 4D. Might be a little high, but will get to our best fit and hopefully stave off the double.

Admittedly some nervousness here, but listen to these passers!

EATON: They got me.

SEKHAR: Not enough cards — and not enough guts.

CHAPELLE: I'll take the safe course and pass. (My partners will express disbelief.) CHAPMAN: Getting chicken in my old age.

It's matchpoints, boys and girls! Is dear partner really going to skewer you on this one? Do your opponents make their vulnerable preempts on such junk that he'll convert without a stack? He may not have an easy call, but he shouldn't pass without the goods.

I put this hand in because a Bridge World panel twenty years ago chose overwhelmingly to pass, and I couldn't believe the same thing would happen again today. Fortunately, we had enough bidders to push the passers into the back seat with Aunt Gladys (who might just have bid herself).

To no one's surprise, top marks go to the doublers, reflecting the general inclination of the majority.

E) IMPs, none vul., South holds: ◆9765 ♥983 ♦KO73 ♣AC

		~	~
West	North	East	South
_	1 ◊	1♡	Dbl*
30**	3 ♠	4♡	2

^{*}negative

^{**}preemptive, promising 4 trumps

Scoring:	Action	Votes	Points
	4S	6	100
	5D	1	<i>7</i> 0
	5C	1	60
	4NT	2	50
	Dbl.	0	40

I'm going to have to eat crow on this one. A certain CBF President who shall remain nameless insisted that 4S would be the clear choice of an expert panel, while I thought a select but significant group would double. Nobody doubled!

The panel saw this one as a choice between game or slam. For the gamers:

McCULLY: 4S. What else? [Thank you very much, Gerry. – SM]

SEKHAR: 4S. Even spade AQ and diamond A may be enough.

EATON: 4S. 3S is merely competitive on this auction. Slam needs a lot — too much. [True, but see below. — SM]

AARONS: 45. Never hurts to have a little something in reserve when suits are breaking badly.

WHITEMAN: 4S. Six could be cold opposite a suitable minimum, but weak trumps argue for caution.

BORG: 4S. The bid I was going to make anyway.

Others wanted more:

CHAPELLE: 4NT. Partner is marked with short hearts. I'm aiming for 6D.

Echoed by FERGANI. Sounds like partner should have cuebid.

RAND chose 5C, giving partner a little room to play 5D, at least. As in:

CHAPMAN: 5D. Double risks a game swing. The hand with good spades would be tapped in 4S.

At least someone mentioned a double! Question time: Why did RHO bid 4H? Could it not be to help you reach 4S? Have you ever been talked out of a game on this auction? And just because you have bad spades does that mean partner has good ones? Would a reasonable opponent with bad trumps and a weak partner bid once more just so you could cart him off? They sure don't against me.

As you may have guessed, I doubled (good hand, bad trumps), partner pulled (heart void, good shape, fair trumps), East doubled (I tried to warn you), we made it (good bid, buddy), and I'm still in trouble (what else is new?).

(Say, this stuff isn't too bad with hot sauce!)

And finally:

AARONS: 2H. Trump seems least like to cost a defensive trick, and most likely to take away an offensive trick from declarer. DK at IMPS.

Here goes: W: \triangle AK5 \heartsuit KJ109 \diamondsuit J7 \triangle KQJ9 E: \triangle Q \heartsuit 87654 \diamondsuit AQ9 \triangle 7642

The ladies at the club don't play partscore much, especially when we keep making desperation leads. Heartbreak for the spade leaders (guess who?). Even a club lead (ducked or continued) beats it, but the trump lead beats it easily. Kudos to the heart leaders; sorry about the score.

F)	Match	points, E-	W vul., S	outh holds:
٠	987642	♥32	♦ K4	▶ 1085
	West	North	East	South
	1♣	Р	1♡	Р
	4♡	P	P	P

What card do you lead?

Scoring:	Lead	Votes	Points
	DK	5	100
	Spade	3	70
	Heart	2	60

FERGANI: DK. Probably your best shot to beat the contract. Unfortunately, this is matchpoints, and this lead is very dangerous. Ready to apologize if it doesn't work!

WHITEMAN: DK. Silly question. A pure guess.

EATON: DK. Is this a set-up?

SEKHAR: DK. As Cory Aquino put it: "There is a time for negotiation and a time for action". See also Ecclesiastes.

So much for the it's-staring-you-in-the-face players.

McCULLY: S9. Need a good reason not to go with the flow at this form of scoring. [Is this a set-up? —SM]

CHAPELLE: S9. First impulse is to lead the DK. Reflection leads me back to the saner leader of S9. Note that partner could have overcalled with decent diamonds since she has some HCP.

A good point, also mentioned by SEKHAR, who led diamonds anyway.



AUGUST CONTEST

To enter the August contest, write your answers to the August 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.

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DISCOVERY PLAY

NORTH

by Brian Pauls, Winnipeg

AUGUST PROBLEMS

A) IMPS,	both v	zul., Sc	outh ho	lds:
♦ AQ94	$\heartsuit 4$	♦ A	♣KQ:	108743
West	Nor	th:	East	South
_	19	2	P	2 🗭
Р	2 <	>	P	2 🛧 *
P	3 <	>	P	4 🗭
P	4 <	\rangle	P	?

*Game force

B) Matchpoints, E-W vul., South holds:
◆ KI85 ♥ KI ♦ 1092 ◆ AI93

West	North	East	South
_	_	P	1♣
Р	1♡	Р	1♠
P	2 ◊ *	P	?

*Game force

C) IMPS, both vul., South holds:

West North East Sou	th
1	>
P 1♠ 3♡ P	
P Dbl. P ?	

D) Board-a-match, N-S vul., South holds: ◆42 ♥ QJ74 ♦ K953 ◆854

West	North	East	South
_	1♡	1 ♠	2♡
P	2♠	3♣	?

E) Matchpoints, none vul., South holds: ◆764 ♥865 ♦A952 ♣J72

West	North	East	South
1♠	Dbl.	P	2 ◊
P	P	2 💠	P
P	2NT	P	?

F) Matchpoints, N-S vul., South holds: ◆ A1085 ♥ 63 ♦ 187 ◆ 7653

		y = .	
West	North	East	South
1♠	P	2♡	Р
$4 \heartsuit$	Р	5♣	Р
5 ♦	Dbl.	Р	Р
5♡	P	6♡	Р
P	P		

Which card do you lead?

	1101111
	♠ AK5
	♡A932
	♦ J932
	♣ A3
ST	

WEST	EAST
♦ 8764	♦ 932
♡?74	♡?86
♦ 87	♦ 1064
♣ 10852	♣ J974

SOUTH ♦ QJ10

♥ KJ10

♦ AKQ5 **♣** KQ6

The bidding:
SOUTH NORTH
2NT 7NT (end)
Opening lead: 8 of diamonds

When this deal came up in a tournament, I messed around with my top card winners for awhile, eventually determined that I had no real clue to the location of the Queen of Hearts from any count on the hand and decided to play West for it by virtue of the negative inference (slight) that, since he hadn't led a heart, he had something of value in the suit to protect.

I won't tell the reader whether I guessed right or not. Bridge players hate guesses anyway. I'll let my partner describe my line of play in his own words: "Turkey, all you had to do was to lead the Jack of Spades at trick two". And he was right. Do you see it?

Play the Jack of Spades and observe West's reaction. Say that he hesitates slightly, then plays low. Go up with dummy's king, play a few diamonds and clubs, then lead the Jack of Hearts. If he hesitates slightly again, play his partner for the Queen. If he follows suit without a quiver, finesse against him. Far superior to a mental coin flip.

Players often miss this type of opportunity. Perhaps it comes from reading too many bridge columns in lieu of being "at the table".

THE MONTREAL BRIDGE SCENE

by Tony Reus & Larry Crevier

The Montreal Bridge League Inc. (MBL) is the governing body of Unit 151. Its 2500 members can play at any of 63 clubs. The membership has been growing due partly to the increase in the quantity and quality of bridge teachers.

A bridge course for beginners is presently being aired in french on Cable TV. It is sponsored by the Recreation Department of the City of Saint Laurent and taught by our own Michel Frankland. This is giving bridge some much needed media exposure.

During September the qualifying stage of the Rookie Grand National Pairs took place. The expert co-ordination of Lois "Mac" Paterson (also our Novice Chairperson) and the co-operation of the Unit's clubs resulted in a whopping 981/2 tables, compared to last year's total of 601/2. Due to our Unit's outstanding effort, District 1 placed second in the 25 Districts for attendance. The highest percentage game in the District was achieved by Mme Pierette Martineau and Mme Rolande Audette. They were followed closely by Mmes M. Cousineau and J. Charron. Both pairs qualified to go to the subsidized National Final at the Fall NAC's in Atlanta, GA.

Congratulations to John Closs and Steve Christophe who topped the 200 table NAP "B" Club qualifying round held during the summer in our Unit.

The District NAP Open was captured by the "hot duo" of Daniel Doston and Marc Lachapelle who narrowly edged out the "favourites" Mark Molson and Boris Baran. Both pairs have qualified to attend the National Final in St. Louis. Good luck to all our winners.

The Team-of-4 Summer League recently ended. The winners of all three flights will play against Ottawa in the traditional challenge match. These teams are:

Flight "C" — (Club de Bridge Limoges) — Captain D. Martin, D. & H. Demuy, F. Bougie, F. Curtis Flight "B" - (Mirabel Club) -

Captain G. Lalonde, S. Bronstein, M. Salmon, D. Dollinger, A. Tanny, L. Pascal, N. Courtney

Flight "A" - (Mon Club) -

Captain E. Marchand, D. Doston, R. Habert, S. Goldstein, M. Lachapelle, D. McRae, G. Garinther, K. Fergani, F. Gauthier

Here's a hand from the Flight "A" final:

NORTH	SOUTH
Φx	♠ AKJxxxx
♡ AQxx	\heartsuit xx
♦ J10xx	♦ Ax
♠ AQ9x	♦ Kx

During the 3rd quarter and down 40 IMPs, Douglas Fraser, South, bid his way to 6S via this auction:

N	E	S	W
1 ◊	P	1♠	Р
2 🗭	P	2♡	P
3♡	P	3 🏚	P
3NT	Р	641	

How would you play on the lead of the diamond 4 (4,J,Q,A)? The pressure is on you...if you make the hand you win the match...if you don't, try again next year.

Continued on next page

Corrections

In the list of Canadians who have earned the title of World Master (published in the February Digest), the name of Drew Cannell of Winnipeg was inadvertently omitted. The editors apologize for this error.

We also wish to apologize to Arno Hobart and Martin Kirr, whose names were inadvertently omitted from the article on the Miami Olympiad. Kirr and Hobart were the top Canadian finishers in the Swiss Plate, with an excellent fifth place.

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PRAIRIE FOG

by Barry Harper, Saskatoon

Saskatoon has had less rubber bridge activity than other western centres. That has partly changed with the advent of the Saturday afternoon Chicago game at the Saskatoon Bridge Club.

I've had a couple of expensive lessons mainly due to my own errors but also due to some fine play by opponents.

With none vul. you pick up

 \uparrow 73 \heartsuit K852 \diamondsuit J983 \uparrow \bigstar K64 and hear an uncontested Pass by LHO, $1 \diamondsuit - 1 \heartsuit$, $1 \spadesuit - 2 \spadesuit$, $4 \spadesuit$ all pass.

Your lead of the Spade 3 exposes this dummy.

- **♦** K854
- ♥Q1063
- ♦ 105
- **♣** QJ10

Declarer Bill Zerebesky won the Queen in hand, played ⋄ AK, partner following 2,Q. He then played ♠ A to partners 2 and a diamond trumped with the king and overuffed by the Ace.

While contemplating partners ♣ 2 you're interrupted by the ♡ Ace and declarer's 9. Not quite sure about encouraging or discouraging you play the 5 (indubitably incorrect). Then the heart 7, Jack and your king puts the spotlight on you.

Your heart return brings happiness to clearer who's hand was

♦QJ109 ♥J9 ♦AK764 **♣**A3

He had placed the spade Ace on his right, inferred one heart honour and therefore deduced the • King offside, so decided to fog the defender(s) minds by cashing the • Ace.

Detracting nothing from declarers play partner actually had the \clubsuit 8 (artistic license) so a routine diamond would have allowed him to overuff and then lead to your \clubsuit King. The fog was very thick that afternoon.





Solution to Play Problem

Problem on page 8

Unfortunately, our correspondent did not supply a solution. We think the line Mr. Stover has in mind is to finesse the queen at trick one. If East wins and returns a heart, ruff high and play two round of trumps, ending in dummy. Unless West started with all three missing trumps, the A10 of hearts will provide discards for declarer's spades.



Montreal

Continued from previous page

And here's the entire layout . . .

	LORBER	
	♠ X	
	♦ J10xx	
	♣AQ9x	
MARCHAI	ND	DOSTON
♠ Q		↑ 109xx
♡ Kxxx		♡ J10x
♦ Kxxxx		♦ Ox
♣ Jxx	FRASER	♣ 10xxx
ŕ	♠ AKJxxxx	
	♡xx	
	♦ Ax	
	♦ Kx	

Douglas chose to start with three rounds of clubs to pitch his diamond loser. Now he led a trump the the Jack losing to the "lonely" Queen. Unlucky, Doug.

On a final note, we would like to extend special congratulations to Sharyn Reus and Dianna Gordon for their 6th place finish in the Ladies Pairs at the World Championships held in September in Miami Beach, Florida. This was the best finish of any Canadian entry. Well done, ladies.

Until next time, Au revoir de Montréal





Frank Vine (1927 - 1987)

by Lou Woodcock

The bridge world was saddened by the sudden passing of Frank Vine on the 10th of February, 1987, the result of a heart attack.

Frank was internationally known for his articles in the *Bridge World* magazine, many of which were classics. He was an excellent player and analyst, and was always willing to provide his writing talent for Canadian bridge publications.

Frank was active in bridge administration, both in Hamilton and Unit 166, and served for several years as chairman of the Conduct and Ethics committee.

Hamilton District players remember Frank fondly as a warm and generous king of local bridge who would play with anyone who approached him. His first steady partner was Michael Martino, with whom he won the 1969 Spring National Men's Pairs. That earned Frank the rank of International Master. Frank was especially proud to have won, with Mike Martino, Harry Bork, and John O'Dowd, the first Douglas A. Drury Trophy for the 1968 Toronto Regional Knockout Team-of-Four.

Possessed of a marvellous sense of humour, Frank was a raconteur who introduced his own colourful language at times. A redoubled contract passed by the table brought "They sat like soldiers", while an unsuccessful day at the rubber bridge table resulted in "You can't beat the big battalions."

Frank was a man of many talents. An intellectual, he wrote music and plays with success, mainly for young people. He was a gourmet cook and an expert on mystery writers and books. He practised law on his own, and enjoyed the independence derived therefrom.

To his wife Lillian, a fine bridge player semi-retired from competition, and their three children, we extend our deepest sympathy. We are grateful for the years Frank gave us and he will be sorely missed.

(Lou Woodcock was Frank Vine's regular partner for the past many years. We grieve with Lou.)



Irene Warner Retires

Irene Warner has announced her retirement as Executive Secretary of the Canadian Bridge Federation. Irene served in this capacity for nearly four years and earned the respect and friendship of all board members. She was pleasant and helpful, and accomplished her myriad duties with conscientiousness. Many board members called her meticulous, and that's a big compliment for an executive secretary. The CBF hereby expresses its thanks for a job well done.

Barbara Tench of Ottawa has been appointed as the new executive secretary. Her address appears on the last page of this Digest.

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THE MAURICE PAUL MEMORIAL BIDDING CHALLENGE

conducted by Eric Kokish

with help from: Aidan Ballantyne, John Armstrong, Maurice Larochelle, Gim Ong, Scott Symonds and Jim Lopushinsky

Are we Canadians no more than superb dummy players and visionary defenders? Not on your tin type. We are also enlightened and effective bidders, with the emphasis on the former.

In this first-ever Canadian Bidding Challenge, dedicated to the memory of "Moose" Paul, eight of Canada's most renowned pairs face off in (randomly drawn) quarterfinal matches, bent on eventually claiming (in this year's fourth Digest issue) the title of Least Awful Canadian Bidders and possession of the Maurice Paul Memorial trophy.

A not-so-little bird informs me that next year's challenge will feature regional playoffs for the quarterfinals with (yes) everyone eligible. So practice those fifth-round relays, kids. Next year you could be gracing these pages.

Mercifully, there are only six deals in this round, but since there are four matches, you will have a lot to swallow.

The matchups:

- (1) **Boris Baran-John Mark Molson (Montreal)**, playing natural methods (nearly strong notrumps, five-card spade suits, lots of toys), **versus André and Jacques Laliberté (Quebec City)**, playing even more natural methods, with fewer gadgets.
- (2) **Drew Cannell-G Sekhar (Winnipeg)**, playing modified Kaplan-Sheinwold (13-15 HCP notrumps, some funny two-bids, lots of science), **versus John Stewart-Eric Balkam (Halifax)**, playing Blue Team Club.
- (3) John (JC) Carruthers-John Guoba (Toronto), playing a club system not unlike Precision (strongish notrumps), versus Dan Jacob-Gord McOrmond (Vancouver), playing a natural style with plenty of heavy artillery.
- (4) Mary Paul-Katie Thorpe (Toronto), natural bidders (more-or-less Eastern Scientific) who lead low from doubletons, versus David Smith-Peter Jones (Edmonton), playing methods about as straightforward as their names.

Special thanks to all the volunteers who took the time to poll the Great Ones for our mutual benefit (Gim Ong, for example, polled Sekhar-Cannell in a topless bar, your conductor's idea of the classic bidding contest venue-a true test of concentration).

Preliminary Note: All awards embrace lower contracts that would produce the same real score unless those contracts are mentioned separately. Assume matchpoint scoring.

The evidence follows:

(A) WEST	EAST	West deals; none vul
987	A63	A nice 23-point 3NT based on a big suit,
A5	Q932	fast controls, and just the right bad length
Q9	K4	(spades). Perfect.
AKJ1075	9862	(1)

Awards: 3NT = 10; 2NT = 7; 3 - 5; 4 - 5; 4 - 1

Molson	Baran	André L	Jacques L
1♠	1◊*	1♣	1♡
2♣	3♣	3♣	3NT
3♡	3NT		

Baran's 1 \diamond denied a five-card major. Otherwise, both auctions speak for themselves. 10-10.

Cannell	Sekhar	Balkam	Stewart
1♣	1♡	2♣	2 ◊ *
2♣	2NT	3♣	4 🗭
3NT			

"Piece of cake," said Cannell, "any average pair could get there." Which perhaps explains why the Haligonians reached 4 + 2 over the natural 2 + 2 asked for more useful information; 3 + 2 denied a four-card major or two side stoppers (well, is that 0 + 2 a stopper or is it not? ask the guy clutching a doubleton jack opposite!). 10-1, Winnipeg.

Crthrs	Guoba	Jacob	McOrmond
2♣	3♣	1 🗭	1♡
		2♣	2NT
		3NT	

Guoba's raise to 3 • was a system violation, denying as many as 9 points. Of such jacks are games missed, it seems. McOrmond's good 2NT secured the maximum for his pair. 10-5, Vancouver.

Thorpe	Paul	Smith	Jones
1 🕈	1♡	1♣	1♡
2♣	3♠	2♣	2NT
		3NT	

Thorpe's conservative pass leads us to contemplate the fine shades of difference between a raise to 3 • and a move of 2NT. Since 3NT over 2NT is virtually automatic, perhaps 3 •, for all its apparent safety, is (curiously) the less appropriate continuation. That East hand is actually worth more than its point count, with its club fit, controls, and nice nine of hearts. In any case, 10-5 for Edmonton.

(B)	WEST	EAST	West deals; none vul.
	42	AKJ10853	Is it possible to find spades and still
	AKQJ93	2	reach 7♥? It's all about suit quality,
	_	A103	isn't it?
	KO752	A6	

Awards: 7 = 10; 7NT = 8; 7 = 6; 6NT = 5; 6 = 4; 6 = 3; 7 = 2; 6 = 1

Molson	Baran	André L	Jacques L
1♡	2 🛧	1♡	2♠ ^
3♣	3♠	3♣	3 ◊
6♠		3♠	4NT
	6♠		

The Laliberté's agree that André should have bid $3 \heartsuit$ over the ambiguous $3 \diamondsuit$ (perhaps this $3 \diamondsuit$ bid is always a cue-bid in support of oneself in their style), but I'm inclined to believe that a jump to $4 \heartsuit$ would be much more clear. In fact, if the jump shift denies a two-suiter, West might suppress clubs altogether and jump to $4 \heartsuit$ over $2 \spadesuit$, solid

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suit, forcing. In the other auction, Baran divined the diamond void and missing ΦQ from Molson's sequence, but could hardly correct to $7 \heartsuit$ (could he, Mark?). Still tied, 13-13.

Cannell	Sekhar	Balkam	Stewart
1♡	1 🕈	1♣*	2NT*
2♣	2 ◊ *	3♡	3♠
3♡	3♠	4 💠	5
4 🗭	4 ♦	7♡	
5♡	7♡		

Two sweet sequences. Stewart's 2NT showed 7 controls; his $3 \spadesuit$ denied a solid suit, which inference coloured the meaning of his $5 \spadesuit$ bid also. Balkam could pace the contract with confidence. In the Winnipeg auction, $1 \spadesuit$ tended towards 5 + cards; $3 \heartsuit$ showed an excellent suit, and $5 \heartsuit$ confirmed solidity, implying 6-5 or 7-5. Now Sekhar could chance $7 \heartsuit$ with only minor doubts (say, a club lead with West not having the king). Winnipeg, 20-11.

Crthrs	Guoba	Jacob	McOrmond
1♡	2♠	1♡	2♠
3♣	3♠	3♣	3♠
4 ♦	4NT	4 ♦	4 💠
5 ♦	5♡	4NT	5 ♦
5♠	6♠	6♡	
7♡			

In the Toronto sequence, $4 \lozenge$ agreed spades; 4NT was RKCB for spades; $5 \heartsuit$ asked for the $\clubsuit Q$; $5 \spadesuit$ denied it - ergo $6 \spadesuit$ must show everything but the $\spadesuit Q$ so $7 \heartsuit$ was marked. Through the back door. In the Western auction, Jacob intended his 4NT as DI (he didn't jump to 4NT over $3 \spadesuit$ and learned nothing good since then) and thought $5 \lozenge$ showed a control while denying the $\clubsuit A$. McOrmond, however, thought 4NT was RKCB for spades ("4NT is DI only after at least two cue-bids"). So he showed his 4 key cards and made a "highly disciplined" pass to $6 \heartsuit$. Ugh. 15-14, Johns.



Katie Thorpe



Mary Paul

Thorpe	Paul	Smith	Jones
1♡	2 💠	$1 \circ$	1♠ -
3♣	3♠	3♠	3♠
4 ♦	5 ♦	4 💠	$4 \diamond$
6♡	7♣	$4 \odot$	6NT
70			

Paul thought spades were trumps until Thorpe bid $6\,\%$. Now she might have raised to $7\,\%$, but she gave Thorpe a shot at 7NT with a delicate $7\,\clubsuit$, and the best contract was duly reached. The Edmonton auction smacks a bit of frustration. Jones might have expected a better hand, but it was difficult for him to know how to continue. This tied the match at 15.

(C) WEST	EAST	West deals; E/W vul
QJ	A10	Another perfecto. Look at the minor suit
AK96	108752	mesh. Note that West's spades are working.
AK42	Q1083	Note the $\heartsuit 9$ and $\diamondsuit 10$.
962	103	

Awards: $4 \heartsuit = 10$: $5 \diamondsuit = 7$: $3 \heartsuit / 3 \diamondsuit = 5$: $4 \diamondsuit = 3$: 1NT = 3: 2NT = 2: 3NT = 1Molson

Baran

André L

Jacques L 1NT $2 \diamondsuit * (JTB)$ $3 \heartsuit$ $3 \heartsuit$ $4 \heartsuit$

Molson downgraded his spade holding; André Laliberté went with his pointcount and fit. 23-18 pour les Ouébecois.

Cannell	Sekhar	Balkam	Stewart
1 ◊	1♡	1NT	Pass
3♡	Pass		

Stewart's pass to the 15-17 HCP notrump looks like a rational thing to do, but it worked badly. It was at Sekhar's second turn that the topless Australian dancer decided to go bottomless. Which may go some way toward explaining why the symbol of Canada CENSORED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE xxx. 25-14, Winnipeg.

Crthrs 1NT	Guoba Pass	Jacob 1NT 2♡	McOrmond 2 ♦ *(JTB)
Thorpe 1NT	Paul 2 ◊ *(JTB)	Smith 1NT	Jones Pass
3♡	4♡		

That this may not be the best problem ever set can be demonstrated in these matches where three sane sequences produced mediocre results. 19-18 for the Far West. 25-18 for the women. — Well, maybe it's not as sensible as it looks to pass 1NT. It's wrong to bid if 1NT makes and $2 \, \heartsuit$ goes down, which is surely possible; but since game in hearts is still in the picture, perhaps that decides it (just as obviously, $2 \, \heartsuit$ can make when 1NT is going down also) in favour of moving out of 1NT.

No write-in opinions, please.

(D) WEST	EAST	East deals; E/W vul
AQ1064	97	Very awkward hand and not easy to score
AK863	105	either. Can East get clubs in early? Will
6	864	West give in?
K2	AOI852	O .

Awards: 4 - 10; 3 - 8; 3 = 6; 4 - 75 - 5; 4 = 7; 4 = 7; 3 = 7

Molson	Baran P	André L	Jacques L P
1 ♠	1NT	1♠	1NT
2♡	2♠	3♡	3♠
3♡	3♠	4 🏚	

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Baran had to suppress his clubs in deference to Drury, but he had a chance over $2 \heartsuit$. When he chose to support spades, the suit disappeared, although Molson might barely have chosen to continue with $3 \spadesuit$ rather than $3 \heartsuit$. Drury affected the other auction also. When André jump shifted, he enplayed both his partner and himself. Unwilling to sound aggressive in the context of his $3 \heartsuit$ bid, he simply raised himself to game in a strain that might have been even worse than it was (relative to hearts, for example). 28-26 for the Laliberté brothers.

Cannell	Sekhar	Balkam	Stewart
	P		P
1 💠	1NT*(F1)	1♡	2 🗭
3♡	3♠	2 🛧	3♣
4 💠		3♡	3♠
	5♠	6♣	

As the dancer got hotter and hotter, Cannell began to have trouble seeing his cards (thank goodness that counting tricks was not an issue). The only sympathy he would be likely to attract would come from André Laliberté! The Maritime sequence started wonderfully, with Balkam's canapé reverse sequence to $3\heartsuit$ showing his sound 5-5. Had he bid only $4\clubsuit$ over $3\spadesuit$, Stewart would probably have raised to game, but Balkam had a lot of extra strength for a non- $1\clubsuit$ opening, and he tried to show it with a jump to $5\spadesuit$. Now Stewart may have pictured 5-5-0-3; alternatively, his $6\spadesuit$ might just have been a bit too much euphoria about his baby daughter. Not that $6\spadesuit$ is hopeless. It isn't. It might even be as good as $4\spadesuit$ (no complaints about the scores; we are not into 'glasnost' here in the Crimea). 30-17 for the bug-eyed GNP champs.

Crthrs	Guoba	Jacob	McOrmond
	P		Р
1 ♠	2♣	1♠	1NT
2♡	2♠	2♡	3♣
3♡	3♠	3♡	
4 ♣	5♣		

In effect, the Johns were pretty much in the same position as Balkam-Stewart at the level of 3 + (2 + b) a passed hand suggested at least six cards, and 2 + b suggested only two spades), But here Carruthers contented himself with 4 + b and Guoba was pleased to raise himself despite his minimum high card power. McOrmond, another Drury player, could have shown a better hand with clubs by jumping to 3 + b over 1 + b, so his sequence was weak. He through that Jacob should have passed 3 + b, and he insulted his aggressive (but perhaps not insane) partner by passing 3 + b, fearing a reraise to 4 + b over delayed preference. Since Jacob was not 6-5 (McOrmond mentioned 5-6 as a possibility to counter that), the damage was not great. 25-23, Vancouver.

Thorpe	Paul	Smith	Jones
•	P	1♠	1NT*(F1)
1 	1NT*(F1)	3♡	3♠*
2♡	2 🏚	4 ♦	4 🛧
3♡			

Paul could not bid $3 \clubsuit$ over $1 \spadesuit$ without overstating her values slightly, and Thorpe's $3 \heartsuit$ continuation achieved a result that duplicated the Vancouver pair's. Perhaps Smith and Jones knew exactly what they were doing; perhaps not. $3 \spadesuit$ purported to describe a better hand than $4 \spadesuit$ would have! 31-23 for the CLTC champs.

(E)	WEST	EAST
	A1076532	984
	2	AKQJ1086
	Q106	_
	A7	853

North deals and opens 3 ⋄; N/S vul More solid suit headaches; here the idea is to play in the broken suit, keeping control, taking discards.

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

Molson	Baran	André L	Jacques L
(3 ♦)	3♡	(3♦)	3♡
3♠	4 ♦	3♠	$4 \diamondsuit$
4NT	6♡	5 🗭	5♡
		5♠	6 ♠ !

Molson thought he knew what Baran's bidding showed, but he wasn't quite sure about the spade support (although his own Blackwood suggests that he was assuming the spade fit at that point), and that was fatal here. Everything was rolling along smoothly in the Laliberté auction through $5\,\%$, but then André might well have fallen prey to the same doubts that infected Molson. Hence his $5\,\spadesuit$. Not to worry, though. Frère Jacques took one more look at his solid spade support and raised boldly to slam, scooping all the points. 38-28, Québec, just about clinching the match.

Cannell		Sekhar	Balkam	Stewart
((3♦)	3♡	(3♦)	3♡
3NT!			3♠	$4 \circ$

Cannell, who was by now either in love or rabid (choose one from column b), took about two minutes before bidding 3NT. Perhaps he should have given it another few seconds. Stewart solved his rebid problem in mildly unilateral fashion, but in fairness, a $4 \diamond \,$ cue-bid might well turn out to be a dangerous overbid, and he knew from bitter experience that hands of this type so often play better in the long suit. Still 31-22 for Cannell-Sekhar. — Could they blow the whole match on the last deal? A poor choice of words, perhaps.

Crthrs		Guoba	Jacob	McOrmond
	(3♦)	3♡	(3♦)	3♡
3♠		4 💠	3♠	4♡

Two understandable results. With one deal left, McOrmond-Jacob were 1 point ahead of two guys named John, 30-29.

Thorpe	Paul	Smith	Jones
(3♦)	3♡	(3♦)	3♡
3♠	$4 \odot$	3♠	4 ♦
		1 🛦	

It's difficult to sympathize with Smith's 4 + . Jones' 4 + . gave the partnership a shot at 6 + . but Smith undid the good work with an uncharacteristically conservative effort. 36-29, Thorpe-Paul.

(F) WEST	EAST	East deals; E/W vul
Q85	K62	The test is to stop low in notrump or clubs,
KJ43	Q2	or failing that, to pass it out. Which hand
J6	KQ87	would you open?
AJ42	Q973	, 1

Awards: 1NT=10; 2 - 9; 3 - 7; 2NT=6; passed=5; 3NT=3; 2 - 2; 1 - 4 - 1

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Molson	Baran	André L	Jacques L
	1 ♦		P
2NT (FG)	3NT	1♠	2 ♣ *(inv)

The Laliberté's sealed their victory with a tailor-made sequence, passing the ugly 12-count in first position but opening the equally ugly 12-count in third position. André was under no compunction to bid over the strong raise to two. Baran considered his collection a mandatory opening in first seat while Molson (for my money) would surely have passed the same hand. Light opening; light game force; two light? So, the Laliberté brothers reach the semifinals with an excellent 47/60, besting the dangerous Baran/Molson by a wide margin (31/60).

Cannell	Sekhar	Balkam	Stewart
	P		P
1NT	3NT	1♡	2NT

Picture the state of Cannell's mind. Here he opened a 13-15 HCP with a no-body 12-count in a bidding contest. Suffice to say that he was by now up on stage with the Australian dancer. Stewart-Balkam achieved a reasonable result here, but alas, they were out of boards! Cannell-Sekhar were safely home with a rather dynamic 34-28 victory.

Crthrs	Guoba	Jacob	McOrmond
	P		P
1 ◊ *	2 ◊ *(inv)	1♡	2NT

A bad hand for the nebulous diamond. Guoba might have done something else, given the diamond worries, but perhaps he expected Carruthers to avoid a short diamond opening opposite a passed hand. At least they stayed low. McOrmond might barely have responded 1NT (up to 11) in his methods, facing a potentially light major opening (minor openings in third seat tend to be full value), but he couldn't bring himself to do that. 2NT was a trifle high, but it was playable. McOrmond-Jacob win it 36-31.

Thorpe	Paul	Smith	Jones
-	P		P
1♣	1 ◊	1♣	1 ◊
1♡	2NT	1♡	3♣

The Easts had to find a rebid over West's $1 \heartsuit$, which suggested at least 4-4. 2NT looks straightforward, but I'm not so sure that $3 \clubsuit$ isn't better. If West has full values, everything figures to be all right, but if West is light and shapely, the partnership might well be better off in clubs. Perhaps there's not that much in it. Smith-Jones score 36 but Thorpe-Paul are better this time with a sound 42.

In the semifinals, the Laliberté brothers face Cannell-Sekhar while McOrmond-Jacob take on Thorpe-Paul. If we haven't turned you off altogether, watch this space in the next Digest. Or alternatively, take two aspirin and call us next February or so.

We congratulate André and Jacques for their magnificent score on a fairly difficult set. Katie and Mary did very well too, achieving no below-average results. To everyone else, we apologize for printing your disasters, but it just had to be done. Right?



May/mai 1987 98cbd31



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