

# *canadian bridge digest*

CANADIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION  
FEDERATION CANADIENNE DE BRIDGE

See p.9 Richmond Trophy Race  
and p.10 On the Road



THE RACE FOR THE RICHMOND TROPHY



# Canadian Bridge Digest

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## Editorial

In the last issue, there appeared in this space a questionnaire designed to elicit feedback from readers about various aspects of the Canadian Bridge Digest. To date, disappointingly few responses have trickled in. This may mean that nobody reads the editorial or maybe your answers are all in the mail. In any case, let's postpone the analysis until the next issue and let's look at another problem: The various CBF championship finals.

We had occasion this year to attend (at our own expense, alas) all three finals. While the bridge and the conviviality ranged from good to great, there were some less pleasant aspects:

At the Quebec CNTC, the organization was excellent, with one exception: Not enough rooms were available at the host hotel, so that many teams had to stay at a grubby and overpriced motel several blocks away. In Edmonton (CLTC and AC-COPC), the playing area was overcrowded, smoke-filled and hot. The participants bore these inconveniences more or less graciously.

Worse was to come: In Edmonton, at the conclusion of the Canadian Ladies' Team Championship, our international events chairman, Alvin Baragar, was present to conduct a little victory ceremony designed to add some pomp and circumstance worthy of the occasion: there were individual trophies for the winners, and beautiful ceramic owls for all eleven finalists. Dr. Baragar started with a short speech ("... it was a hard-fought battle, etc."), only to be interrupted by a member of the losing team with "Oh, Alvin, cut out the B.S. and let's get it over with". So he cut out the B.S. and started giving out the trophies. Then one player from the winning team declined to shake his hand or even accept her trophy. So Alvin shrugged and awkwardly set the trophy on the table in front of her. There may have been extenuating circumstances of which we are not aware, but it would be a disgrace if our representatives behaved similarly at the Olympiad in Venice.

We at the Canadian Bridge Digest feel that these CBF championships are very important events. That's why we cover and promote them extensively. For our elite, winning such a championship is the most important goal of any bridge year. For the rest of us, it is a pleasure to participate in a purely Canadian event and a challenge to advance as far as we can. Of course we regret it when the organization is less than perfect.

But, like most of us, we are aware of the fact that we are a volunteer organization trying to do its best. We're sure our leaders will work on these problems for next year. In fact, the CBF board of directors has continually managed to upgrade the significance of these championships. The masterpoints and prizes have improved enormously over the years.

*Continued on p.35*

# 1987 Air Canada Canadian Open Pairs Championship Report

The annual Air Canada Canadian Open Pairs Championship (AC-COPC) is the most important pairs event in the country. Pairs qualify for the national finals by placing high in club and unit competition.

This year, the national finals were held in Edmonton on July 11 and 12, in conjunction with a Regional. In spite of the prestige (winners get fame, plus the Jim Donaldson Trophy) and the prize (winners get a trip to anywhere Air Canada flies), only a few Eastern pairs made the trip West. Among the notable absentees were the defending champions, Gary Whiteman and Ken Warren, who were off in Europe enjoying the rewards of their 1986 win.

The first qualifying session saw CBF treasurer Richard Anderson and his regular partner Gary Mitchell storm off to an impressive lead:

1. Anderson-Mitchell (Sask.) 198.9
2. Divinsky-Strebinger (B.C.) 178.3
3. Chalfin-de la Salle (Alta.) 171.7

This hand, beautifully played by Gary Mitchell, contributed to the leaders' fine score:

Dealer: West  
North-South vul.

	<b>North</b>		
	♠ Axx		
	♥ AJxx		
	♦ KQJ10		
	♣ Ax		
<b>West</b>		<b>East</b>	
♠ KJ10x		♠ Qx	
♥ xx		♥ Q10x	
♦ Axx		♦ xxx	
♣ xxxx		♣ KQJxx	
	<b>South</b>		
	♠ xxxx		
	♥ Kxxx		
	♦ 9xx		
	♣ xx		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
	Anderson		Mitchell
Pass	1♦	2♣	pass
3♣	Dbl.	Pass	3♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Anderson's double was for takeout; on the lie of the cards, Mitchell could have passed and collected +300, but this was far from obvious at the table. How to make 3 hearts was also far from obvious, but Mitchell was up to the task: He won the club lead with dummy's ace, and immediately led the king of diamonds, false-carding with the 9 from his hand. West took his ace and continued with a second club, won by East's jack (the king would have been less revealing). East shifted to the queen of spades, and Mitchell ducked in dummy. A second spade was won with the ace and now Mitchell cashed the ace and king of trumps before taking his diamond winners, discarding a spade on the last diamond. East could take his queen of hearts whenever he wished — he was down to clubs and had to concede a ruff-and-sluff and that took care of Mitchell's last losing spade. +140 was a top.

After the second qualifying session, the standings were:

1. Anderson-Mitchell (Sask.) 369.9
2. Chalfin-de la Salle (Alta.) 359.7
3. Brander-Crawford (B.C.) 352.6

The first of two final sessions saw a Vancouver pair grab a commanding lead of 2½ boards over their pursuers:

1. Divinsky-Strebinger (B.C.) 120.7
2. Chalfin-de la Salle (Alta.) 106.8
3. Bishop-Tchamitch (Ont.) 106.7

Divinsky-Strebinger were sentimental favourites: Mike Strebinger was a regular partner of the late Jim Donaldson, in whose honour the trophy is named; the personable Divinsky, a professor of theoretical mathematics at UBC, now plays duplicate only infrequently. Could they hang on?

Tragically for them, the answer was no. When the results were computed, an even longer shot than Divinsky-Strebinger had come through by the slimmest possible margin. Mark Chalfin and Maurice de la Salle, well-respected in Edmonton circles but unknown elsewhere, had won by one-tenth of one matchpoint. Fractions of matchpoints were caused by the carryover formula. For masterpoint purposes, this would

be a tie, but who cared about the masterpoints?

Top 10 finishers:

1/2. Chalfin-de la Salle	Alta.	197.3*
Divinsky-Strebinger	B.C.	197.2
3. Anderson-Mitchell	Sask.	179.0
4/5. Brander-Crawford	B.C.	173.3
Bishop-Tchamitch	Ont.	173.2
6. Borg-Jacob	B.C.	172.5
7/8. McLeod-Sil	Sask.	168.4
Dang-Lim	B.C.	168.2
9. Gladman-Simon	Alta.	167.7
10. Cabay-Lister	Alta.	157.9

\*won on tie-break

Somehow, Chalfin and de la Salle managed to stay composed and calm. Perhaps it hadn't sunk in yet. Or perhaps they sensed that this great victory was just the first of many they will savour in their careers. Chalfin, 31, a teacher's aide, told us he has won about 400 masterpoints since he took up the game 6 years ago. In comparison, de la Salle, 40, a psychiatric nurse, is a veteran: he has been playing for 7 years, has had some success at regional Flight B events and has 550 masterpoints. Here are two hands from the final session that they particularly enjoyed:

Dealer: West  
East-West vul.

**North**

♠ A10xx  
♥ x  
♦ AQJxxx  
♣ xx

**West**

♠ Kx  
♥ AKQxx  
♦ xx  
♣ AQJx

**East**

♠ QJx  
♥ xxxx  
♦ xx  
♣ xxxx

**South**

♠ xxxx  
♥ Jxx  
♦ Kxx  
♣ Kxx

**West**

1♥  
3♣  
4♥

**North**  
*de la Salle*

Dbl.  
3♠  
Pass

**East**

2♥  
Pass  
Pass

**South**  
*Chalfin*

2♠  
Pass  
Pass

De la Salle led the ace of spades, West dropping his king, and shifted to the ace of diamonds, followed by the queen. Chalfin overtook with his king and smoothly shifted to a club. In view of the bidding, this looked like a singleton to declarer. This was match-points, so he decided to cut his losses and rose with his ace. Down one, and a clear top for the boys from Edmonton.



Mark Chalfin

Dealer: North  
North-South vul.

**North**

♠ x  
♥ 7xxx  
♦ Kxx  
♣ xxxxx

**West**

♠ xxx  
♥ AKQJ9x  
♦ x  
♣ KJx

**East**

♠ xx  
♥ 108  
♦ Jxxxxx  
♣ xxx

**South**

♠ AKQxxxx  
♥ x  
♦ AQx  
♣ AQ



Maurice de la Salle

After a 3 ♦ opening (!) by East, Chalfin in South more or less single-handedly drove the bidding to six spades. West tried to cash two heart tricks and that was a mistake. Chalfin ruffed, played seven trumps, and the ace, queen, and another diamond. This reduced dummy to the 7 of hearts and one club, and his hand to the AQ of clubs. Poor West had to keep his heart queen and so he stoically blanked his club king. A club to the ace brought a welcome sight! You might find this result lucky but Chalfin-de la Salle need-

ed the +1430 for their win and they had the guts and table presence to take advantage of their opportunity.

A special tribute must go to Strebinger and Divinsky. When the results were computed, they inquired about the tie-break formula. When informed that all the meaningful spoils would go to Chalfin-de la Salle, they just said "oh, all right" and pleasantly shook the winners' hands. No complaints, no theatrics. A fine display of sportsmanship and character.



## An Unusual Hand

by John Woods, St. Lambert, Que.

*(It happens not infrequently that a reader sends us an article about a spectacular hand, as often as not featuring a 13-card suit or some other amazing distribution. In such cases, it is our policy to ask for proof that the hand is genuine and not a result of imagination run amok. That is usually the last we hear. Mr. Woods, however, supplied us with the names and addresses of several witnesses and assured us, with his hand figuratively on a bible, that this hand really occurred at a club duplicate. Ed.)*

So help me! This hand really happened:

**The site:** St. Lambert Bridge Club

**The deal:** Dealer West; North-South vul.

I opened my hand to find the following:

♠ KQJ                      The wheels turning...

♥ KQJ

♦ KQJ10

♣ KQJ                      ... "incredible"...

**The bidding:**

West: 1NT                      ... "incredible"...

North: Pass

East: Pass

... "now it's my turn, what could West hold in order to bid 1NT? 4 aces, of course, but so what? He can take his four tricks and the balance will be mine"...

South(me): 3NT              Confidently and impulsively

West: Double

South: Redouble ... "pennies from heaven, he can't possibly set me, but... what's that uneasy feeling all about?"

**The play:**

West: ♠ A

"... Forget about the North and East yarboroughs... Good! First hurdle out of the way. Clears my KQ..."

West: ♣ x

I win my queen... "Now's my chance to set up diamonds. But why should I still feel uneasy?..."

South: ♦ 10

West wins his ace.

West: ♠ x

I win my king... "uneasy feeling increases..."

South: ♦ K, Q, J

West follows twice, then pitches a heart.

South: ♥ K

West wins his ace... "Good, now my hearts are cleared"...

West: ♠ A

... "Good, now my spades are cleared"...

West: ♣ 8

... "Incredible! Uneasiness cum nausea".

**Result:** Down one, redoubled and vulnerable.

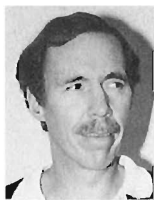
**Score:** Bottom of 12 tables.

**Post mortem:** "Partner, PLEASE shut up!"





# How I Spent My Summer Vacation



by Gary Whiteman, Toronto

For winning the 1986 Canadian Open Pairs Championship, Ken Warren and I received a terrific prize: We were invited to spend two weeks in Europe and to attend three major tournaments. Air Canada contributed the plane tickets while British bridge tour organizer Paul Hackett paid for our expenses at the tournaments.



Ken Warren

## Paris

First stop is Paris, unfortunately beginning the day I arrive. (Ken had left for Europe earlier to do some sightseeing, while I tacked on some time after the bridge tournaments). The Cino del Duco pairs, one of the most prestigious pairs events in Europe, is held over two days, one session a day (as would be all events we played in on the continent). The event proves difficult, with oral bidding, mostly in French, and tough competition. A moderate 54% first day (112th of 450 pairs) coupled with a 47% second leaves us 215th at the finish, more than just slightly out of the money.

## Nancy

After a few days rest on the Mediterranean, on to Nancy and a two-day team event run concurrently with a pairs event scored à la Epson. An unusual game – playing matchpoints and IMPs at the same time!

The main event is the team game for which we are provided fine teammates: Michael Polowan of the USA and Lars Blakset, a member of the Danish national team. First prize is \$1000 U.S. for the team event, with the top five finishers in the pairs receiving \$200 U.S. each.

We have a fine first session to lead the field with teams captained by Hackett, Eddie Kantar and Billy Eisenberg standing 2nd, 3rd and 4th behind us. The second day you're in six spades (about time for a hand, you say) on the lead of the heart ace:

You	Dummy
♠ AKQ9xxx	♠ x
♥ x	♥ QJ10xx
♦ Axx	♦ KJxx
♣ Ax	♣ KQx

The heart ace is followed by a low heart. Right-hand opponent follows low both times! Well?? If you accept the Greek gift and discard your losing diamond, you are down! The opening leader had ♠ J ♥ AKxxx ♦ Qxx ♣ xxxx and his partner had ♠ 10xxx ♥ xx ♦ xxx ♣ xxxx. Unfortunately, Ken and I rested in an uncharacteristically meek four spades, but our counterparts at the other table bid the slam. The experienced declarer played as follows: Ruff the second heart, ace and king of spades getting the bad news, diamond to the jack! Heart ruff, diamond to king, heart ruff, ace-king-queen of clubs discarding the diamond ace! Now the lead is in dummy at trick twelve with your Q9 of trumps poised over RHO's 10x.\*

However, other boards were better for us and we hung on to edge Eisenberg's team, who were second, and Kantar's, third. In the simultaneous match-point game, the final standings were not wildly different:

1. Weichsel-Eisenberg (US)
2. Warren-Whiteman (Canada)
3. Polowan-Blakset (US/Denmark)

All in all \$350 U.S. to each of us.

*\*Greek gift? The slam cannot be made if LHO shifts to another suit at trick two. Ed.*

## Mondorf-les-Bains

On to Mondorf in Luxembourg. We are ensconced in the St. Nicolas Hotel in Remich, about eight miles from Mondorf. It is a charming and quiet spot on the Moselle river between German and Luxembourg.

The first event at Mondorf is the team of four. We are paired with two French players who speak no English! The comparisons should be interesting. Ah well, our opponents in the first round are only Eisenberg-Weichsel, Crossley-Greene. The first half is quiet and we lead by five. However, the second half does not have such a comfortable feeling until this arrives:

You are Bill Eisenberg, and you hold ♠K10xxxx ♥x ♦Qxx ♣Qxx. What would you lead against the following auction:

West	North	East	South
<i>You</i>	<i>Wh'man</i>	<i>Weichsel</i>	<i>Warren</i>
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥*
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♣
Pass	6♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

\*=double negative

Reasonably enough, Eisenberg chose a diamond, only to find:

♠ —  
♥AKQJ9xx  
♦KJx  
♣AKx

♠K10xxxx	♠AQJ
♥x	♥10xx
♦Qxx	♦Axxxx
♣Qxx	♣xx
	♠xxxx
	♥8x
	♦10x
	♣J109xx

As you can see, this allowed six hearts to make for 13 IMPs when four hearts made four at the other table. This was necessary to earn a tie after 32 boards!! A four board playoff at 1:15 a.m.! It ended at 2 a.m. with a 7 IMP win after Mrs. Greene makes a doubtful vulnerable preempt and yields 800 against a non-vulnerable game.

Next come the Israelis: Lev-Shofel, Birman-Frydrich. Overbids to 3NT cost

them heavily as we score 800 and 500 and win by 17.

No rest. The semi-finals bring the Poles, including Wilkosz from their World Championship team. They are very good and send us to the concurrent Swiss by 40 IMPs. The Poles go on to win the overall first prize of 100,000 Belgian francs, about \$3500 Can.

Next, the Pairs event. After two days, we are 39th out of 118 pairs (we end up finishing 45th), but look! Canadians Andy Altay-Ian McKinnon have a 67% game and are 4th overall with one session to go! They are nervous, with another 100,000 Belgian francs on the line, and do not play well or in luck. We do not help them with this incredible Ken-shot:

You are McKinnon, West. You hold ♠x ♥Axxxx ♦Axxxx ♣Jx and find yourself on lead against this unlikely auction:

West	North	East	South
<i>McKinnon</i>	<i>Warren</i>	<i>Altay</i>	<i>Whiteman</i>
—	—	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♥*	Pass	2♠#
Dbl.	Pass	3♣	Pass
Pass	6♠!	Pass	Pass
Dbl.	Redbl.!	Pass	Pass
Pass			

\*transfer to spades

#denies four spades

Well? The unfortunate McKinnon chose the ace of hearts and was greeted with this set-up:

♠x	♠KQ109xxx	♠Jx
♥Axxxx	♥—	♥QJ10x
♦Axxxx	♦Qxx	♦xx
♣Jx	♣Kxx	♣Q10xxx
	♠Axx	
	♥Kxxx	
	♦KJx	
	♣Axx	

The heart king provided a parking place for the losing club and we scored 2020.

*Continued on p.26*

# New Conventions in the Wild West

## Grace Gang Splinters

by Ray Grace, Calgary

*Editor's note: Ray Grace is one of the more interesting characters on the Western bridge scene. We have this image in our mind of Ray, as our partner, jumping to an outrageous grand slam at rubber bridge, playing it with lightning speed, going down one, and before we have a chance to remonstrate, he says "sorry partner, the hand was cold — all I had to do was overtake the stiff king of hearts with my ace, lead the queen of diamonds to transfer the threat and play for a guard squeeze". After thinking about it for an hour, you realize he's right.*

*Since we know Ray (and since he's about 6'4", 250 lbs.) we'll say that there may be something in these "gang splinters". Judge for yourself.*

An opening bid, jump overcall, or jump response of 4 of a minor is a gang splinter.

A gang splinter shows a singleton in the minor suit bid and a higher ranking useful singleton and at least 9 high card points. The bid guarantees a minimum of an ace in one of your suits, a king in the other and a queen in either suit.

The convention paid off in an unusual way for Grace and partner Gerry Marshall at a recent sectional:

Dealer: East  
neither vul.

**North**  
Bergquist  
♠ —  
♥ Axxx  
♦ KQx  
♣ QJ10xxx

**West**  
Marshall  
♠ KQxxx  
♥ Jx  
♦ xx  
♣ Axxx

**East**  
Grace  
♠ AJxxxx  
♥ KQxxx  
♦ x  
♣ x

**South**  
Terplawy  
♠ xx  
♥ xx  
♦ AJxxxxx  
♣ Kx

At most tables, North-South bid 6 diamonds; when East-West defended this contract, it made on a spade lead, as long as declarer played exactly one round of trumps before attacking clubs. So for most East-Wests, it was just as well that they took the push to six spades, down one. But Marshall, West, was able to double six diamonds, since Grace had opened the bidding 4C. And Marshall of course led the ace of clubs; although South dropped his king, Gerry just said "you can't fool me" and continued with a club for Grace to ruff.

## The Borderline System

submitted by Henry Smilie, Vancouver

Members of any pair about to play against Bill Armstrong and partner in a game anywhere in the Vancouver area are likely to ask "So you're the ones who use the peculiar bidding conventions?" Bill may reply "When I open 2 clubs I promise at least 5 cards in the suit. How many do you promise? When I open 1 club I promise a natural opening bid with at least 4 cards in the suit; how many cards in the suit do you promise? Who's peculiar?"

For want of a better name, the system is called Borderline.

There is no strong forcing opening bid. The reason is that the need for it occurs so seldom — 1 hand in 100 (for each partner), he claims. Opening any suit at the 1 level is natural.

Opening 2 bids in a suit have the range 5 to 11 high card points with at least 5 cards in the suit. The response of 2NT asks whether you are high or low in your range. Repeating your opening suit means low.

The opening 1NT range is 12-14; opening 2NT shows 5 to 11 high card points and promises minors; opening 3NT shows 5 to 11 high card points and promises majors.

After opening 1 in a suit, a rebid in NT is quantitative.





# Tomczyk Lead Grows

Gary Tomczyk increased his lead over Bernie Lambert in the Richmond Trophy contest by 248 points according to the Oct. 1 computer printout, which shows Tomczyk with a year-to-date total of 893 points. Lambert holds second place with 645 points.

Cliff Campbell moved to third place with 563 points, exchanging places with Mark Molson, fourth with 464 points.

The list includes regionals and sectionals completed in August and early September. The Richmond Trophy is awarded annually to the Canadian who wins the most points during a calendar year.

Canadian players at the top of the list:

1. Gary Tomczyk, Parksville BC	893
2. Bernie Lambert, Calgary AB	645
3. Cliff Campbell, Thunder Bay ON	563
4. Mark Molson, Montreal PQ	464
5. Sadru Visram, Toronto ON	415
6. Boris Baran, Montreal PQ	413

## Cover illustration by Jude Goodwin:

*On our front cover, Jude Goodwin of Vancouver illustrates the dramatic sprint for the tape. L to R: Gary Tomczyk (front), Cliff Campbell, Mark Molson and Bernie Lambert*

## Past Richmond winners

- 1974 John Carruthers
- 1975 Michael Schoenborn
- 1976 Bruce Ferguson\*
- 1977 Bruce Ferguson
- 1978 Bruce Ferguson
- 1979 Mark Molson
- 1980 Mark Molson
- 1981 George Mittelman
- 1982 Mark Molson
- 1983 Mark Molson
- 1984 Mark Molson
- 1985 Cliff Campbell
- 1986 Cliff Campbell

\*set all-time record with 929 points

7. Jonathan Steinberg, Toronto ON	369
8. Robert Crawford, Vancouver BC	365
9. Leo Steil, Vancouver BC	359
10. Michael Gamble, Ottawa ON	316
11. Alan Chapelle, Vancouver BC	307
12. Greg Arbour, Vancouver BC	296
13. William Sheryer, Kitchener ON	296
14. Gerry Marshall, Calgary AB	295
15. Ken Gee, Regina SK	293
16. Billy Zerebesky, Saskatoon SK	285
17. Cameron Doner, Richmond BC	282
18. Doug Baxter, Thornhill ON	270
19. Mark Stein, Mount Royal PQ	265
20. Laurie McIntyre, Ottawa ON	244
21. Ken Warren, Pickering ON	242
22. Ray Chen, Toronto ON	232
23. Donald Pearsons, Winnipeg MB	231
24. Barry Harper, Saskatoon SK	227
25. Michael Hargreaves, Victoria BC	226
26. Douglas Heron, Ottawa ON	222
27. Pat Roy, Sherbrooke PQ	221
28. Helene Beaulieu, Sherbrooke PQ	220
29. Jerry Aceti, Sudbury ON	216
30. Martin Caley, Ottawa ON	213
31. John Carruthers, Toronto ON	213
32. Aidan Ballantyne, Vancouver BC	209
33. Stephen Willard, Edmonton AB	208
34. Edward Zaluski, Ottawa ON	206
35. Mary Paul, Toronto ON	205
36. Doug Fraser, Mount Royal PQ	202
37. Laurence Betts, Burnaby BC	200
38. Stephen Brown, Ottawa ON	199
39. Kai Cheng, Winnipeg MB	198
40. Anna Boivin, Montreal PQ	196
41. Daniel Doston, Montreal PQ	194
42. Dan Jacob, Vancouver BC	192
43. David Kent, Ottawa ON	188
44. Marc LaChapelle, Montreal Nord PQ	188
45. Richard Anderson, Regina SK	178
46. John Duquette, Oshawa ON	178
47. David Curry, Nepean ON	177
48. David Stothart, Ottawa ON	176
49. Cliff Puskas, Saskatoon, SK	173
50. Sandy McIlwain, Vancouver BC	167
51. Sandra Fraser, Mont Royal PQ	164
52. Jim Riegler, Ottawa ON	163
53. Haig Tchamitch, Thornhill ON	162
54. Robert Lebi, Toronto ON	161
55. Duncan Smith, Saskatoon SK	160

# On The Road



*by Bonnie Dalta, Airdrie, Alta.*

If you're an ardent tournament bridge player you know the hollow feeling that strikes on the seventh board of the last match of the Swiss Teams. The last hand; tomorrow you're back to the grind, back to the pressing realities of life that have been simmering on the back burner while you've been stir-frying spades, hearts, diamonds and clubs.

Dozens of times over the fifteen years I've been playing bridge I've wished the game would just go on and on; that I had the resources to play bridge until (heaven forbid!) I'd had enough. I dreamed of being free from everyday responsibilities, so I could concentrate better and play more. Touring from city to city, camping along the way, seeing the countryside and the cities – and wrapping it all up in day upon day of competitive bridge.

Well, my dream came true. I was between jobs, my only child had just finished high school, my "significant other" was testing the waters of a career as a bridge professional, and I was in the throes of indecision regarding my career, my home and my life. It was the perfect time to allow the dream to happen.

## **The Players**

Bernie Lambert, my boyfriend and star motivator for the trip, had been on the road for six weeks already, travelling in his "beater" station wagon. He and Gary Tomczyk had headed out in January, and had already played in several tournaments in California and Texas. Bernie is known in the Calgary area as a creative and talented player. His personable demeanour and easy-going attitude seem well suited to the

demands of professional bridge. Gary has an established reputation on the west coast as a bridge professional. They both love bridge, want to play better in tough competition, and are willing to devote all their energy to the game – which is feasible only if they can derive a living from it.



**Gary Tomczyk**



**Bernie Lambert**

Me? Well, I've been a working single parent since graduating with a Master's degree in mathematics. I've been in the computer business for fifteen years – fifteen challenging, rewarding years of trying to keep all the balls in the air. I had played card games such as cribbage, poker and kitchen bridge all my life, so when I one day saw a bridge club listed in the yellow pages I daringly phoned, dropped in, played an evening or two of rubber bridge (taxing my ability at 1/10 of a cent a point), stumbled through my first few sessions of duplicate – and KA-POW! I was hooked.

## **The Itinerary**

The itinerary was laid out for the tour – the Spring Nationals in St. Louis, then Regionals in Monroe (Louisiana), Amarillo (Texas), Gatlinburg (Tennessee), Indianapolis (Indiana) and Toronto (Ontario). After two weeks back home, we would start out again, covering Sun Valley (Idaho), Minneapolis (Minnesota), Albuquerque (New Mexico), Sacramento (California), Penticton (British Columbia) and Edmonton (Alberta). Over eighteen thousand miles!

My Volkswagen van was less than two years old, and was perfectly equipped for both the long drives and the day-to-day requirements of living on the road. It had a little kitchen and a bed, and it was to be

our home for the next four months. We nicknamed the van Lily, in recognition of its colour (white) and its ability to open up (the pop-top roof).

We left Calgary in March, and started our adventure by crossing the border in Saskatchewan and heading through the Dakotas for St. Louis.

### The Long Drives

The driving was sensational! New states, new cities — all with the familiar franchise food, gas and convenience outlets. Yet each unique in so many ways. Every community we passed through left its thumbprint on our memories. As we passed from one region to another, the terrain, landscape, mood, and the personality of the people changed; imperceptibly it seemed, yet strikingly over such distances.

The four hours between gas tank fill-ups broke each journey into shifts, and the three of us rotated duties: driver, navigator (come conversationalist), and sleeper. I did double duty in the sleeper capacity. We stocked the fridge, filled the water and propane tanks, and felt satisfyingly self-sufficient cruising down the interstate.

We often took rest breaks at points of interest such as the petrified wood park in South Dakota, or cooked our dinner in a peaceful campground by a river, or scrounged through a second-hand store for bargains.

Later in the tour we found ourselves with full weeks off, and used the free time to relax from the hubbub of the cities and playing sites and dally through areas of particular interest. We found the hours of driving and sight-seeing to be the perfect complement to the days of intense concentration and confinement at the tournaments.

### A Day in the Life of a Camper

Often our first day in a new city was spent getting organized — groceries, propane, water, a place to park, laundry, finding the playing site and finding a shower (not necessarily in that order). As long as Gary was travelling with us we got motel rooms, which simplified the organization process and allowed us the luxuries of spreading

out, watching TV, and having showers at will. When Bernie and I were on our own during the second portion of the tour we lived entirely in Lily the Van, which was comfortable if not roomy.


It was invariably exciting to find the new playing site on the first day of a tournament and case out the basics: coffee service, water tables, hospitality desk, and washrooms. We'd search the crowd for people we knew — professionals that we'd played with or against; friends that we'd shared meals and pleasant hours of conversation with; bridge enthusiasts that never seemed to run out of "you hold..." stories.

### The Tournaments

As each tournament unfolded, we revelled in the sheer volume of bridge we played. Scoring, estimating, matchpointing, discussing dozens of hands every day. And the results! Gary and Bernie routinely placed in the events they played, and their masterpoint totals catapulted them into the top twenty on the Barry Crane list.

Breaking into the world of professional bridge requires talent and tenacity. The game, when it becomes a career, is shrouded with pressure — pressure to find partners, to do well with them, to establish and maintain a reputation and to earn enough to stay on the road. Neither Bernie nor Gary had pre-arranged dates for the most part, and could only set up the pro desk in a conspicuous spot near the partnership desk, and wait.

The demand for bridge professionals is low relative to the vast number of people who play the game competitively, largely because the majority of bridge players view the game as a pleasant pastime — travelling, playing and socializing with their friends. The desire to improve is satisfied by playing with the best partners they can get at no expense, reading, and perhaps taking lessons from time to time. Even amongst those whose primary objective is to win and/or improve their game, many regard hiring a pro as an underhanded way to buy master points, and feel their personal satisfaction with the game will be less for having an expert as a partner. One lady com-



mented that she thought pro was short for prostitute.

There are, however, individuals who appreciate the benefits of learning under the guidance of an expert; others whose travels have taken them into unknown territory and who decide that the incremental cost of a professional partner (\$100 to \$150) is a manageable alternative to taking a chance at the partnership desk; and still others who simply want a non-confronting game with a partner who plays well.

On the whole, the guys had modest success in finding clients. And they worked hard! Usually playing three sessions a day, adapting to a carousel of systems and first-time partners, and always under the onus to perform well and make a favourable impression. The situation demanded patience, diplomacy, skill, long hours, luck, and the willingness to subsist on an income that could support only the most frugal life-style.

Like any other career, bridge professionalism exacts its dues and tests whether aspirants have the ability, the stamina and the will to stick with it. There were pressures from the bridge pro establishment to charge more, and from clients to charge less; there were frustrations, like losing the knock-outs by taking the wrong line of play on a single board, being stood up by partners, or being stiffed for not collecting fees in advance.

And there were thrills, like winning events, filling in on teams with world-class partners, rebounding from a two-board under average afternoon session to win the consolation with a first-time novice partner, and picking up enough masterpoints to become a known entity.

Unlike my professional companions, I maintained my focus on bridge as a leisure activity. I played four or five events each week, usually with pick-up partners (some very good ones, I should add) and sometimes with Bernie or Gary or another pro when at the last minute before game time nothing else had materialized. My accomplishments were also more modest, a few section tops and overall placings, but were satisfying nonetheless.

## Home Again

At the conclusion of the Edmonton tournament, I returned to my home in Airdrie, Alberta. It was a real reality check – back to working, answering the phone, feeding the cats and in general resuming the old routines. Bernie and Gary, stout-hearted and determined as they are, set out for the Summer Nationals in Baltimore – to sweat it out in the heat and humidity there, and carry on for the rest of the summer at several regionals afterwards.

My memories of the tour continue to entertain me, for often something I see or hear pulls up a vivid impression. Though the schedule of events changes only slightly from one regional to another, the venue, partners, opponents and hands make each a unique experience. And invariably, some person or event stands out that makes each tournament special:

- \* the St. Patrick's Day parade in St. Louis;
- \* the unexcelled hospitality in Monroe;
- \* the blizzard in Amarillo;
- \* the unending snowfall in Gatlinburg;
- \* in Indianapolis, the talented Ken Eichenbaum, who authored the bridge play "The Wizard of Odds" that was enjoyed by so many at the Nationals some time ago;
- \* the mouse that shared our room in Toronto;
- \* the lovely swans in Sun Valley that liked nibbling hand-outs and toes;
- \* the necklace I was given in Minneapolis by a partner whose double-booking left me without a game;
- \* the ten pounds of ribs we devoured in Albuquerque (there were four of us!);
- \* in Sacramento, our good friend Jane Andrews and her bountiful hospitality;
- \* pick-your-own cherries at their prime in the Penticton area;
- \* seeing so many of our oldest bridge friends in Edmonton.

Have I had enough yet? Not a chance.

Will I do it again? Absolutely! I'm determined to organize my career and lifestyle to make the dream a continuing one.



# Canadian Ladies Team Championship: Paul Team Triumphs Again

by Nicholas Gartaganis, Edmonton, Alta.

The 1987 Canadian Ladies Team Championship was held in Edmonton on July 4 - 8. Twenty teams from across Canada competed in the most prestigious women's event of the year. Though most of the country's best players competed, cancellations by some of the qualifying teams resulted in the West fielding 11 of the 20 teams.

The event began with a full round robin of 10 board matches played over the first three days. Despite this gruelling schedule, many of the teams availed themselves of the ample hospitality between and after sessions. (This participation showed great courage and stamina on the part of the thirteen 4-person teams!)

The twenty teams (with the captain's name in capitals) were:

ANDERSON - M. Neate - E. Hodge - M. Fines (N. Vancouver, Burnaby, Richmond)  
BALCOMBE (npc) - S. Cooper - D. Bernhardt - D. Balcombe - V. Carr (Toronto, Oshawa)  
DOLAN - L. Jones - C. Affolder - V. Arnold (Red Deer, Edmonton, Calgary)  
DUNN - G. Bortolussi - D. Gilman - M. Henderson (Thunder Bay)  
EISENHAUER - L. Connell - I. Ross - E. Crossley (Saskatoon, Flin Flon)  
FRASER - C. Hutton - L. McIntyre - J. Eaton - R. Mancuso (Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa)  
GALAND (npc) - M. Christie - S. Borg - D. McCully - S. Crapko (Vancouver)  
GARTAGANIS (npc) - P. Lopushinsky - L. Barton - K. Kilworth - J. McGillis (Edmonton)  
GROOME - S. Dickie - J. Paynter - C. Delisle (Vancouver, Richmond, Delta)  
HARRIS - A. Pilon - D. Jaskela - B. Kupkee - D. Christianson - J. Green (Kelowna, Nanaimo, Salmon Arm)  
McADAM - B. Tench - J. Belyea - M. Drummie - E. Fowler (Ottawa, Oshawa)  
McAVOY - L. Gold - J. Goodwin - R. Betts (Victoria, Burnaby)  
McKINNEY - M. Scarfone - L. Lister - M. Bergquist (Edmonton, Calgary)  
NOWLAN (npc) - J. Savage - H. Mitchell - B. Busby - H. Colter - S. Balkam - C. Grover (Halifax, Edmonton)  
PAUL - K. Thorpe - G. Silverman - D. Gordon - F. Cimon - S. Reus (Toronto, Montreal)  
REWBOTHAM - S. Carruthers - G. Lynn - S. Caty - F. Breakwell - E. Johannsson (Toronto)  
RIVARD - T. Gauthier - N. Masse - M.P. Masse (Ste. Foy, Quebec City)  
SANDERS - L. Richmond - F. MacLeod - D. Thomas - R. Hopson (Sault Ste. Marie)  
SCHNEIDER - P. Ford - P. Dahl - J. Lind (Regina)  
SZABO - M. Vaneck - N. Ferrell - G. Van Lierop (Burlington)



The winners: Mary Paul, Gloria Silverman, Sharyn Reus, Katie Thorpe, Francine Cimon and Dianna Gordon



## Round Robin

It soon became evident that, though there were some betting favourites, all the teams considered themselves contenders. The first three rounds were quiet. With 80 Victory Points at stake in each match, GALAND beat FRASER 58-22. Both HARRIS and SANDERS lost small to PAUL, the previous year's winner.

The second round produced an interesting example of achieving par:

Vul: E/W

Dlr: S

### North

♠ Q64  
♥ AKJ5  
♦ J65  
♣ A84

### East

♠ A9752  
♥ 73  
♦ 93  
♣ Q1053

### West

♠ J83  
♥ Q1086  
♦ Q108  
♣ J96

### South

♠ K10  
♥ 942  
♦ AK742  
♣ K72

North	East	South	West
		1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

After a somewhat unusual auction, North, rather than South, declared 3 NT on the lead of the five of spades. In most matches, South easily made 3 NT because the

diamond suit provided four tricks. With North declaring, the spade lead seemed deadly; however, with unerring instinct, this declarer played the king of spades (!). She then played the ace of diamonds, a heart to the ace, a diamond to the king and a heart to the jack (once the queen of diamonds did not fall). When declarer cashed the ace of hearts (East discarding a low club) and the hearts did not split, she decided **not** to try for the queen of diamonds in the East hand. Declarer crossed to the king of clubs and back to the ace of clubs. East (probably seduced by North's three club bid) failed to unblock the queen of clubs and was ignominiously endplayed. +400 for a push board!

Astute double-dummy players will note that North can legitimately succeed by squeezing West in the red suits after forcing East to cash her spades prematurely.

Round 3 Leaders: GARTAGANIS 190, McADAM 167, SANDERS 165, PAUL 143, RIVARD 142, McKINNEY 140.

In round 4 both FRASER and PAUL won big, SCHNEIDER defeated GARTAGANIS 42-38, SANDERS scored a solid win against GROOME while McKINNEY edged DUNN 47-33. Both BALCOMBE and McAVOY moved into contention. Round 5 saw SZABO stop PAUL 53-27 while BALCOMBE, McADAM, FRASER and McAVOY continued their winning ways.

Round 5 Leaders: GARTAGANIS 275, McADAM 274, SANDERS 268, FRASER 252, PAUL 247, McAVOY 241.



The runners-up: Laurie McIntyre, Joan Eaton, Sandra Fraser, Chris Hutton and Renee Mancuso

In round 6, BALCOMBE blitzed SCHNEIDER, McADAM beat SANDERS 63-17, FRASER lost small to NOWLAN and McKINNEY beat McAVOY 45-35. In a critical match between PAUL and GARTAGANIS, 74 IMPs changed hands with PAUL emerging a 48-32 victor. The match contained this unusual hand:

Vul: Both  
Dlr: S

<div> <div> <b>North</b>            ♠ 108            ♥ 7            ♦ 98643            ♣ Q10985         </div> <div> <b>West</b>            ♠ Q            ♥ AQJ5432            ♦ J752            ♣ 6         </div> <div> <b>East</b>            ♠ J7654            ♥ 98            ♦ A            ♣ KJ742         </div> <div> <b>South</b>            ♠ AK932            ♥ K106            ♦ KQ10            ♣ A3         </div> </div>			
<b>North</b> <i>Reus</i>	<b>East</b> <i>Kilworth</i>	<b>South</b> <i>Gordon</i>	<b>West</b> <i>McGillis</i>
		1 ♠	3 ♥
Pass	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	4 ♥ (!)	Dbl.	Pass
Pass	Pass		

The auction took a normal course until Kilworth, in balancing seat, bid four hearts. Though she had a reasonable expectation of defeating the 3NT contract, she could not recall whether a double forbade or demanded a heart lead. Knowing that vulnerable preempts were sound by agreement, Kilworth decided to chance four hearts. The lead of the ten of spades was won by the king and the ten of diamonds went to dummy's ace. In an effort to minimize the potential penalty yet retain a legitimate chance for the contract (Kx of hearts and KQx of diamonds in the South hand), McGillis called for the deuce of clubs, creating a hand entry without the danger of an overruff! After a lengthy deliberation,

Gordon played the ace and could still have defeated the contract by switching to a heart. Instead, she returned the king of diamonds which was ruffed in the dummy. At this point, McGillis was in control and proceeded to score ten tricks for +790. At the other table, after Cimon overcalled two hearts and rebid three hearts over Barton's reopening double, Paul raised to game. The ten of spades was led but Barton returned a heart instead of a diamond and declarer could do no better than nine tricks. Plus 13 IMPs to GARTAGANIS but the match was lost nevertheless.

Round 6 Leaders: McADAM 337, BALCOMBE 316, GARTAGANIS 307, PAUL 295, FRASER 290, SANDERS 285.

Sunday afternoon's schedule was a 40 board session. FRASER, McAVOY, NOWLAN and PAUL had strong sets, picking up over 200 of a possible 320 victory points. In a battle of leaders, FRASER edged PAUL 47-33 and GARTAGANIS beat McAVOY 52-28.

Round 10 Leaders: PAUL 527, FRASER 506, McAVOY 476, GARTAGANIS 464, McADAM 458, GALAND 449.

The round robin had crossed the halfway mark and though PAUL and FRASER seemed to have caught their stride, no team was running away with the event. There were also eight teams within half a match of the fourth and last qualifying spot.

Rounds eleven to sixteen produced many highs and lows for the teams in contention as their positions rose and fell with each subsequent match. The field had started to spread out somewhat, but only two teams were mathematically out of the race.

Round 16 Leaders: PAUL 791, FRASER 787, GARTAGANIS 754, McAVOY 727, McADAM 703, BALCOMBE 675.

In round 17, both FRASER and GARTAGANIS lost while the other contenders won.

Round 17 Leaders: PAUL 864, FRASER 818, GARTAGANIS 786, McAVOY 782, McADAM 757, BALCOMBE 725.

In the penultimate round, McADAM came up with a big win against PAUL 49-31 while BALCOMBE, seeking a blitz against GARTAGANIS, tumbled 78-2.

Round 18 Leaders: PAUL 899, FRASER 865, GARTAGANIS 864, McAVOY 844, McADAM 806, GALAND 757.

The final round promised to be an exquisite finish (remarkably, the pairings were the result of a random draw): PAUL versus McAVOY, FRASER versus GARTAGANIS and McADAM versus GROOME (who had played consistently throughout the tournament but had not managed to be among the leaders). In a bizarre turn of events, the director announced that there would be two western and two eastern teams in the semifinals! The remark was disconcerting for all involved since only PAUL was assured of a spot.

When the smoke cleared, FRASER had thumped GARTAGANIS 74-6, McAVOY had nipped PAUL 42-38 and McADAM, who needed to win by 24 IMPs to qualify, had lost 52-28 to GROOME.

The final standings:

FRASER	939	GROOME	764
PAUL	937	BALCOMBE	751
McAVOY	886	McKINNEY	727
GARTAGANIS	870	SZABO	699
McADAM	834	ANDERSON	683
GALAND	813	DUNN	641
SANDERS	810	REWBOTHAM	628
RIVARD	788	EISENHAEUER	619
HARRIS	775	DOLAN	619
NOWLAN	765	SCHNEIDER	572

FRASER chose to play GARTAGANIS and started with a 20 IMP carryover, leaving McAVOY with a 2 IMP carryover against PAUL.

#### 1988 CLTC News

The 1988 CLTC is already under way at the club qualifying level. All contestants must play at the club level if they wish to play in subsequent rounds. Club qualifying games must be held by February 29, 1988. For more details, check with your Zone Director or Barbara Tench (address on last page).

## SEMIFINAL

### First Quarter

The FRASER versus GARTAGANIS duel seemed to be a continuation of their round robin match as FRASER piled up the IMPs. McAVOY's 2 IMP carryover did not survive the first board.

Board 15 was a gain for both FRASER and PAUL.

Vul: N/S

Dir: S

#### North

♠ 84  
♥ Q9643  
♦ A532  
♣ 73

#### East

♠ J95  
♥ 1075  
♦ J84  
♣ KJ62

#### West

♠ 1062  
♥ A8  
♦ K10976  
♣ A94

#### South

♠ AKQ73  
♥ KJ2  
♦ Q  
♣ Q1085

In PAUL vs. McAVOY, the bidding went as follows:

Table 1:

South	West	North	East
<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silverman</i>	<i>McAvoy</i>	<i>Thorpe</i>
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

Table 2:

South	West	North	East
<i>Cimon</i>	<i>Goodwin</i>	<i>Paul</i>	<i>Betts</i>
1♠	Pass	1NT*	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

\*Forcing

Silverman led the ace of hearts against Gold's 3 spades. +170 to McAVOY. At the other table, Goodwin led the ten of diamonds against Cimon's 4 hearts. Cimon rode this to her singleton queen and scored +620 when both hearts and spades behaved. 10 IMPs to PAUL.

In the other match, McIntyre-Eaton duplicated the Cimon-Paul action. McGillis also led the ten of diamonds and McIntyre took the same successful line of play that Cimon had taken. At the other table, Barton - Lopushinsky languished in 2NT and made an overtrick for +150. 10 IMPs to FRASER. Once the West defender has decided to lead a diamond against 4 hearts, she might well choose to lead the king when the bidding marks diamond shortness in the South hand. If the lead is the diamond king, South must proceed carefully, playing four rounds of spades to discard both clubs from the dummy. This line of play leaves the defenders helpless to prevent declarer from scoring ten tricks.

At the end of the first quarter, FRASER led 79-14 and PAUL led 44-18.

### Second Quarter

Both FRASER and PAUL gained 9 IMPs on board 17 when a doubled partscore was misdefended in each match. FRASER and McAVOY gained 13 IMPs on board 20 when Kilworth-McGillis and Thorpe-Silverman reached unmakeable slams. On board 24 in PAUL versus McAVOY, both Gordon-Reus and McAvoy-Gold bid and made 7 hearts with:

West	East
♠ A954	♠ 32
♥ 86	♥ AKQJ109
♦ AKQ975	♦ 1063
♣ A	♣ 87

In FRASER versus GARTAGANIS, Barton-Lopushinsky bid to 6 hearts but GARTAGANIS won 10 IMPs when Fraser-McIntyre stopped in 3NT. GARTAGANIS recovered 15 IMPs in this set but FRASER still led 105-54. In the other match, McAVOY won the set 39-38 but still trailed PAUL 82-57.

### Third Quarter

Unfortunately, the last 32 boards were not duplicated in the two matches. FRASER blanked GARTAGANIS while scoring 31 IMPs on the first five boards of the third quarter, then was, in turn, held to 11 IMPs over the remaining boards. FRASER won this segment 42-37 and led 147-91 with 16 boards left to play.

In PAUL versus McAVOY, PAUL held McAVOY to 9 IMPs and PAUL's lead increased to 130-66. McAVOY had an opportunity to gain 13 IMPs on:

North	South
Gold	McAvoy
♠ Ax	♠ 109xx
♥ KQJxx	♥ A97
♦ K10x	♦ AQ7xx
♣ AK10	♣ J
—	1 ♦
2 ♥	3 ♥
4NT	5 ♥
5NT	6 ♣
6 ♥	Pass

Once her partner denied any kings, Gold might have risked finding McAvoy with a source of tricks in diamonds. The diamond and heart suits behaved. +1460 and no swing.

### Fourth Quarter

FRASER and PAUL had substantial leads with one quarter left to play. Both matches were played quickly in a rather loose style. PAUL won the last set comfortably and the match 186-96. In the FRASER versus GARTAGANIS match, 125 IMPs changed hands but GARTAGANIS was on the wrong side of most of the swings. FRASER won the match handily 243-121.

The two finalists were arguably the two best teams in attendance. They finished one-two in the round robin and both won their semifinal matches quite handily. The FRASER team had a 7 IMP carryover going in but, with 72 boards to be played, it was unlikely to be a factor.

### FINAL

#### First Quarter

Not many IMPs changed hands in this quarter. The first major swing was board 7:

Contract: 4 Spades	West	East
Declarer: West	♠ J8654	♠ A97
Lead: Club 3	♥ A875	♥ Q3
	♦ KQ4	♦ 732
	♣ A	♣ KQ975

Both Wests (Mancuso and Paul) got small club leads from North (Reus and Eaton respectively). Mancuso won the ace and played a small heart to Reus's king. Reus

returned a small diamond to Gordon's ace and Mancuso was forced to lose 2 spades since North held Kx while South held Q10x. At the other table, Paul won the ace of clubs and played a small spade to the nine, won by Hutton's ten. Hutton returned a small club away from the jack and ten to dummy's nine. Paul cashed the ace of spades, and proceeded to throw hearts and a small diamond on the good clubs. 12 IMPs to PAUL.

Board 13 was a bizarre push:

Vul: Both

Dir: N

North

♠ A7

♥ QJ104

♦ AK9432

♣ 4

East

♠ Q108

♥ —

♦ 108

♣ KQ1098765

West

♠ K943

♥ AK97652

♦ 75

♣ —

South

♠ J652

♥ 83

♦ QJ6

♣ AJ32

West	North	East	South
Mancuso	Reus	Fraser	Gordon
	1 ♦	4 ♣	Pass
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	5 ♦
Dbl.	Pass	Pass	Pass

Fraser led the king of clubs, covered by the ace and ruffed by Mancuso who cashed the ace and king of hearts. Reus had to lose a spade for -500.

West	North	East	South
Paul	Eaton	Cimon	Hutton
	1 ♦	4 ♣	Dbl.*
Pass	5 ♣	Pass	6 ♣
Pass	6 ♥	Pass	6 ♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

\*Negative

Hutton was mercifully undoubled and lost six tricks for -500.

On board 16, FRASER gained back 10 IMPs when Eaton made a four heart contract that failed at the other table. PAUL won

the set 33-23 and led 33-30 at the end of the quarter.

## Second Quarter

In rapid succession, PAUL gained 12 IMPs on board 20 when Eaton-McIntyre reached six hearts missing two aces, and 13 IMPs on board 21 when Reus-Gordon bid and made six hearts holding:

North

♠ AK10x

♥ Kxxx

♦ Ax

♣ Axx

South

♠ 8xxx

♥ A107x

♦ KQJx

♣ K

The next few boards were consecutive part score swings for FRASER. Board 27 provided some excitement:

Vul: None

Dir: S

North

♠ xx

♥ AK9xxx

♦ 9

♣ KJxx

West

♠ KQx

♥ J10

♦ x

♣ AQ109xxx

East

♠ 10xx

♥ Qxx

♦ KQJ10x

♣ xx

South

♠ AJ9xx

♥ xx

♦ A87xxx

♣ —

With the North-South cards, Fraser-Mancuso bid (!) and made (!!) 3NT against Silverman-Thorpe.

West	North	East	South
McIntyre	Reus	Eaton	Gordon
			Pass
1 ♣	1 ♥	1NT	2 ♦
3 ♣	Pass	Pass	3 ♦ (!)
4 ♣ (!)	Dbl.	Pass	Pass
Pass			

McIntyre took one bid too many and lost 7 tricks for -800 the new way. Instead of a 10 IMP gain, FRASER lost 9 IMPs.

Board 30 produced another 10 IMP gain for PAUL when Reus brought home a four spade contract.



Vul: None  
 Dlr: E

**North**  
 ♠ AK97  
 ♥ 7  
 ♦ AJ103  
 ♣ AJ42

**West**  
 ♠ Q654  
 ♥ AK6  
 ♦ K762  
 ♣ 96

**South**  
 ♠ J1032  
 ♥ QJ854  
 ♦ 5  
 ♣ 875

**East**  
 ♠ 8  
 ♥ 10932  
 ♦ Q984  
 ♣ KQ103

West	North	East	South
<i>McIntyre</i>	<i>Reus</i>	<i>Eaton</i>	<i>Gordon</i>
1 ♦	1 ♠	Dbl.*	3 ♣**
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

\*Negative  
 \*\*Preemptive

Eaton led the diamond four to the king and ace. The jack of diamonds was covered by the queen and ruffed with the deuce of spades. Reus now played the four of hearts (!) from the dummy, won by McIntyre's king. The nine of clubs went to the jack and queen and the king of clubs was returned to the ace. Dummy's last club was pitched on the ten of diamonds. Reus then ruffed the deuce of clubs with the spade three and McIntyre over-ruffed with the four. At that point, McIntyre returned a small spade which Reus ducked to dummy's jack. This gave Reus the timing to ruff out the ace of hearts, ruff her last diamond and pitch her losing club on the established jack of hearts. Had McIntyre returned a diamond instead of a spade, Reus would have had an inescapable loser in trumps or clubs.

FRASER stopped the onslaught on Board 33:

Contract: 6 Hearts    **North**    **South**  
 Declarer: South    ♠ J10652    ♠ —  
 Lead: Heart 2    ♥ AJ108    ♥ Q765  
                       ♦ K    ♦ AJ87  
                       ♣ Q62    ♣ AKJ85

Gordon, with the South hand, declared six hearts on the lead of the deuce of hearts. The eight of hearts was won by the king and Eaton returned the three of clubs to dummy's queen. At that point, declarer could have taken twelve tricks by ruffing two

spades. Inexplicably, Gordon cashed the king of diamonds and tried to travel to her hand with a club. McIntyre promptly and gratefully (since an initial club defeats the contract) ruffed. 11 IMPs to FRASER. The last board of the quarter generated the biggest swing.

Vul: Both  
 Dlr: W

**North**  
 ♠ Q1073  
 ♥ 3  
 ♦ AQJ753  
 ♣ J4

**West**  
 ♠ J8  
 ♥ AKQ1082  
 ♦ K  
 ♣ Q853

**South**  
 ♠ A96542  
 ♥ 94  
 ♦ 964  
 ♣ 62

**East**  
 ♠ K  
 ♥ J765  
 ♦ 1082  
 ♣ AK1097

With the East-West hands, Silverman-Thorpe had an uncontested auction to four hearts and made five for +650. At the other table:

West	North	East	South
<i>McIntyre</i>	<i>Reus</i>	<i>Eaton</i>	<i>Gordon</i>
1 ♥	2 ♥*	4 ♥	4 ♣
Pass	Pass	Dbl.	Pass
Pass	Pass		

\*4 spades and a longer minor

Four spades was unbeatable. Reus-Gordon chalked up +790. 16 IMPs to PAUL who won the quarter 79-30 and led the match 112-60.

### Final, Third Quarter

FRASER got off to a fast start when Hut-ton played well to make a vulnerable four spade contract that was defeated in the other room. After a few partscore swings, PAUL scored successive gains totalling 36 IMPs while FRASER could manage only 4 IMPs. An imaginative lead by Eaton of the jack of spades from KJx against 3NT gave declarer her ninth trick and cost 11 IMPs. At the end of the third quarter, PAUL led 157-87.

### Final, Fourth Quarter

The fourth quarter started quietly and then Mancuso-Fraser bid to an excellent six club slam with the following hands:

*Continued on p.32*

cbd19

# Canadian Bidding Contest



by Sandy McIlwain

## AUGUST HONOUR ROLL

1. Blair Gamble	Summerside, P.E.I.	530
2. Ross Driedger	Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.	520
3/6. Dr. Richard Bickley	Calgary	510
Chris Chan	Scarborough, Ont.	510
Bruce Jack	Calgary	510
Douglass L. Grant	Sydney, N.S.	510
7/12. R.L. Rutherford	Ottawa	500
Bill Cunningham	Sackville, N.B.	500
Wilfred Aziz	Chicoutimi, P.Q.	500
Harold Hansen	Burnaby, B.C.	500
Adrienne Marriott	Don Mills, Ont.	500
Stephen Cooper	Ottawa	500

Blair Gamble won a low-scoring contest and is our guest on this month's panel. He will also receive Hugh Kelsey's book, *The Mind of the Expert*. Thanks to everyone who tried their luck.

## THE NOVEMBER PANEL

BORIS BARAN (Montreal): is the eighth leading Canadian masterpoint holder. He won his third CNTC this year, and won the COPC in 1985. He has over forty regional wins, and has represented Canada in three World Championships.

RON BISHOP (Thornhill, Ont.): learned duplicate in the Kitchener-Waterloo area. In a recently reformed partnership with Doug Baxter, he played in the NAOP Final in St. Louis, and won the Open Pairs at the Toronto Regional. Known to his friends as the 'Spot King'.

DON BRANDER (Vancouver): is one of B.C.'s leading players. He's closing in on 2,500 masterpoints, and has represented B.C. in the CNTC several times. A serious rubber bridge player, Don has a knack of turning frustrating starts into victories.

BLAIR GAMBLE (Summerside, P.E.I.): is P.E.I.'s youngest Life Master at 39. This month's reader-champ, he manages the Summerside Duplicate Bridge Club. He has numerous sectional victories and was twice runner-up in the Can-At Open Pairs.

TED HORNING (Thornhill, Ont.): has written 3,583 consecutive daily Canadian Bridge columns. He has won around forty regionals and has over 5,000 masterpoints. Among his many high NAC finishes was a second in the Blue Ribbon Pairs.

ERIC MARCHAND (Montreal): has won five regionals and several sectionals, although he only started playing bridge in 1980. He was fifth in the 1986 CNTC. In 1981, his first full year of bridge, he collected 225 masterpoints!

JUDY MCGILLIS (Edmonton): began her bridge career at the University of Saskatchewan. She has made the playoffs in three CLTC finals, and appeared in one CNTC final. She has been involved in bridge administration in Alberta for the last nine years.

LAURIE MCINTYRE (Ottawa): represented Canada in the Mixed Pairs and Women's Pairs in the 1986 Miami Olympiad, where she was NPC of the CNTC-winning entry. She placed second in the 1987 CLTC, and has played in several CNTC finals, placing seventh this year in Quebec City.

## THE NOVEMBER SOLUTIONS

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

West	North	East	South
4♦	Pass	Pass	?

*When discussing alternatives it is often useful to first eliminate the ostrich, as in:*

BISHOP: Pass! Ax of hearts would be better. 5C & 4S are praying. Double is asking for trouble.

*This is certainly a valid response, as we have a likely plus score coming. But surely we are in trouble already, and is prayer not in order when trouble surrounds us?*

*At IMPs we need only outbid or equal the two sticks at the other table over a series of hands. Which means, among other things, that we will almost always wager a small minus score against the bigger things we came for.*

MARCHAND: Dbl. Pass risks missing a vulnerable game or not penalizing them sufficiently. 5C lacks flexibility. I will have to remove a 4H response to 5C.

GAMBLE: Dbl. Ready with 5C if partner bids hearts.

MCGILLIS: Dbl. Gives us two chances to find the right 5-level bid. Over the likely 4H I will bid 5C, which surely shows long clubs over spades.

BARAN: Dbl. I can stand anything except 4H. Who are we kidding? – over the probable 4H I will bid 4S and hope [Pray? – SM] partner will be able to work out that my spade suit may well be suspect (no 4S overcall), with clubs as my real anchor suit.

*Although no one felt sufficiently blessed to try 4S directly, this sequence ranks right up there, leaving open the almost negligible penalty option, while placing the contract where we would most like to see it. Also give partner a chance to shine.*

*Getting it over with in a hurry were:*

MCINTYRE: 5C. I'm not strong enough to double and then bid clubs. Instinct tells me that 4S might be right, but I know I would bid a plebeian 5C at the table – probably one in the soup.

*and, in a holiday humour:*

HORNING: 5C. I don't think I will quarrel with North if he passes holding Kxx - Axxxx - x - xxxx.

*Horning felt the popular double-then-bid-clubs sequence might be better saved for a cue-bid, as in D-P4S-P-5C. As for trouble? Never heard of it.*

*(Our heroine at the table bid and made 4S, en route to winning a Swiss event.)*

Scoring:	Action	Votes	Score
	Double	5	100
	5♣	2	70
	Pass	1	50
	4♠	0	50

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

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

*The Ancient Mariner sent us this one from the Friday rubber game. Half of our gladiators chose to emphasize their 150-honours suit:*

MCGILLIS: 3D. The trick-taking value of the hand makes 2D severely conservative. If partner bids again (even 3NT), I will drive to (at least) game in diamonds.

BISHOP: 3D. I've got a good hand. So what! Don't make artificial bids at rubber bridge. HORNING: 3D. We are all aware of the delicate bid of 1S. However, greed must influence us to some extent, and 3D is more likely to get us to slam when it's right.

I suggest we throw some meat here to the lions of theory – After 1D-1H-3D: 3H,

natural, forcing: 3S, spade stopper, no long hearts, no club stopper; and 3NT, club stopper, maybe spade stopper. [Eat up, lions. – SM]

*The pragmatists bid no trump. BRANDER felt 3NT was systemically forced by his long, solid minor, and*

BRANDER: 3NT. At rubber I'm taking the simple route to game. I may get my nine tricks before they have a chance to blink. I realize I've virtually given up on slam, but there it is.

*While the tacticians bid spades.*

GAMBLE: 1S. Hoping partner can either raise or bid no trump. I'll settle for the nine-trick game.

BARAN: 2S. 3D is certainly an underbid, so I'm forced to bid 2S. If partner rebids a conventional 2NT [Widely used to show a poor hand after a jump shift – "Ingberman" – SM] we can still play 3D if that's right, but hopefully we'll get to 3NT or 5 or 6D. Perhaps all too delicate for the rubber bridge table.

*Perhaps. I'm still smarting from the last time I tried that one on an unprepared partner – three years ago!*

*Does that answer your question, Leo?*

Scoring:	Action	Votes	Score
	3♦	4	100
	3NT	2	70
	2♠	1	60
	1♠	1	50
	4♦	0	20

C) ♠KJ8 ♥KJ2 ♦A43 ♣10764

Matchpoints. None vul.

West	North	East	South
1♦	Dbl.	1♠	?

*This flat 12-count drew a crowd of cue-bidders:*

GAMBLE: 2D. 3NT will likely be my second bid, but I'll try 2D first. I'm suspicious of the spade bid –

McGILLIS: 2D. The least of four evils. Pass is too one-handed. Double may fool partner when they run to their big diamond fit. 2NT overstates the diamond holding, though it might discourage the lead. 2D followed by 2NT should suggest the diamond weakness.

BISHOP: 2D. Need four spades to double.

Other choices are flawed.

HORNING: 2D. Someone must be the straight man in this sequence where there is a possibility of one, two or even three jokers. Double is no solution if RHO bids more diamonds. 2NT leaves us strapped if partner can't stand it. (South should expect a diamond lead.) 3NT is from another planet. Maybe 2D followed by 2NT tells all. Granted this is a little tame, but I am getting old.

*A few doublers looked at it differently:*

MARCHAND: Dbl. Followed by 2H. My priority is not investigating game possibilities, but finding the right major suit, which should play better than no trump. Although partner will expect me to be 4-4 in the majors, I have compensating values.

BARAN: Dbl. A tough problem with three choices. 2D is normally treated as a game force [But not by many of our panelists! – SM] and I don't feel my hand is good enough to hang partner. 2NT may be the instinctive bid, but I should have a second diamond stopper. This hand qualifies as a good penalty double in spite of the 3-card trump holding. If the opponents run to 2D I can complete the story with 2NT. [Anyone for a 2nd double? – SM]

McINTYRE: Dbl. Partner's bound to have a few spades. We should be well-placed for developments. I don't like a direct 2NT, as it figures to go down on a diamond lead.

*I'm partial to this double, as your cards appear well-placed, but no one mentioned how they'd feel if E-W gut out 1♠ doubled on their possible 5-2 fit. Plus 100 should be a poor score for us, as at least 110, 120, 130 or 140 should be available elsewhere.*

*Only BRANDER chose the straightforward 2NT bid, without comment, though I suspect it will be the overwhelming choice of our readers. Remember, we've seen partner get quite edgy lately when we fudge on our diamond stoppers.*

Scoring:	Action	Votes	Score
	2♦	4	100
	Double	3	90
	2NT	1	60
	1NT	0	40
	3NT	0	20

D) ♠K632 ♥A943 ♦AK952 ♣—

IMPs. Both vul.

West	North	East	South
—	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠*
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥**
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	?

\*4th suit forcing

\*\*Game force

*Perhaps the only thing tougher to discuss than a hand everyone agrees on is one no one agrees on. Here we've had eleven calls already and the panel's divided as to whether this is a definite or possible slam hand, or just a noisy game hand.*

*We'll begin with the high rollers:*

HORNING: 6H. To me, the easiest of the lot. Although partner is somewhat limited by his 1NT rebid, he did make two encouraging noises. That is enough to trigger my pragmatic senses. Seven is too heavy. Even with the perfect max: ♠Ax ♥KQxx ♦Qx ♣Axxxx [Surely partner would make a try after 4D with that hand! —SM], too much is riding on the self-inflicted uppercut and the 8-card trump holding.

*At least enthusiasm has its limits!*

GAMBLE: 6H. Even with bad hearts (J10xx) partner should have a play for it. Sounds like 2-4-2-5 shape.

BRANDER: 4NT. Good hand for Keycard. Expect to push if already too high.

*A good point about pushing, but could we not have all the key cards and no play for six?*

*There were several temporizers:*

McINTYRE: 5H. Partner could have the magic hand for a grand [see Horning. —SM], but 5H could be in jeopardy if partner's hearts are bad and the diamond holding is three little [Highly unlikely at this point. —SMJ]. If partner accepts with 6D, we should really be cooking.

BARAN: 5H. One last try inquiring about trump quality. Even with decent trumps slam may not be a bargain, so I wouldn't argue with a pass here.

BISHOP: 4S. Partner's 3S showed primary values, as he could have bid 3NT. All my cards look good, even with the club void.

*This was my method of passing the buck, so that when ol' pard could no longer restrain himself holding: ♠Ax ♥KJ108 ♦J ♣AQ10876. I could hound him when it went down one. Yes, it was a push, unless you were:*

MARCHAND: Pass. Partner's unwillingness to go past 4H means he is likely to have poor trumps and/or bad diamonds. It is difficult to imagine missing a good slam but easy to picture getting to a bad one or a risky 5-level contract.

*or*

McGILLIS: Pass. With reservation. Something funny is going on here. Partner has both black aces but went out of his way to cue 3C rather than 2S. I think he made it easy for me to cue the club king. A likely club holding is AQ10xx. In this case partner needs a magic hand to make slam. With ♠Axx ♥Kxxx ♦xx ♣AKxx I would expect a 5C bid rather than 4H.

*This is very well thought out — your club void is worse than two small here, as the club suit will rarely play for enough tricks. Nor will your pointed suit cards produce enough winners.*

*So chalk one up for the passers, although the temporizers would be all right if their partner avoided taking the plunge somehow. Top marks go to the pass, not because of the result, but because of their astute comments and Baran's nod in their direction.*

Scoring:	Action	Votes	Score
	Pass	2	100
	4♣	1	80
	5♥	2	70
	4NT	1	60
	6♥	2	50

E) ♠AKQJ ♥A75 ♦Q8 ♣J1062

Matchpoints. E-W vul.

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

\*15-17

\*\*Transfer

*At last, a hand with only two choices, led by the feet-firsters:*

BISHOP: 3S. Good trumps with no concentration of values.

McINTYRE: 3S. I'll super-accept, but I'm not



crazy about the call, as there are an awful lot of hands partner could have where I'll be going dismally down.

McGILLIS: 3S. This is a difficult problem. My hand, although a maximum, is really too trump poor to jump. But partner might not move over 2S with his bad trumps. Another plus for the jump is that it keeps out the balancers.

*Might not taking a push to the three-level about describe this hand, though?*

*The others bid one less:*

BRANDER: 2S. 3S against aggressive opponents.

GAMBLE: 2S. What's the problem? I'll go if partner bids again.

HORNING: 2S. Curiously, I would like my hand better if partner had transferred into my Q8 instead. Just too much slow wastage to get enthusiastic.

BARAN: 2S. Avoiding the initial impulse to bid three. Wasted values in the trump suit, too many outside losers, and certainly no safety at the 3-level.

MARCHAND: 2S. Too much wasted – the spade QJ would be more useful as an outside king.

*This problem appeared in the Bridge World's "Challenge of the Champs" (Sept. '74). There, both players treated this holding as a maximum in support of spades (different systems, same moment of decision), coaxing their partners into bidding the hopeless game on: ♠98654 ♥J6 ♦A3 ♣Q954.*

*Our panel showed its usual good sense, overlooking the 17 HCP and concentrating on the losers and wasted trump values. The extreme reluctance of the 3♠ bidders serves to highlight the marginal nature of the hand.*

Scoring:	Action	Votes	Score
	2♠	5	100
	3♠	3	60
	4♠	0	0

F) ♠A ♥A8654 ♦932 ♣10653

IMPs. Both vul.

West	North	East	South
1♦	1NT	3♠*	?

\*Preemptive

*This last one's a bit of a ghoulie, what with everyone, especially us, vulnerable.*

HORNING: 4H. Barf – evil – truly the problem hand of the set. Pass – too pusillanimous. Double – East more likely to get +730 than -800. 3NT – with the line of attack fairly obvious, we seem to need heart tricks. Therefore, why take the chance that partner has spades controlled? Nothing's perfect, but I believe 4H is the least imperfect.

McGILLIS: 4H. I have enough to bid something. The danger of 3NT is that partner needs the spade king. He will need hearts to make 3NT anyway.

BISHOP: 3NT. Double is asking for a game swing. Partner knows your spades are minimal, so he might try 4C or 4H(!) himself.

BARAN: 3NT. Having lost our ability to investigate a heart fit, I must now choose between double and 3NT. RHO doesn't expect to go down more than one, so I'll opt for safety and bid 3NT, which hopefully will have a reasonable play. Who knows? The opponents may even sacrifice in 4S.

*Such optimism! Certainly no dull games where these folks play. As evidenced by:*

GAMBLE: 4S. Looks like partner's values are in the right places. We'll play hearts or clubs. Partner chooses which and where.

*With similar thoughts, but less rambunctious were:*

MARCHAND: Dbl. Negative (or responsive). Will bid 4H over 4C but not over 3NT. An immediate 4H is an unknown quantity, while the inability to hold up in spades makes 3NT unattractive.

McINTYRE: Dbl. Negative. Anything else strikes me as a bit unilateral.

*Although the sequence 1♣-1NT-3♠-Dbl could hardly show spades and would therefore be responsive (essentially for takeout), most players do not use responsive doubles over the opponents' change of suit.*

*On this hand we are almost as unlikely to hold a trump stack, as North and East have a minimum of nine between them, so why should this not be a card-showing double? Then we could bid 3NT on the rare occasions when we have two spade tricks and game values, protecting our +600.*

*While the value-showing double has merit in*

theory, I expect it would go all pass in practice, which, incidentally, is by far the best you can do here, as North held: ♠KQ ♥K9 ♦J854 ♣AQ942, the usual ratty fifteen, with both sides too high already. Four hearts, perhaps undoubled, goes down a merciful two or so.

In the 1974 Bermuda Bowl, Bob Hamman, universally considered one of the world's finest, bid 3NT and went down six! At the other table, our own Eric Murray propelled the Italians to 5C doubled after 1D-2C, bidding 4S(!) on his ♠J1098762 ♥1073 ♦10 ♣KJ, scoring both his trumps and a cool +800.

Scoring:	Action	Votes	Score
	4♥	3	100
	Double	2	70
	3NT	2	60
	4♣	1	40
	Pass	0	40

## FEBRUARY CONTEST

To enter the February contest, send your answers to the problems listed below (deadline January 31, 1988) to the following address:

Sandy McIlwain  
#6, 2160 - 39th Ave. West  
Vancouver, B.C. V6M 1T5

The reader with the highest score will receive a bridge book containing the valuable autograph of Sandy McIlwain, and will be invited to join the panel for the May 1988 contest.

## Advertise in this Magazine

The Canadian Bridge Digest welcomes advertisements. Bridge clubs that cater to out-of-town players, bridge travel companies, tournament organizers, mail-order bridge supply houses and anybody else who would like to reach 16,000 Canadian bridge players may wish to take advantage of this opportunity. Rates are \$300/full page; \$180/half page; \$100/quarter page; \$65/eighth page. Typesetting and layout are included. Please address all material to the editor.

### A) IMPs. N-S vul.

♠K ♥85 ♦J976543 ♣Q52			
West	North	East	South
1♣	1♦	Dbl.*	?
*Negative			

### B) Matchpoints. None vul.

♠AKQJ7 ♥A10987 ♦6 ♣K3			
West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♠
2NT	3NT	Pass	?

### C) Matchpoints. None vul.

♠AKQJ54 ♥QJ ♦QJ74 ♣9			
West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	2♣	3♣	?

### D) IMPs. N-S vul.

♠83 ♥Q964 ♦876 ♣AQ42			
West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♦	1♠	Pass	?

### E) IMPs. None vul.

♠AKJ7 ♥AK ♦62 ♣J9842			
West	North	East	South
—	—	3NT*	Dbl.
4♣	5♣	Pass	?
*Gambling			

### F) Matchpoints. Both vul.

♠K62 ♥J10762 ♦K4 ♣AKJ			
West	North	East	South
2♥*	Pass	2♣	Pass
Pass	Pass	—	—

\*Both majors at least 4-4

Your lead?

## Nickname Quiz

How many well-known Canadian bridge players (past or present) can you identify by their nicknames?

1. The Professor
2. The Rookie
3. The Shoe
4. The Foot
5. Tuna
6. The Pickle
7. Pepsi
8. Drewsie
9. The Truck
10. The Butcher
11. Moo-Cow
12. Spike

(Answers on p.32)

# ACBL Dues and the Exchange Rate



The Digest has received some interesting correspondence from Frank Stanford, an ACBL member from Victoria. Mr. Stanford's letter was lengthy, so will ask his forbearance if we paraphrase rather than quote him:

Mr. Stanford was upset when he received his annual invoice for ACBL dues, which stated "US \$15.00/Can \$21.00". This represented an exchange rate of 40%, which of course was higher than the official rate. After exchanging a few letter with ACBL headquarters and receiving no satisfactory reply, Mr. Stanford looked up the exchange rate in the paper as of the "due date", found it to be 33.07% and sent the ACBL a cheque for Can \$19.96.

To his surprise, the cheque was accepted, apparently as full payment, and Mr. Stanford advises all Canadian ACBL members that they should submit payment based on the official rate of exchange rather than the figure used by the ACBL.

We asked the ACBL to respond and received the following reply:

It would be great if the exchange rate would remain constant. The problem is that bills have to be prepared and mailed several months in advance of each member's renewal date. The amount that is charged in Canadian funds is determined by the actual exchange rate as of the time the bills are prepared. In Frank Stanford's case, he paid his bill more than four months after his initial bill had first been prepared. The exchange rate had gone down. Mr. Stanford calls for "fairness". Does that mean that if the rate goes up, a Canadian member, when he pays his bill, should consult the current

exchange rate and send ACBL the higher amount?

In most instances when we receive an underpayment, we will renew the membership for less than a full year. Sending in less than the amount billed is not the answer.

We believe it is very important that we treat Canadians and all of our members in as fair a manner as possible. If any of you can suggest a fairer method of handling dues and other payments made by our Canadian members to ACBL, I would appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,


William M. Gross  
Managing Director



## Summer Vacation

*Continued from p.7*

## We Can Compete with the World

Ken and I enjoyed this experience tremendously. We are grateful to Air Canada, John Walker Travel, Paul Hackett and the Canadian Bridge Federation for making this adventure possible. All in all, we feel we held our own in international competition. Canadians should avail themselves more often of such opportunities. The experience is both confidence-building and enlightening. We *can* compete with the world! 

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# Inside the CBF

by Aidan Ballantyne



The following two important, related topics shall receive prominent attention in this, and the next, column: the CBF dues increase; and the matter of restructuring bridge administration in North America. I shall discuss the dues increase here and leave reorganization, which could involve formation of an independent bridge league closely associated with the ACBL, to the next Digest issue.

## The dues increase

Given the CBF constitution, Canadian ACBL units, rather than individual players, are members of the CBF. A Canadian unit joins the CBF by paying a per capita membership fee out of its general funds. A unit's main source of income is its share of ACBL membership fees. Currently, an annual ACBL membership costs US \$15.00 for non-LMs and US \$12.00 for LMs. The unit's membership share is US \$3.00 and US \$2.25 respectively. It is a portion of this unit income which is rerouted to the CBF.

Last April, the CBF Board voted to increase CBF unit dues from CAN \$1.50 to CAN \$2.00 per unit member. The additional 50 cents is to go exclusively to the CBF's general, or operating, fund. The dues increase was voted reluctantly because the Board appreciates that Canadian units are caught in a financial squeeze between the ACBL and the CBF. On the one side, the ACBL may attempt to increase its revenues at the expense of units by increasing unit event sanction fees and by lowering the units' share of ACBL membership revenue. On the other side, the CBF may try to increase its revenue by taxing Canadian units ever larger CBF per capita membership dues.

The present crisis has been in the making for several years. The CBF, despite steadily increasing costs, had been holding off a CBF dues increase in the hope that, meantime, the ACBL Board would increase ACBL membership fee unit refunds in conjunction with their raising ACBL membership fees. This would give Canadian units a bit more of a cushion with which to absorb a CBF increase. Unfortunately, when the ACBL membership fee increase was finally approved, the ACBL Board earmarked the additional revenue for ACBL management (to implement the marketing plan, etc.) and the units continued to receive the same dollar return from membership fees (the units' percent share was thus actually lowered!). By then, the CBF was faced with a grave operating fund crisis which could only be mitigated by an immediate substantial raising of unit CBF membership dues. Hence, the unpalatable dues increase!

## The CBF financial crisis

Three different accounts are used to manage CBF affairs: the general fund; the international fund; and the charitable fund. Each fund has its own purpose and money cannot be arbitrarily transferred from one fund to another.

Charitable fund income is generated mainly from ACBL charity games held in Canada. This fund is healthy and currently enables about \$40,000 to be disbursed annually to various Canadian charities. International fund income is provided principally by Canada-wide Olympiad fund games and by Canadian ACBL-wide International fund games. The international fund also receives a share of unit CBF dues: in 1981, CBF dues were increased from \$1.00 to \$1.50, the extra 50 cents to be deposited into the international account. The international fund takes in about \$25,000 per year. This barely supports our representatives abroad, given increased travel and hotel costs and steadily expanding opportunity for international competition.

Notwithstanding international fund problems, the current crisis involves the general, or operating, fund. Income to the general fund is mainly through CBF unit member-

ship dues. In 1968, shortly after the CBF was officially born and the first CBF Digest printed, a \$1.00 per unit member levy from Canadian ACBL units was instituted. Since then, this same \$1.00 has continued as the principal income to the CBF general fund. Not all Canadian units have consistently paid their dues and therefore, even though the number of Canadian ACBL members has at times reached 17,000, membership income to the general fund has averaged somewhere around \$16,000.

A number of operating expenses are paid out of the fund including: CBF Digest; Directors' annual meeting; Directors' expenses

(ongoing national and zonal administration); and various honoraria (executive secretary, treasurer, auditor, national championship co-ordinators, Digest editor, translators, etc.). These expenses have increased steadily since 1968 even though the \$1.00 per capita assessment for the general fund has remained constant for almost 20 years! For this reason, and also because interest rates have dropped dramatically, the general account has slowly and inexorably been collapsing to the present point where CBF function is threatened entirely. The trend looks something like this (figures approximate):

Year	Expense		Account balance at year end
	Digest (4 issues)	Annual meeting	
1979	\$8,000	\$4,500	\$25,000
1981	\$10,000	\$4,500	\$31,000
1983	\$9,000	\$5,000	\$34,000
1985	\$13,120	\$7,000	\$12,000
1986	\$16,442	\$7,000	\$2,000
1987 (projected)	\$17,000 +	\$7,000 +	-\$6,000 +

*Continued on next page*

## Ottawa Pair Wins Seniors Game

The annual Canada Wide Seniors Pairs game attracted a turnout of at least 304 pairs. Unfortunately, some clubs did not report their results to Stanley Tench, the national co-ordinator. The leading scores were:

- |  |        |
|--|--------|
| 1. Dick Rutherford - Ken York (Ottawa)                   | 68.15% |
| 2. John Hazel - Peg More (Angus, Ont. - Barrie, Ont)     | 67.71  |
| 3. Elaine Duff - F. Yeung (Toronto)                      | 67.50  |
| 4. Evelyn Heal - Ann Fordham (Moose Jaw, Sask.)          | 66.07  |
| 5. Gladys Minor - Helen Roche (Calgary)                  | 65.93  |
| 6. George Benesh - Moselle Berger (Toronto)              | 65.38  |
| 7/8. Jim McKellar - Doug Clark (Kingston, Ont.)          | 64.58  |
| 7/8. Pat Thompson - Fern Seel (Moose Jaw, Sask.)         | 64.58  |
| 9. H. Boynton - M. Tayarchuk (North Bay, Ont.)           | 64.55  |
| 10. Terry Hansford - Alex Sutton (Mississauga - Toronto) | 64.26  |



Overall, the Digest expense has increased marginally faster than the meeting expense though other costs (not shown) such as Directors' expenses and various honoraria have risen at least as fast as the Digest because of overall expanding CBF function.

The bottom line is that Canadian units will have to pledge additional financial support if their players are to continue receiving the present, acceptable level of CBF service. If this support is not forthcoming, the first item to be cut back will undoubtedly be the Digest which serves an important function but is not absolutely essential to immediate CBF survival. This would be a great pity since the Digest provides entertainment and instruction for Canadian players as well as being a useful vehicle for communicating administrative news. In fact, the Digest seems to be gaining momentum under the energetic and capable stewardship of our new editors and now, more than ever, that effort is worthy of monetary backing.

The CBF Board hopes that Canadian units will come to the rescue and willingly pay the dues increase. The dues hike is justified in that: this is the first increase to the general fund in almost 20 years; and Canadian units should be able to afford it since their ACBL membership fee share is paid them in \$U.S. (Canadian units thus have a comparative financial advantage over their U.S. counterparts and should be able to function reasonably well minus the CBF share of unit revenue).

Players: if you wish your unit to support the CBF with their share of *your* ACBL membership fees, write or talk to your unit executive!

### **The long term**

In the long run the problem of financing the CBF, or any other Canadian bridge organization, cannot continue to be solved by charging Canadian units some form of per capita membership dues. Indeed, Canadian units are carrying a large financial burden already since they have to pay sanctions for their various events in US\$.

Ultimately, a Canadian bridge organization can be adequately financed only by levying membership fees directly from the players themselves and by receiving provincial and federal government assistance. This method of fundraising is in fact what distinguishes a federation-type organization such as the CBF from an independently operated bridge league. The present CBF financial crisis must precipitate a rethinking of Canadian bridge administration and, potentially, establishment of a new league. However, in my opinion, any such league must be set up with some guarantee that Canadian players will continue to enjoy services presently offered by both the ACBL and CBF. Of course, this may cost Canadian individual players more money, *unless* the new league receives adequate subsidy from the Canadian government.

I shall discuss independence more fully in the next issue.



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# Rapport du Nord et de l'Est du Québec

par Maurice Larochelle

J'aimerais consacrer cet article trimestriel pour souligner la belle performance récente de Jacques et André Laliberté de la région de Québec sur la scène canadienne du bridge.

Les deux frères avaient souvent fait partie d'équipes qui ont connu de grands succès; il y a quelques années par exemple, ils ont gagné le championnat du Québec par équipes, avant de se rendre en semi-finale des championnats canadiens.

Cependant ils jouaient chacun avec un autre partenaire. On leur reconnaissait en effet des qualités exceptionnelles en tant que déclarant et comme défenseurs. Leur présence à la table aussi est phénoménale. Enfin, ils sont à leur meilleur quand la pression est forte.

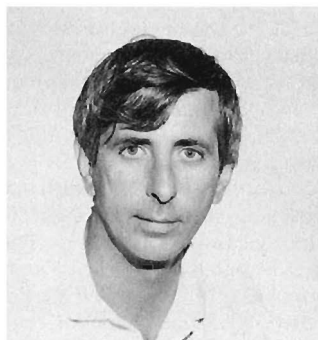
De méchantes langues toutefois affirmaient qu'ils n'auraient jamais de succès s'ils jouaient un en face de l'autre, à cause de leur caractère un tantinet difficile.

Eh bien ils ont joué ensemble pour la première fois lors des championnats canadiens par paires en 1986 et réussirent à terminer en deuxième place à un maigre point des premiers. Va pour le caractère difficile!

D'accord pour les compétitions par paires, de reprendre en chœur les mêmes méchantes langues, mais ils ne feront jamais rien de bon ensemble à toute autre forme de compétition, à cause de leurs philosophies divergentes au niveau des enchères.

Eh bien, on les invite à une compétition d'enchères regroupant quelques-unes des meilleures paires du Canada et ils réussissent à faire la finale, où il faut une performance éblouissante de l'autre paire pour les battre (voir l'article d'Eric Kokish dans ce Bulletin). Va pour la philosophie d'enchères!

En parlant de philosophie d'enchères imaginez pour un instant que vous participez à la semi-finale d'une compétition par paires réservée aux maîtres à vie lors d'un tournoi national. Vous êtes en Est, votre camp seule-



Jacques Laliberté

ment étant vulnérable; que faites-vous avec le jeu ci-dessous après les enchères indiquées:

♠ RDVx

♥ xx

♦ xxxxx

♣ Dx

Ouest	Nord	Est	Sud
—	—	—	—
2♠*	2♥	Passé	4♥
5♦	Passé	?	

\*Enchère artificielle de force

## L'annonce de Jacques Laliberté

Celui-ci, se remémorant sans doute ce qu'Oswald Jacoby avait déjà fait dans des circonstances à peu près semblables, gagea... 7 carreaux!

Cette annonce pouvait être la bonne pour trois raisons: d'abord, le contrat était peut-être sur table. Ensuite, le contrat serait peut-être réalisable si l'on ne trouvait pas la bonne entame.

En fait, le contrat était irréalisable quelle que soit l'entame et les défenseurs pouvaient même encaisser deux plis à coeur, mais nous en venons à notre troisième raison: le défenseur ayant l'as de coeur, le cas échéant, rechercherait peut-être un contrat-sacrifice, croyant à une chicane de coeur en Est.

À son troisième tour d'enchères en effet, Nord gagea 7 coeurs. Jacques Laliberté contra évidemment et on fit assez de plis en défense pour récolter 24,5 points sur une possibilité de 25.

## Une autre anecdote

Je pourrais écrire un livre sur les frères Laliberté, mais faute de place ici, je me contenterai d'une dernière anecdote.



André Laliberté

C'était il y a plusieurs lunes, à l'occasion d'un de mes premiers tournois hors Québec. Lors d'une compétition par équipes (Mouvement "Board-a-Match"), j'étais assis en face de Jacques Laliberté et nos partenaires étaient André Laliberté et Brian Rapson.

Nous étions à peu près convaincus que la première place se déciderait lors de notre dernier match contre une forte équipe de Montréal.

Arrive la dernière planchette. Après une longue séquence d'enchères, où notre camp a toujours passé, mon adversaire de gauche propose le contrat de 5 carreaux. J'ai hâte que les enchères reviennent à moi, puisque je

vais contrer, sachant par les enchères que les cartes seront mal placées pour le déclarant et que mon partenaire a probablement cinq atouts, les adversaires en ayant chacun quatre.


Mais un instant! Mon adversaire de droite hésite, puis regrettant sans doute de ne pas avoir stoppé à 3 sans atout, où il aurait pu avoir une meilleure marque qu'à 5 carreaux, il ajoute un sixième carreau.

Contrôlant difficilement mon timbre de voix, je contre évidemment et ne peux m'empêcher de remarquer que le menton du partenaire tombe presque sur la table d'incredulité, puisqu'il a quelques levées possibles, en plus de cinq atouts.

Il fait alors une entame assez conservatrice et le contrat chute de cinq plis! Anticipant la victoire, je ne peux m'empêcher de faire remarquer au partenaire que le contrat chute de sept plis contre une entame plus agressive.

Vous l'avez deviné sans doute! L'autre équipe nous ravissait la première place à cause de cette donne. Nos partenaires en effet ont chuté de six plis au contrat contré de 5 carreaux.

Pendant tout le voyage de retour, des Etats-Unis à Québec, il fallut écouter André enseigner à son jeune frère les vertus de l'agressivité au bridge. On n'a jamais eu besoin de le répéter à Jacques.

Et comment fut votre trimestre? 


## International Bidding Contest

The International Bidding Academy has released the results of the 1987 World Bidding Contest. High finishers received cash prizes for their performances.

While most entries were from Europe, several North American pairs placed at the very top of the standings. Worthy of particular mention is the outstanding performance of Gladys Campbell-Dr. Don Campbell (a mother-son combination) of Saskatoon. This pair placed fourth in the 1986 contest and improved by one position in 1987.

1. Falk-Mertz	USA	303
2. Dodd-Habegger	USA	302
3. Campbell-Campbell	Canada	274
4. Grotheim-Tundal	Norway	263
5. Baran-Molson	Canada	254

Sandra and Doug Fraser of Montreal, who always do well in this contest, were the third-best Canadian entry, placing 16th in the world with a score of 249.

We will announce the 1988 edition of this interesting contest in the next issue, if (that's a big if) we receive the information in time from the organizers. 

Paul Team *Continued from p.19*

West	East
♠ K1076	♠ AQx
♥ 7xx	♥ AQJx
♦ xx	♦ x
♣ AJ9x	♣ KQxxx

At the other table, their teammates saved in five diamonds, -300 for a 14 IMP swing. Three boards later, Mancuso-Fraser bid six spades with:

West	East
♠ Q10xx	♠ Axxx
♥ AKxx	♥ x
♦ Axxx	♦ xx
♣ x	♣ AKJ10xx

The KJ of spades was doubleton and the queen of clubs was tripleton on-side. +1430 and another 13 IMP gain for FRASER. Just when the match was beginning to pick up in intensity, PAUL surged back and held FRASER scoreless over the next 11 boards. The final tally was PAUL 224, FRASER 115.

The PAUL team are all seasoned veterans with numerous individual triumphs. By virtue of their back-to-back C.L.T.C. wins, they will have the honour of representing Canada in the 1988 Ladies' Team Olympiad.

## "NO CLUBS, PARTNER?"

by Sharyn Reus, Montreal

During the last match on the second day of the round-robin of the 1987 CLTC I sat South and picked up the following collection:

♠ Kx ♥ AJx ♦ AQ10xx ♣ Axx

The auction proceeded quite normally:

Reus	Gordon
1♣	1♠
2NT	3NT

West led the ♠K and Dianna spread this dummy:

♠ QJxx ♥ Qxx ♦ xxx ♣ Axx

As tired as I may have been, *even* I noticed that we *both* held the Axx of clubs! Upon closer inspection, *all* my clubs turned into spades! A most embarrassing situation, indeed...

After carefully cleaning my glasses, I rearranged my cards:

Reus	Gordon
♠ AKxxx	♠ QJxx
♥ AJx	♥ Qxx
♦ AQ10xx	♦ xxx
♣ —	♣ Axx

Only eight top tricks with a possible ninth in either hearts or diamonds, I could cash only four spades because I had to end up in dummy to lead the "right" red suit. If clubs were 5-5, I could then exit with a club but I would have to make four more discards; I had already pitched a diamond on the opening lead. That would make it easy for my opponents to exit with the right suit. I could cash the ♦A for the extra chance of a singleton king and then fall back on the heart finesse. Or, I could make my opponents discard on spades and "feel" the table.

The latter is the line I chose. After following to two spades, my LHO discarded the ♥8 and the ♦8 quite painlessly. My RHO discarded a club and a low diamond. Assuming that RHO would not have thrown a diamond from the king, I chose to take the heart finesse. Down one.

As it turned out, LHO held something like: ♠xx ♥Kxx ♦KJx ♣KQJxx and I couldn't guess right. My only hope was that the opponents at the other table would reach the excellent spade slam and fail. Wrong again. Full punishment was exacted and we lost 11 IMPs. Sorry, team.

To my straight-faced kibitzer: No, 2NT was not a conventional bid!



## Answers to Nickname Quiz

(Questions on p.25)

- |                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Harry Bork      | 7. Ken Murray       |
| 2. Ben Paul        | 8. Drew Cannell     |
| 3. Mike Schoenborn | 9. Ron Mak          |
| 4. Mike Wilson     | 10. David Smith     |
| 5. Tony Reus       | 11. Don Cowan       |
| 6. Alex Knox       | 12. Robert Crawford |

# The Maurice Paul Canadian Bidding Challenge



*Conducted by Eric Kokish*

## The Final

It's West vs. East, scientists vs. traditionalists, and (dare we fly in the face of the Meech Lake accords) English Canada vs le Canada Français. Gord McOrmond-Dangerous Dan Jacob vs. les frères Laliberté-André et Jacques. Surely you will all have a horse for which to cheer in this ten-deal match. So turn up the volume on the old Marconi, don your tuque, untap the beer, and join us for one last night in Bangkok (which really CAN make a hard man humble, as my bowels have recently discovered only too painfully). Remember that the awards assume matchpoint scoring.

(A) West East Neither vul; this looks like an easy hand from my vantage point, requiring only that the club fit comes to light and that the controls can be confirmed. East will be able to see the advantage in playing in a trump contract if he can get a feel for West's hand pattern, and this won't be too taxing. Let's see.

Awards: 7♣=10; 6NT=8; 6♣=7; 6♠=6; 5NT=4!!; 5♠=3; 5♣=2; 7NT=4; 7♠=3 [note that these awards assume that 7NT will fail roughly as often as it figures to fail on a straight odds basis]

Jacob	McOrmond	Jacques	André
1NT	2♣*	1NT	2♦*
2♦*	2♥*	3♥*	4♣
2NT*	3♣*	4♥*	4♠*
3NT*	4♠*	5♦*	5♥*
4♥*	4♠*	7♣	Pass
4NT*	5♣*		
5NT*	7♣		
Pass			

McOrmond used his pet Relay Stayman methods with obvious relish here. Jacob denied four hearts, five spades, and a six-card minor with 2♦, then showed 43 or 44 in the minors (2NT), then 3334 (3NT), then 5 controls (4♥), then one queen or four (4NT), then specifically the ♣Q (5NT). An easy hand for these guys, it would appear.

André used game-forcing Stayman, and Jacques' 3♥ showed 3343 or 3334 pattern with minimum strength, one of the partnership's few hypermodern treatments. 4♣ was natural and 4♥ was a clear cue-bid for clubs with 3334. A couple of cue-bids later, André tried for seven with 5♥. Having denied a maximum, Jacques was in a strong position to accept with his excellent trumps and unbid ♠K. An excellent "natural" sequence, don't you think? Well, I do. 10-10.



(B) West East N/S vul; East must be willing to give up on his spades without too much struggle and West must turn conservative once he gets some sort of rounded suit preference. A difficult deal and one might expect to get something for going only -50 in a topflight pairs event. In fact, our awards seem to reflect that estimate.

Awards: 4♥=10; 5♥=7; 5♠=5; 4♠=4; 6♥=3; 6♠=2; sane partials=3

Jacob	McOrmond	Jacques	André
1♥	1♠	1♥	2♠
2♥	3♦	3♠	3♥
4♠	4♥	4♥	Pass
Pass			

Both our pairs made this one look easy. I admit that I like Jacob's eccentric 2♥, which catered to a 2♠ rebid from McOrmond, allowing a comfortable 3♠ continuation (where 1♥-1♠; 2♠-2♠; 3♥ would portray a better hand). The 2♥ bid left McOrmond searching for a convenient force and he chose 3♦ rather than 3♠ in case his diamond control might prove relevant for a high heart contract (one suspects a mild case of bidding contest-itis here). As overseer Aidan Ballantyne points out, they landed on their feet when Jacob wisely elected not to read too much into McOrmond's vaguely strongish sequence. Note that spades were bid just once here.

I also have some admiration for André Laliberté's unfettered Acol-style jump shift to 2♠. Apparently he was describing his hand with 3♥, since Jacques settled for an ultra-quiet raise to 4♥, ending an exciting auction. It means little that YOU would have: AKQxx Axxx Kx xx (or so) for André's sequence. What matters is that Jacques picked it just right. 20-20.

(C) West East E/W vul; Oh no! A 1NT-3NT hand. Routine, but perhaps down on a lead, which gives club partscores plenty of merit. Maybe even a spade spot. My, this is a tough game. How shall we score this one, given that 3NT will often fail? Will our heroes find some excuse to stay out of 3NT?

Awards: 3NT=10; 4♠=7; partials=5 (relevant only when game fails); 5♠=2

Jacob	McOrmond	Jacques	André
1NT	2♠*	1♠	2♠
2♦*	2♥*	2♦	2♠
2NT	3♠*	3♠	Pass
3NT*	Pass		

McOrmond had the toy to look for a spade game or a high minor suit contract so he used Relay Stayman. Here Jacob refused to show his fourth spade because the suit was so bad (more bidding contest-itis), showing (I believe) 3334. Nothing bad happened.

Jacques also tried to guess the problem, opting for 1♠ rather than a 15-17 HCP notrump. André offered an inverted raise and a couple of stopper-showing bids were exchanged. Now Jacques' 3♠ was theoretically nonforcing. Whenever André is not forced, he passes if it looks close. It was close. He passed. 3♠ is a theoretically fine contract that might score much better or much worse than the 5 points it gets in our table. It's all a function of whether everyone's normal 3NT makes or fails. Silly, isn't it?

Jacob-McOrmond are now ahead 30-25.

(D) West East Both vul; A deceptively difficult deal. West will have to decide whether or not to show his spades over his partner's fourth-seat 1♥ opening. If he does, it may prove tricky getting out of spades. If West suppresses spades in favour of a positive heart raise, the partnership might even reach game. Method will play a role here.

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

Jacob	McOrmond	Jacques	André
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♥
1♠	Pass	1♠	2♣
		Pass	

Both pairs would readily open 1♥ with four cards in fourth position, and those hands might include four spades as well. Drury would have been a mild overbid for Jacob. Jacques would have had to choose between 2♥ and 3♥ if he was going to go the raise route. Which helps to put those 1♠ responses in clearer perspective. If you're curious, neither pair plays Flannery, so there is also no implication of extra spade length colouring the spade response to 1♥. Given all that, the Easts had to decide whether to move at their second turn. McOrmond, unwilling to jeopardize a likely plus in search of an unlikely game, gave it up. André, who has seen Jacques pass some very good hands, opted for the bid he would have made at the table. Now it was up to Jacques to make a conservative bid, and he allowed his queens and lack of security at the three-level to sway him. 36-30 for the Westerners.

(E) West East None vul; You'd like to be in 2♣ this time, but there is some potential at notrump too, even though there might not be enough time to enjoy all the potential. That West hand has enough intermediates to please the keenest spot promoter, and the East hand has a few kickers as well. Even if the spade fit is located at an auspicious moment, there will be a temptation to look for 3NT, and just one look will be enough to knock a few points off the optimists' score.

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

Jacob	McOrmond	Jacques	André
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♦
2♣*	2♦	1♥	1♠
2♣	Pass	2♣	Pass

A classic fourth-seat 1♠ from McOrmond. No obligation to find a rebid, no reason to get involved with a delicate exploration campaign that might smack of unbalanced pattern. This time Jacob had enough for Drury and McOrmond's 2♦ suggested a bad hand with only four cards in spades. Easy.

## Editorial

*Continued from p.2*

Yes, our elected leaders are trying to run worthy and dignified championships. The Canadian ACBL units are forced to scrimp because of the burden of CBF dues; clubs and volunteers all across the country work hard to organize the various local heats; and we 16000 members support these events by playing and thus subsidizing the finalists; And we feel that the elite, while entitled to voice constructive criticism, has an obligation to display, if not gratitude, at least some collaboration and understanding for our organizers.

The Laliberté's very rarely open 1♣ with fewer than five cards, and here André was content to start with 1♦, which might well make it easier to find a partscore in that strain, after all. When he rebid 1♣, Jacques was faced with a problem of evaluation. For notrump, the West hand is worth an invitational jump to two. For spades, those slow cards suggest conservatism and 3♣ would be an overbid. Had spades been supported earlier, it might have been attractive to move towards 3NT with a fall-back position in spades. Here, however, there was no way to do everything. True to the partnership's colours, Jacques took the low road and settled for 2♣. All was sweetness and light.

After half the deals in the match, both pairs are doing well, with McOrmond-Jacob still ahead, 46-40.

(F) West East N/S vul; Not many high cards, but just enough for an excellent 6♣. West's contributions are crucial – the two aces and the third spade, which does something for East's fourth diamond. There are many interesting features to this deal, not the least of which is East's choice of opening bid.

Awards: 6♣=10; 5♣=4; 3NT=1;

Jacob	McOrmond	Jacques	André
2♦*	2♣*	2♦*	2♣*
4♣	3♣	3♣	2♣
5♥	4♣	4♥	4♣
Pass	6♣	5♣	5♣
			Pass

2♣, huh? Well, with no opponents to consider, I guess there's something in it, particularly if your partner doesn't take you too seriously. Both Wests settled for 2♦ (Jacob's meant something, I think; Jacques' didn't). Here the paths diverged.

McOrmond jumped to set the suit, which seems dangerous when you consider that grand slam chances rate to be in diamonds (just change West's ♣A to the ♦A to see how this might work). Jacob was required to cue-bid and he obediently showed both his aces. It seemed obvious to McOrmond to shoot out the slam now, so he did, and he bought a useful combination in the pointed suits.

Jacques' 3♣ was constructive, and André tried 4♣, hoping to hear 4♦. It's so often unwise to make the first slam try in a short suit that I feel André should have risked 4♦ if he was going to make a move over 3♣. Over 4♥, André rebid his club void, and now Jacques had to judge how far to go with a theoretically devalued ace, bad trumps, and no obvious ruffing value. He decided to quit at 5♣ and it's difficult to blame him. On the other hand, three trumps, two aces and jack opposite a strong two-bid might just fit into the definition of a "slam drive." If that East hand is a 2♣ opening, I suppose there are similar hands that won't produce a slam opposite the West cards. Too tough for me, I'm afraid.

McOrmond-Jacob have opened up a big lead now, 56-44, with four deals remaining. Still time for the Laliberté's to come back, but they'd best hurry.

(G) West East E/W vul; North deals and opens 2♦ (weak): Can our heroes overcome the awesome 2♦ preempt to reach the excellent grand slam in clubs? We enter the realm of competitive forcing bids, suit quality expressions, notrump suggestions, and much more.

Awards: 7♣=10; 6♣=8; 6♠=6; 5♣=5; 5NT=4; 6NT=2; 2♦x=1

Jacob	McOrmond
(2♦)	2♠
3♦	3♥
3NT	4NT
6♣	Pass

Jacques	André
(2♦)	2♠
2NT	3NT
Pass	

Both Easts settled for a simple overcall of 2♠ where some might have volunteered three, intermediate. Presumably 3♣ would not have been forcing, since neither West made that attractive-looking bid. Jacob cue-bid, clearly not promising a fit. McOrmond wanted to show some extra values and 3♣ would not have done that, so he showed his heart stuff. Jacob's delayed 3NT now carried the inference (thought McOrmond) of extra strength (although it might be possible to make a case for "fit plus stopper(s)" or "lesser stopper" just as easily). His 4NT was a general slam try and Jacob's 6♣ was his best shot at describing his general hand type. McOrmond might have wanted to bid seven, but he could hardly do that, so they reached the best strain at the second-best level.

Jacques said afterwards that he should have bid 3♣, but we are left with no sense of whether that would have been more progressive than the bid actually chosen, 2NT. André was not thinking about slam over 2NT and his raise to 3NT seems reasonable, if mildly indelicate.

The Western lead is up to 16 points now, 64-48, and comeback chances have been greatly reduced.

(H) West	East	<b>Both vul;</b> One might well open both the East hand and the West hand: excellent honour trick structure, suits worth bidding, and so on. And yet, although the combination is hardly a gross misfit, it's wise to stay very low. Oh, you might come to nine tricks at notrump with no diamond lead (preferably), four club winners, and a successful heart finesse, but equally, you might do an awful lot worse in that strain. The middle cards make a club partscore best, but staying low in diamonds might be enough to ensure a decent match-point score. As to how the bidding <i>should</i> go, let's see how our gladiators fare before our studio audience. . .
♠7	♠A9843	
♥65	♥AKJ3	
♦A9532	♦64	
♣AK984	♣103	

**Awards:** 2♠=10; 3♠=9; 2♦=8; 1NT=8; 3♦=7; passed out!=6; 2NT=5; 4♣=3; 3NT=2; 2♣=2; 2♥=1

Jacob	McOrmond
	1♠
1NT*	2♥
2NT	Pass

Jacques	André
	1♠
2♦	2♥
3♣	3♦
Pass!	

Neither East elected to pass as dealer, which is hardly surprising. Jacob decided not to force to game, and that foisted 1NT (forcing) on him. Over two-of-a-minor, he would have changed his mind and done something exciting, but over 2♥, 2NT was enough for him. McOrmond was pleased to quit while Jacob awaited dummy with some apprehension. Yes, 2NT was quite high enough.

Jacques, who does not play two-over-one forcing forever, started with a 2♦ response. Over 2♥, he might have tried 2NT, nonforcing, but he decided to see it through with 3♦. When André could do no more than 3♦, having limited his hand with 2♥, Jacques was pleased to pass. Did he pass an "intended-as-forcing" bid? Not at all. The Laliberté's must

be one of the few pairs outside Great Britain to play this sequence as nonforcing, and here the agreement brought them a couple of points closer in the match.

With two deals remaining, they trail 55-69.

(I) **West** **East** **Neither vul; North deals and opens 1NT (15-17HCP):**  
 ♠ – ♠ AJ7654 Should East come in over 1NT? In practice, nearly everyone would. But even so, how should East compete?  
 ♥ AQ1032 ♥ K965 With a spade overcall, catering to the two-card disparity  
 ♦ 964 ♦ 82 between the majors, or with some major-suit takeout  
 ♣ A7542 ♣ 6 bid, catering to hearts and the poorish quality of the long suit? Some competitive methods deal better with this combination than others do, and in the “awkward” methods, it might just be better to pass and hope that West can reopen if it is right to do so.

**Awards:** 4♥=10; 3♥=8; 1NTx=5; 1NT=3; 2♠=2

<b>Jacob</b>	<b>McOrmond</b>	<b>Jacques</b>	<b>André</b>
(1NT)	2♠	(1NT)	2♦*
Pass		4♥	Pass

McOrmond-Jacob use Astro, a method that is notoriously hard on hearts. Here McOrmond could have bid 2♦ to show spades and any other suit, but a 2♥ response to that would not guarantee a real suit and it would be easy to play 4-3 hearts with a 6-2 spade fit present. 2♠ was a much more attractive action in this context, but it worked dismally here when Jacob gritted his teeth and passed. Using Astro, McOrmond was much closer to a pass of 1NT, and here Jacob would have reopened with 2♣, hearts and a minor. Bridge is a game of inches.

The Laliberté's vaulted quickly back into the match with a more appropriate method for this combination. André's 2♦ was Becker, showing the majors (2♣ would have shown the minors), and Jacques was more concerned with missing a slam than anything else. Today he might bid 2NT (forcing), intending to follow up with 4♥ as a slam suggestion, but at polling time this was not a safe option.

Suddenly, the Western lead is down to 6 points, 71-65. Can the pride of Québec pull it out in true (1987) Expos tradition?

(J) **West** **East** **Both vul; We close with a freak, so the Laliberté brothers start with some swing potential. If the heart fit is found early, it will be difficult to muzzle West in time. If the fit is discovered late, the hand gets awkward insofar as slam tries are concerned, and strain might be a factor. A secondary consideration is the old dilemma about rebidding spades before raising hearts. Let's see what develops. . .**  
 ♠ – ♠ AQ6543  
 ♥ 1098653 ♥ A72  
 ♦ A ♦ K2  
 ♣ AQ8765 ♣ 43

**Awards:** 4♥=10; 3NT=6; 5♥=5; 3♥=4; 6♥=3; 2♠=2

<b>Jacob</b>	<b>McOrmond</b>	<b>Jacques</b>	<b>André</b>
	1♠		1♠
1NT*!!!	2♠	2♥	3♥
3♥	4♥	4♣	4♥
Pass		Pass	

Dangerous Dan is a courageous fellow. Here, before thousands of his fans and several underage peek-sneakers, he proffers an application of the forcing notrump unknown to mere mortals. Sort of an “on-the-job” training experiment that may one day be all the rage. Today, however, we can write this off as a moment of temporary insanity. One notrump indeed. Al Roth would turn over in his bathtub. Yes, this might be a misfit. Caution might work brilliantly. Canonization might be the natural followup if the partnership stops on a wooden nickel in 3♥, the last plus before Stanley Park. But so what. Fairness prevents



me from doctoring the results. Here the ultradangerous one followed up his 1NT with an invitational 3♥. McOrmond had enough to raise, and Jacob is left with several of his nine lives still intact. Well, he couldn't risk passing 2♠, could he? Could he?

The Laliberté's threaded their way through temptation after André raised the more obvious 2♥ response to 3♥. Jacques made one try, then subsided, refusing to be bullied into an optimistic position just because he had a bit of shape.

The Laliberté's finish with a magnificent 75%, but McOrmond and Jacob are even better. Their spectacular 81% earns them the first Maurice Paul Memorial Trophy in fine style. Moose himself would be pleased to know that it took such a big effort to win the first Canadian Bidding Challenge.

"But, you know, Mary," he would say, "some of these boys play a very strange game today." And right he would be, as he usually was.

Despite my last-deal digression, I am pleased to congratulate the winners on a remarkably consistent set. Both their below-average results involved entirely reasonable actions. My condolences go out to Jacques and André, whose score would have been good enough to win almost any time.

Special thanks to all the people who polled our contestants over the year and unfailingly got the results to me in plenty of time to allow this stuff to get into print. Thanks also to all of you who took the time to suffer along with our good-natured bidders, who were (I am told) able to smile through their tears.

Will we be back next year? Only if you convince Allan Simon that the feature is worth repeating. Write early and write often. Will this be a grass roots event in 1988? Only if someone can get involved almost immediately and work out the logistics of the thing. It would be fun, in theory, to see the event go in that direction, but it will take some doing. So doers, make yourselves known.

Anyone who can provide an interesting deal is invited to send it ASAP to Mr. Simon in Calgary. You will be credited accordingly, maybe.

## Bracket Sheet

Baran-Molson (Montréal)	}	Laliberté-Laliberté 47-31	}	Laliberté-Laliberté 40-32	}	Jacob-McOrmond 81-75						
Laliberté-Laliberté (Québec)												
Cannell-Sekhar (Winnipeg)	}	Cannell-Sekhar 34-28										
Balkam-Stewart (Halifax)												
Carruthers-Guoba (Toronto)	}	Jacob-McOrmond 36-31	}	Jacob-McOrmond 49-29								
Jacob-McOrmond (Vancouver)												
Paul-Thorpe (Toronto)	}	Paul-Thorpe 42-36										
Jones-Smith (Edmonton)												

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ZONE	EXPIRES
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1	88
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2	89
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3	87
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4	88
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5	89
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6	87
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