

canadian bridge digest

CANADIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION
FEDERATION CANADIENNE DE BRIDGE

See p.4 EOK: The Man and The Myth



Eric Kokish

Canadian Bridge Digest

ISSN 0317-9281

Editor: Allan Simon

Issue LVII, Vol. 19, No. 2

1339 Hamilton St. N.W.
Calgary, Alberta T2N 3W8
Phone (403) 289-0161

Published Quarterly

Deadline for next issue: June 10

Associate Editor: John Armstrong

"Politics, finances... how dull. Isn't there anything else to write about?" asks a reader. Unfortunately not right now. We are at a crucial time in the history of duplicate bridge in Canada. Some far-reaching decisions need to be made and it is essential that the bridge-playing public be aware of the issues and participate in these decisions.

In case you haven't followed the debate, let's give you a little background. Until 1965, Canadians simply joined the U.S.-based ACBL. A small portion of the yearly membership fee was returned by the ACBL to the local units, to finance activities such as sectionals and local newsletters. This scheme worked fairly well. However, a few experts and nationalists felt that this method was not conducive to the development of the game in this country; for example, the ACBL did very little to allow Canadian experts to participate, as Canadians, in world championships; there was no voice to represent Canada in matters such as bilingualism, selection of teams for Olympiads, and so on.

In 1965, the Canadian Bridge Federation was created, with the purpose of complementing the ACBL in areas of concern to Canadians: they began organizing national championships; they successfully lobbied for a better shake for Canada at the international level, and they began publishing a quarterly *Canadian Bridge Digest*. The results were positive, but over the years the problems have mounted: You see, the funds necessary to run this CBF were obtained quite simply by asking the local units to turn over part of their revenues. Over the years, CBF expenditures rose while the units' portion of the ACBL membership revenue declined. To make matters worse, the ACBL adopted an increasingly parochial attitude: ACBL funds (partially from Canadian members) were used to subsidize (only) U.S. teams abroad; the ACBL lobbied the World Bridge Federation to allow for the participation of two US teams at the world championships (instead of one from the US and one from the rest of North America, i.e. Canada, Mexico or Bermuda). This year, we have reached an intolerable impasse: Canadian units simply can no longer afford to pay CBF assessments and give proper service to their members. Something's got to change, and change fast.

What are our options? In this issue, there are several relevant articles: an "average player", Arthur Barnard of Willowdale, who may well be speaking for the Silent Majority, has no use for either the CBF or the *Digest*; and readers who can read French will be interested in Maurice Larochelle's eloquent thoughts on this subject. You are urged to read these articles which may help you decide where you stand. Also, Ted Horning has promised us an article on why he thinks we should break from the ACBL.

It seems to us that we have the following options:

1. Forget about the concept of "Canadian Bridge". Dismantle the CBF. A few experts will be deprived of the opportunity of playing internationally, we won't have a *Digest*, we may not have a CNTC, CLTC or COPC, but we'll live. Let's call this the Barnard Solution.

continued on p. 15



Air Canada Canadian Open Pairs Championship in Québec City

The National Finals for this year's AC-COPC will be held in **Québec City on July 5 and 6.**

The participants for this event have been determined in unit finals across the country. If you have qualified for the national finals, please note the following details:

National Co-ordinator: Douglas Fraser (address on last page of this Digest)

Location: Centre municipal des Congès du Québec 900 Autoroute Dufferin, Québec City

Nearby hotels:

Auberge des Gouverneurs
690 Boul. Ste-Cyrille Tel.: (418) 647-1717
Rate: \$94.50/single, \$105/double

Québec Hilton Hotel
3 Place Quebec Tel.: (418) 647-2411
Rate: \$106/single, \$123/double

Holiday Inn
395 de la Couronne Tel.: (800) 465-4329
Rate: \$89/single, \$99/single

Rouffillon
330 de la Couronne Tel.: (418) 649-1919
Rate: \$50/room

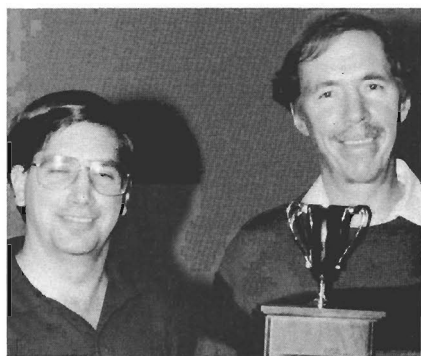
Prize: The winners of this event will receive a trip for two, courtesy of Air Canada. The destination has not been confirmed at

press time; however, in the past two years, the CBF has been able to send the winners to a series of major tournaments in France and Luxembourg. The CBF is currently negotiating with European promoters, in the hope of being able to offer the 1988 winners a similar arrangement. Winners also (symbolically) receive the Donaldson trophy. This trophy commemorates the late Jim Donaldson, of Vancouver.



**1987 winners Maurice de la Salle
and Mark Chalfin**

Subsidies: For the first time, participants will be eligible for partial expense subsidies. The amount of these subsidies will vary according to the distance from Québec City. Please contact your Zone Director or the CBF Treasurer (addresses on last page of the Digest) for details.



**1986 winners Ken Warren
and Gary Whiteman**

Mugford's the Name

Our apologies to Gary McPherson Mugford of Bramalea, Ont. In our last issue, we thanked him for his useful advice in improving the Canadian Bridge Digest, but referred to him as Gary M. McPherson.

EOK: The Man and the Myth

by Allan Simon

I started playing duplicate at McGill University in Montreal. I remember first meeting Eric Kokish: It was in the spring of 1965. The weekly McGill duplicate game was being held, as usual, in the old Student Union building on Sherbrooke Street. It was the evening of the yearly club championship. We came up against this freshman and his girlfriend, a sweet young thing called Beverly. Eric was a pudgy, open-faced, bright-eyed kid of 18, with a loud laugh and an easy, approachable manner. My first memory has to do not with hands but with feet: I recall the shock as I suddenly felt Eric's stockinged foot tenderly rubbing mine under the table. I coughed discreetly and informed Eric it was not Beverly he was playing footsie with – it was the first and last time I've seen him at a loss for words.

As I recall, Eric and Beverly finished first that evening (my partner and I were second – I've never again come that close to beating him). This was no mean feat, since McGill at that time was an incredible hotbed of bridge talent. Our director was a law student and – at the time it seemed unbelievable – a Life Master. His name was Joey Silver. Among the other competitors I recall Boris Baran, Ira Chorush (now one

of the top U.S. players) and a crop of freshmen like George Mittelman, Peter Hollander, Mark Yudin, Steve Goldstein, Leo Weniger (now a prominent player in Halifax), not to mention other brilliant individuals who have since given up the game, like Howie Kaplow, Max Cynader, Jon Shuster and Steve Caplan. The following year, after Silver graduated, two other freshmen joined the group. Their interests soon turned to directing, however. They were Henry Cukoff and Sol Weinstein, now two of the best-known full-time tournament directors in North America.

It was the golden age and the golden place of Canadian bridge, although at the time of course we didn't know it. Every Wednesday night, anywhere from 15 to 20 tables would show up for the weekly duplicate; Bidding contests, double dummy problems, post mortems and weird new bidding systems dominated our lives. I once even talked George Mittelman into playing a strong pass system I had invented – any hand not worth opening was opened one diamond, whereas Pass showed a balanced 15 to 17, with a one club "response" being Stayman. I called the system LSD, short for Little Simon Diamond.



1966: Joy Lerner, Eric Kokish, Steve Caplan, Max Cynader, George Mittelman, Andy Cowan (standing)



One day, Eric and Boris Baran were playing at the Chateau Bridge Club, and the bidding went 1NT by Eric, 3NT by Boris. When the bidding came back to Eric, instead of passing, he just sat there. An opponent sternly reminded him that it was his turn to bid. Eric, forever the wise guy, said cheerily "what do you think I'm going to bid? seven no trump?" The humourless opponent called the director, the distinguished Jean Pauzé. Monsieur Pauzé shrugged, smiled and ruled "the young gentleman wishes to be foolish . . ." and the contract was adjudged to be 7NT. Eric, with 25 points in the two hands, found a progressive squeeze and took 12 tricks, for a bottom.

On another occasion, I told Eric that according to the Guinness Book of World Records a man named de Wit held the record for having undergone the most operations, over 500, I believe. Eric burst out laughing and asked "was he called de Wit because he kept his family in stitches?"

Eric and I became not only bridge partners, but also close friends. At my wedding, in 1966, he was my best man. Our partnership flourished for another two years or so; I remember a hand from a Regional pairs game:

Simon	Kokish
♠ AQxx	♠ KJxx
♥ -	♥ xxxx
♦ x	♦ KQxx
♣ AKQJxxxx	♣ x

My right-hand opponent opened one heart; I doubled for take-out and when Eric eventually bid spades, I enthusiastically leaped to six spades. He embarked on some preposterous line of play involving a cross-ruff (or was he trying to set up his hand?) and ended up going down two.

Such incidents were rare, however, and it soon became apparent to everybody but myself that Eric was clearly the stronger player in our partnership. He began playing regularly with Joey Silver. They soon started winning regionals and in 1969, when Eric was 22, they reached the quarterfinals in the Spingold. In the meantime, I had graduated, moved to Trois-Rivieres, and

had pretty well given up the game, not without some resentment, since I had some difficulty accepting the fact that I could not hold my own in Eric's new circle of partners.

Over the course of the next six or seven years, I would read in magazines about Eric's exploits: In 1974, he and Joey won the Vanderbilt at the Vancouver Nationals; he played in the World Championships in Spain, in Monte Carlo and finally in new Orleans in 1978, where Eric and his new partner Peter Nagy placed second in the Open Pairs behind a Brazilian pair. And in 1980, they won the bronze medal at the World Team Olympiad in the Netherlands.



Eric (left) as best man in 1966 with Meredith and Allan Simon

Eric's successes came not only at the table; he became a bridge writer and promptly one of his articles, "The Montreal Relay", received an award from the International Bridge Press Association as Article of the Year; he wrote the superb World Championship books published every year by the ACBL; he became contributing editor of the world's top bridge magazines, including the Bridge World; and his Montreal Unit publication, *Mélange de Bridge*, was chosen as the best of its kind in North America. Peter and Eric won an international award for the "best bid hand of the year".

Around that time, Eric became active in bridge politics and soon was elected president of the Canadian Bridge Federation. Tirelessly, he fought for Canada's rights within the ACBL; if we now have a Canadian team at the Bermuda Bowl, it is in no small measure Eric Kokish that we have to thank.

Over the years, of course, my feelings toward Eric turned from resentment, to surprise, to admiration and to pride. When I took up bridge again after moving to Calgary in the late seventies, my biggest claim to fame was after all that Eric had been my ex-partner and best man.

We started meeting up again at tournaments and found that we were still good friends; we had both developed a passion for rock music of the golden era and still shared our fascination for sports trivia, gourmet food, word play and above all imitating foreign accents.

Eric is one of the few top players who lives by the dictum "if you can meet victory and disaster and treat both these imposters the same, you'll be a man, my son" – whether you saw him after a heartbreaking defeat or a triumphant victory you would notice no difference in his outgoing, almost naively cheerful demeanour. I particularly admire that trait, since I have never been able to achieve this equanimity.

But Eric isn't perfect. His ambition to make a living at bridge has been compromised by his inability to be a good "pro" partner. He is just not able to make the second-best play or bid in order to allow for his client's inadequacies. And he was replaced as the author of the World Championship books after attacking, in print, the ethics of an Austrian participant. In fact, Eric's sense of ethics is on a different plane from most of ours. From the 1987 CNTC in Quebec I recall the following incident: Eric, on my right, was declarer at a four heart contract. I led my partner's suit and partner, upon winning the opening lead, immediately fired back a spade to my ace. Dummy and I had started with eleven spades between us and therefore I couldn't give partner his hoped-for ruff. I thought nothing more of the hand but after the

match Eric turned to my partner and earnestly explained to him that he should at least make a pretense of thinking before shifting to a singleton. Eric was right, of course, but I don't know many people who would have risked offending a friend over (what turned out to be) an irrelevant point.

So Eric has earned recognition as a great bridge player, writer and administrator. That's why I admire him. He is blessed with wit, charm and humour. That's why I like him. And he is a man of loyalty and integrity and that's why I respect him.

A few years ago, Eric, who had recently been divorced, remarried. His new wife is none other than Beverly, the girl he was playing with the day I first met him. Last fall, they had their first baby, a boy called Matthew. As a baby gift, I sent Matthew a toy dinosaur. Eric didn't let me down. His thank-you note read "A soulmate – just what the little monster needed".



National Access Awareness Week

The week from May 29 to June 4 has been designated National Access Awareness Week for the Disabled by the Federal Government. The purpose of this occasion is to stress opportunities for the handicapped in various areas, including education, employment and recreation. But the week also should serve as reminder to able-bodied citizens that there is much we can do to make life easier and more enjoyable for our fellow man.

The Charitable Fund of the Canadian Bridge Federation has decided to support National Access Awareness Week with a donation, since bridge is an activity which is accessible to people suffering from almost any physical handicap.

Bridge clubs and individual players are encouraged to mark this occasion. Make an effort. Demonstrate your willingness to be a part of National Access Awareness Week. Make sure that handicapped people have an opportunity to play bridge at your club. That way, for once, everybody will be a winner.

The Game is the Thing

by Arthur E. Barnard, Willowdale, Ont.

I am 65 years old, a rubber bridge player (on and off) for 45 years, a latecomer to duplicate at retirement some 5½ years ago, when I joined the ACBL.

For the most part, I look forward to the ACBL *Bulletin* each month and find enough of interest in it for me. *The Kibitzer*, published by Ontario units #166 and 246 contains some things of interest – mostly local – and I feel it is worth continuing. Then along comes the *Canadian Bridge Digest*, and I really can do without it.

What does the minimal response to your questionnaire indicate?

1. Apathy. 2. Answers only from those who read it, 3. Those who did not answer really don't care and probably wouldn't miss it at all.

What does the *Digest* do that, for most of us, is not already covered by the *Bulletin* and our own local *Kibitzer*? For the avid tournament player and the professional it may be of significance.

Look at the features:

Bidding Contest: What percentage of all Canadian members participate? Does that tell you something?

Interviews with the "big" players: Most of us really only want to "meet" them at a table.

Descriptions of play at major tournaments: After one or two of these, I tend to flip the pages and move on. It is similar to going over the Grey Cup game, play by play, in March! It may do something for the egos of the participants to see themselves noted in print – maybe these should be classified as unpaid advertisements for the professionals!

Interview with Audrey Grant (another pro): She is doing a good job, as the *Bulletin* has shown. It can get tiresome, month after month.

Inside the CBF: Now here is some meat! Especially the cost of producing the *Digest*. Does it need to be:

- 1) printed on top quality paper?
(*Bulletin* paper is fine.)
- 2) in multi colour? Another extra cost
- 3) printed at all?

Eliminate the *Digest*, and have only significant CBF news passed on for printing in Unit publications such as the *Kibitzer*.

Here is one suggestion for aiding the CBF financial crisis: Ballantyne states that "the *Digest* provides entertainment and instruction for Canadian players". Where is the proof for this allegation? The volume of answers to the questionnaire would seem to refute it. We like to *play* bridge, most of us at local clubs, a smaller number at local tournaments, a smaller still number (again, I mean as a percentage of all players) at Regional, District and National tournaments.

I believe the game is the thing – let's cut down on the amount of paper being produced and the administrative duplication that bureaucrats just love. I do realize that some jobs would go down the drain.

Now, as to an "Independent Canadian League?", by Aidan Ballantyne:

1) **Why do we need another level?** ACBL does quite well for us and so do the local clubs and Units. Does the CBF not realize the benefits of "economy of scale" derived from a large and efficient organization (ACBL)?

2) **Additional benefits:** Not one justification is given for the statements made. Incidentally it is ridiculous to talk of a "devalued Canadian dollar". Its value is set by international money markets and is neither "valued" nor "devalued". It is what it is. (I am an ex-Canadian banker and a systems man for 25 years). I will not "rip up" each of the listed six "benefits", because it is too easy a target.

Incidentally, bridge is not a sport, it is a pastime, and a very enjoyable one, too. Why should the Canadian government be approached for money to support a topheavy Canadian bureaucracy?

Leave the ACBL control and administer alone. For most of the Canadian players it is fine. The CBF would have only one advantage – promoting the interests of the top money players in Canada. For all us "99ers" it would do nothing, except ask for more \$\$ to support these professionals.



Canadian Bidding Contest

by Sandy McIlwain

FEBRUARY HONOUR ROLL

Only two entrants out of a great number managed to crack the 500 mark on our last quiz, and I thought they both deserved our congratulations. I invited them both to be on this month's panel. Thanks to everyone else who entered. Harold will receive Victor Molloy's *Destiny at Bay*.

1. Harold Werkhoven	Belleville, Ont.	530
2. Douglas Heron	Ottawa, Ont.	500

THE MAY PANEL

SHARRON BALKAM (Halifax): plays little tournament bridge these days, but has won several Regional Open and Mixed Pairs. She has represented the Maritimes twice in the CWTC Finals. She was on the very first Bidding Contest Panel.

JACKIE BEGIN (Montréal): Was the first Canadian woman to become a Life Master and the third overall. She played in three Olympiads and in two Spingold finals. Retired from tournament bridge since 1975, she still spends many hours at the bridge club.

JOHN CARRUTHERS (Toronto): won the CNTC in 1983 and 1987 and has represented Canada in two Rosenblum World Championships and two Olympiads. He was the first winner of the Richmond Trophy and edited the Ontario *Kibitzer* for five years. He has 5000 masterpoints.

RAY CHEN (Toronto): learned bridge at U of T in 1978. He has won numerous Regionals since then with "partners complaining of sore shoulders".

KAI CHENG (Winnipeg): is Manitoba's leading masterpoint holder. He has won numerous Regionals and was second in the CNTC in 1977. He played in the NAOPC Final in 1987.

DOUGLAS HERON (Ottawa): has won ten Regionals in the last two years and been a CNTC finalist the last three years. A frequent respondent to the Bidding Contest, he won a bidding contest at the Winnipeg NABC's. "Doctor Dougie" prefers team play.

CHRISTINE HUTTON (Toronto): has been playing bridge for thirteen years. She has won several Regionals and sectionals and finished second twice in the CWTC. She has recently become an elementary school principal, cutting down her bridge travels.

MARC LACHAPPELLE (Montréal-Nord): learned to play bridge from Grégoire Garinther. He was Canadian Rookie of the Year in 1984, Master of the Year in 1985, and Senior Master of the Year in 1986. He won the District 1 finals of the NAOPC in '86.

HAROLD WERKHOVEN (Belleville, Ont.) is this month's reader-champ. He says his ambition is to get 1000 masterpoints without becoming an LM. Known as "Karapet" in local bridge circles.

THE MAY SOLUTIONS

A) IMPs. N-S vul.

♠J743 ♥862 ♦954 ♣K108

West	North	East	South
1♥	Dbl.	Pass	1♠
2♦	3♦	5♦	Pass
Pass	5♥	Pass	?

There wasn't too much disagreement on this one, despite the split vote, as everyone chose to bid slam.

HERON: 6♣. Opposite a partner who has cue bid twice, this is a *good* hand.

BALKAM: 6♣. Testing for the grand. I have a vivid imagination, and the king of clubs could be very important here.

CARRUTHERS: 6♣. It's difficult to imagine a hand opposite that won't produce at least 6♣. If he tries again with 6♦, I'll give him 7♠.



CHENG: 6♣. Grand slam is a distinct possibility.

BEGIN: 6♣. Partner is hitting me over the head, so my club king is solid gold, maybe even the grand slam card.

Settling for a small slam were:

LACHAPELLE: 6♣. I would bid 6♣ with the club ace.

CHEN: 6♣. Suggests one key card in the black suits. The danger with 6♣ is that partner may pass.

HUTTON: 6♣. I have good cards for partner — seven might make.

WERKHOVEN: 6♣. My black suit holdings might be enough for seven.

Getting to six on these hands should be enough most of the time, but it never hurts to try for more. The six-club bid might be just what partner needs, and she is unlikely to bid seven without thirteen tricks in view.

Scoring:	Action	Votes	Score
	6♣	5	100
	6♣	4	80
	5♣	0	30

B) Matchpoints. N-S vul.

♠QJ86542 ♥10963 ♦7 ♣K

West	North	East	South
1♥	Pass	Pass	?

There aren't too many hands you'll ever pass out at the one level holding the spade suit, but this might be the one. Let's hear first from the bidders.

BEGIN: 3♠. Either partner's trapping hearts or somebody dropped an ace on the floor.

HERON: 3♠. Pass, second choice. One spade may allow LHO to find a minor suit fit. They may be on for game or even slam in a minor.

HUTTON: 1♠. I doubt we can beat them for 150, so at matchpoints we'd better get in. I hope they don't have a minor suit game.

Which is exactly what the passers were afraid of:

WERKHOVEN: Pass. A part score minus can't be all bad here.

BALKAM: Pass. LHO has a monster, partner couldn't overcall — where am I going? I refuse to push them to a game I can't beat.

CARRUTHERS: Pass. My grandfather had a rule for this situation: "Don't balance

at the one-level if you can only beat grand slam in one suit." I expect my opponents to be playing a strong club system after this hand! If you balance, say with 3♠, how embarrassing when it goes Dbl-P-4NT-P-5♠-P-6♦.

CHENG: Pass. Call me chicken, but partner has a balanced minimum opener at best. Sure 2♠ will make, but you'll never buy it there.

LACHAPELLE and CHEN felt similarly, that our chances of buying the hand for a plus score were negligible. CARRUTHERS also pointed out that 1♥ might go down, which is possible if partner gets off to a productive lead.

However, it would take several large men with chains to prevent some of us from bidding on this hand, and I confess I would feel a few twinges about letting it go without a bleat. Easier, perhaps, to show restraint in the panel context.

Scoring:	Action	Votes	Score
	Pass	6	100
	3♠	2	60
	1♠	1	50
	4♠, 1NT	0	20

C) Matchpoints. None vul.

♠QJ976 ♥A53 ♦64 ♣K102

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	?

When I walked into the bar one night (to get out of the rain), everyone from the club game was moaning about this hand. What had happened was that virtually everyone had bid 3NT, as in:

WERKHOVEN: 3NT. Seems routine.

HUTTON: 3NT. I hate this problem. It might be right to bid 3♥ to get us to 4♣ when it's right, but being a simple soul I'll bid 3NT and hope we have more than one heart stopper.

HERON: 3NT. 3♠ overstresses spades. 3♥ may work if partner bids 3NT with Qx of hearts and a club card, but runs the risk of bypassing 3NT.

A very legitimate concern at matchpoints, lending 3NT a very practical air.

One question people had was whether 3♠ would be forcing. There may have been a time and place when our tempo might have coaxed another bid out of partner, but the panel addressed the subject more directly.

LACHAPELLE: 3♠. 100% forcing. I would not be happy to go down in 3NT opposite this dummy: ♠Kxx ♥x ♦AKQJxx ♣QJx.

The majority of the panel chose the daring alternative:

CHEN: 3♥. May end up in 4♣, 6♣, or 3NT from the Qx side. A spade contract may yield more tricks than NT.

BEGIN: 3♥. I will bid 3NT over 3♠. I don't want to hear a 4♥ bid, but I'll worry about that later.

BALKAM: 3♥. 4♣ might be the spot here – need more info from partner.

CARRUTHERS: 3♥. A tossup between 3♥, 3♠, 3NT; a common theme in bidding problems – too much information to convey and too little space – but 3♥ is more flexible than the others. 3♠ could work out, but he will raise to 4♣ sometimes when 3NT is right. In practice, partner never pulls 3NT on this auction, and you won't know if it's right until dummy comes down.

CHENG: 3♥. Probing for the best game. Chance of getting raised to 4♥ is minimal.

Some of you will criticize partner for holding ♠K10x ♥x ♦AKJxxxx ♣AJ, but as you can see the reason for the moaning was the whole room played this slam hand in 3NT.

The panel's comments here strongly suggest that 3♠ should be forcing here, and I concur. Of course, if you're ever stuck playing with me, you'll think everything is forcing.

Scoring:	Action	Votes	Score
	3♥	5	100
	3NT	3	70
	3♠	1	60

D) IMPs. N-S vul.

♠52 ♥AJ10 ♦Q962 ♣Q754

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
2♥	Pass	Pass	?

Our next case comes from the 1987 CNTC Finals round-robin, and in a pass-or-bid situation, the passers slightly outpolled the bidders.

CARRUTHERS: Pass. It may very well be our hand, but there is no guarantee we have a fit. Double makes partner guess – wrong, usually. (Overlooking the obvious, perhaps, but more on that later. – SM).

BALKAM: Pass. We have no game. At matchpoints I would double.

CHEN: Pass. The suits aren't breaking. A push towards 3NT runs the danger of a big minus.

LACHAPELLE: Pass. We don't have a game, and I'm not ready to risk – 470 against +100.

WERKHOVEN: Pass. If partner can't bid over 2♥ neither can I.

More inclined to take action were:

HUTTON: 2♠. I won't make a penalty double here or bid 2NT, so I'll settle for 2♠.

HERON: 2NT. Pass or 2♣ could be right. 2NT is correct on values and offers the extra chance of playing three of a minor. Double is third choice.

CHENG: 2NT. Natural, but I won't be unhappy if partner bids three of a minor.

In her bio, Jackie Bégin said she was 71, but her bid here shows more adventurousness than the rest of the panel could muster:

BEGIN: Double. Ah, finally – blood. We don't appear a favourite for game and I like my chances for a number.

Double is a little rich for me with my one sure trick, but I think the 2NT bidders have a point about the possibility of a minor partial, and I don't think they'd be unhappy about being raised to the vulnerable game. A likely possibility, as North held ♠QJ109x ♥Qx ♦AKxx ♣Ax, and never had much of a chance, other than an offshape 1NT opener (some do, some don't), while West, Vancouver's Laurence Betts, tried to talk you out of your +600 with ♠AKx ♥xxxxx ♦x ♣xxx. Successfully, it appears.

Scoring:	Action	Votes	Score
	Pass	5	100
	2NT	2	70
	Dbl.	1	60
	2♣	1	60

E) Matchpoints. N-S vul.

♠AQ932 ♥KQ86543 ♦10 ♣-

West	North	East	South
1♦	2♣	5♦	?

Great! The prettiest hand you've picked up all week and you get your first chance at the five-level. I'm frankly surprised at the number of doublers on the panel, but discipline has its rewards. (They eat cake, you get to watch).

BEGIN: Dbl. Which I hate! I'd like to bid 6♦, but this is asking for too much. Op-

timistically, they could go four down. 5♥ is neither fish nor fowl.

HERON: Dbl. This is a recurring problem. Double here shows transferrable values; 5NT in competition is for take-out, *not* the Grand Slam Force. I would bid 5NT if the minors were reversed.

This 5NT sequence would help show longer hearts than spades when partner bids the expected 6♣.

WERKHOVEN: Dbl. A plus is a plus. LHO rates to have the majors.

LACHAPELLE: Dbl. Responsive? You could make six of a major or go down in five. Maybe a plus score will get all the matchpoints.

Of the doubler, at least one expects partner to make the final decision here, but in practice double will end the auction as North will have nowhere to go. It's hard to play the penalty doubler for a 7-5 with one defensive trick. I have a personal rule (#18. Don't make a penalty double with an undisclosed distributional hand) that precludes doubling for penalties here.

Not surprisingly, a number of our panelists chose to emphasize their best suit.

CHENG: 5♥. Responsive double would be ideal, but I don't think we play it so high. No way of showing both suits and the six-level is too high. (Five may be too high).

BALKAM: 5♥. I love these hands. Sometimes you make the contract and sometimes you go for a number.

CHEN: 5♥. Double cannot yield more than 500. 6♦ is too unilateral. Pard may bid on.

CARRUTHERS: 5♥. A very tough hand. At first I thought 6♦ was best, but would that *command* 6♥ or 6♣, or might it show tolerance for clubs? (*Here's where Heron's 5NT comes in handy.* —SM) If partner holds Kx A xxx AKJxxxx, 6♥ is best, but 6♦ won't get you there. 6♥ is very practical, but pays off to ♣KJxx ♥- ♦xxx ♣AKJ10xx or the like opposite (*Here 5♥ won't make, either.* —SM). The good thing about 6♥ is it doesn't show tolerance for clubs. Alternatively, 5♥ gives partner a little room if he has secondary spades. Not much help, but all we have. Also, the lack of intermediates argues for caution.

One brave soul pulled out the action bid:

HUTTON: 6♦. I hope partner will read this for lots of majors (see Carruthers. —SM). I "think" I want to be in six of a major.

This hand makes a good case for high-level responsive doubles. Without a good major fit, the play for five hearts or spades may be awkward and the penalty prospects correspondingly bright.

Six of anything seems to overlook the opening bid on our left and partner's announced club values, making West a favorite to hold two tricks on defense.

I gave the top score to 5♥ as more chose to bid than didn't and the bid gives partner a chance to be involved.

Scoring:	Action	Votes	Score
	5♥	4	100
	Dbl.	4	90
	6♦	1	60
	6♥	0	50
	5NT	0	40

F) IMPs. E-W vul.

♠ K108432 ♥ 8 ♦ KQJ109 ♣ A

West	North	East	South
-	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT#
Pass	5♣*	Dbl.	?

Roman Key Card Blackwood for Hearts
* 0 or 3 Key Cards

The moderator dons his steel helmet and carries on with the final problem.

CARRUTHERS: 6♣. Someone once told Easley Blackwood he'd like to have a nickel for every time his convention had been used. Blackwood replied he'd rather have 3¢ every time it had been misused. Another 3¢ for Easley.

You should be ashamed to foist this auction upon us! Not only do we not know what level to play at, we don't know what suit to play in! I'd like to play 6♦, but I don't want partner to correct to 6♠ on the wrong hand. I hope he'll bid 6♦ over 6♣ with the ace of diamonds so I can pass! If he bids 6♥ I'll take my lumps there.

BEGIN: 6♣. I hate Key Card Blackwood. This hand is a typical example. Why did we bid 4NT anyway? 6♣ is the only way I can think of to get out of this mess.

HUTTON: 5♦. Asking for the trump queen. I don't want to be in six without it. (Not 6♥ at least. —SM).



HERON: 6♦. Why did I bid Blackwood? 6♦ suggests a missing Key Card and offers a choice of slams. 5♦ (queen ask) will not help. 7♦ may be on.

CHEN: 6♦. Pard should have the heart king. 6♦ is a serious attempt to play here when there's a heart loser or a trump promotion.

LACHAPPELLE: 6♦. Partner is probably short in spades and will likely pass. 6♥ will be a shaky proposition.

The rest delayed the moment of decision.

WERKHOVEN: Pass. Showing a club control.

CHENG: Rdbl. Showing the club ace and giving partner a chance to show the diamond ace. I'll bid 6♥ over 5♥ and 6♦ over 5♦.

BALKAM: Rdbl. I *detest* Key Card Blackwood. My redouble suggests I'm very interested in *something!*

Okay, they would all have bid something else over 4♥, but no one said what, so I'll leave you with that problem to savour.

While 6♦ may fail, partner will always convert to 6♥ with solid hearts, so we still have a chance. 6♣ will certainly give partner something to think about (hopefully not 6♠). Redouble and pass will leave us with another problem at our next turn. 5♦, the queen ask, will at least tell us whether 6♥ has a chance.

Scoring:	Action	Votes	Score
	6♦	3	100
	6♣	2	80
	Rdbl.	2	70
	5♦	1	60
	Pass	1	60

THE AUGUST PROBLEMS

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

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

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

A) Matchpoints N-S vul.

♠ A3 ♥ AKQ975 ♦ A642 ♣ 2			
West	North	East	South
-	-	-	1♥
1♠	2♠*	5♣	?

**Forcing raise in hearts*

B) IMPs. N-S vul.

♠ AKQ52 ♥ KQ9865 ♦ - ♣ 74			
West	North	East	South
-	1♣	Pass	1♥
2♦	Pass	Pass	2♣
3♦	4♣	5♦	?

C) Matchpoints. N-S vul.

♠ Q8 ♥ KQ92 ♦ A ♣ KJ7542			
West	North	East	South
-	-	2♠*	?

**weak*

D) IMPs. Both vul.

♠ AQ107 ♥ J63 ♦ A1096 ♣ 54			
West	North	East	South
-	-	1♣	Dbl.
1♦	4♥	5♣	?

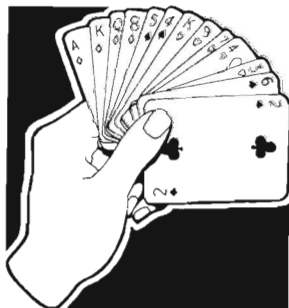
E) Matchpoints. None vul.

♠ A63 ♥ K9 ♦ A ♣ AKJ8653			
West	North	East	South
-	-	-	1♣
Pass	1♣	Pass	?

F) IMPs. E-W vul.

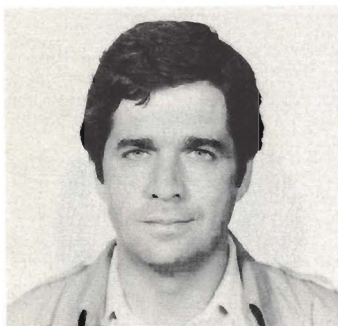
♠ AK42 ♥ 95 ♦ 9 ♣ AQ9862			
West	North	East	South
-	-	-	1♣
1♦	Dbl.*	2♦	?

**negative*



RAPPORT DU NORD ET DE L'EST DU CANADA

Par Maurice Larochelle



Je vous préviens: je suis en pleine déprime.

La première raison de ma déprime se situe au niveau de l'unité de Québec. Il y a quelques années, les compétitions majeures de deux séances, telles les championnats canadiens par paires et par équipes, commençaient au début de l'après-midi pour se terminer tard le soir. Or, on a amélioré sensiblement cette formule en commençant la première séance vers 10 H. 30 ou 11 heures, ce qui libère une partie de la soirée, tout en ne forçant pas les gens des régions éloignées de l'unité à se lever avant l'heure des poules.

Merveilleux, n'est-ce pas? Mais non! Certaines personnes, pour des raisons qui sont les leurs, auraient préféré commencer 30 minutes ou une heure plus tôt, au détriment bien sûr des gens des régions éloignées. Il est évident que chacun doit faire valoir ses arguments. Mais de là à organiser une pétition, sans consulter l'exécutif de l'unité, pour imposer ses idées, c'est une autre histoire, surtout que bien des gens signent des contrats sans les lire, alors bien plus des pétitions. De quoi foutre la déprime à l'exécutif de l'unité.

Gens du pays, quand comprendrez-vous que les bénévoles sont des gens qui font des choses que vous n'avez pas le temps, le courage ou le talent de faire? De grâce, encouragez-les, aidez-les, du moins ne leur nuisez pas.

Je me sens déjà moins déprimé!
Passons maintenant à la Fédération Cana-

dienne de Bridge. Mon ami Allan Simon, qui fait à mon avis un travail exceptionnel en tant qu'éditeur de ce *Digest*, présente dans ce numéro un éditorial portant sur les différends de la FCB avec l'American Contract Bridge League. Je vous suggère donc de lire cet éditorial en page 2, avant de revenir à cet article.

Ce qui me déprime dans cet éditorial n'est pas qu'on veuille ou non se séparer de l'ACBL, mais qu'on n'ait pas fait appel à nous les Québécois, les vrais spécialistes du séparatisme, pour organiser le débat. Voyons Allan!

Avant de continuer dans mon propos et puisque le débat origine de l'Ouest du pays, j'aimerais d'abord exercer une douce vengeance en posant la question: "What do Westerners want?"

Je me sens encore moins déprimé!

Mon cher Allan, nous avons appris entre 1976 et 1980, que pour avoir un vrai débat, il ne faut pas poser des questions vagues, auxquelles seuls les démagogues et les extrémistes répondent. Il faut des questions précises. Ainsi, nos politiciens ont halluciné pendant plus d'un an, avant de s'entendre sur la question précédant le "Oui" ou le "Non".

Je vous invite donc à répondre au questionnaire ci-dessous et de le transmettre à: Allan Simon
1339 Hamilton St. N.W.
Calgary, AB
T2N 3W8

Auparavant, j'y répondrai moi-même en expliquant mes choix.

La première question est la suivante: doit-on maintenir la FCB de bridge en vie? Personnellement, la question ne se pose pas. Je tiens au *Digest*. Je tiens encore plus à mon identité canadienne. Ceux qui répondent "Non" peuvent retourner le questionnaire à Allan. Les autres passent à la question 2.

La question 2 est la suivante: la FCB doit-elle d'abord négocier avec l'ACBL? Répondre "Non" équivaut à prôner le séparatisme immédiat. Si oui, il y a les questions suivantes:

- le Canada doit-il être complètement indépendant sur la scène internationale?
- l'ACBL doit-elle remettre automatiquement à la FCB une partie de l'abonnement des membres canadiens?
- si oui, seriez-vous d'accord pour payer plus que les bridgeurs américains, la différence allant à la FCB?

Personnellement, je répond "Oui" à chacune de ces questions. De plus, je serais d'accord pour payer 25% de plus que les bridgeurs américains, ce qui équivaut actuellement à 5 \$ environ. Si ma mémoire est bonne, nous avons actuellement quelque

16 000 membres, ce qui donnerait un budget d'environ 80 000 \$ à la FCB.

Si l'on prône le séparatisme ou si les négociations avec l'ACBL tournent au vinaigre, il faudra bien un jour ou l'autre se poser les questions suivantes:

- allez-vous demeurer membre de l'ACBL?
- allez-vous demeurer membre de la FCB?
- si oui, quelle devrait être le montant de l'abonnement annuel?

Personnellement, je ne demeurerais pas membre de l'ACBL, ne serait-ce pour me venger de l'arrogance des dirigeants de l'ACBL et afin de fournir une contribution maximale à la FCB, pour qu'elle puisse ensuite négocier en position de force avec l'ACBL, sur certain sujets, tels un système commun de points de maître, l'abonnement au Bulletin pour les membres canadiens, etc. Je serais d'accord pour un coût d'abonnement identique à celui de l'ACBL majoré automatiquement de 25%. Il faut tenir compte qu'un organisme comme la FCB a des frais fixes élevés et que son membership est de loin inférieur à celui de l'ACBL.

D'un autre côté, concernant la prise de décisions, je crois que la FCB devrait préparer un référendum sur les questions

SONDAGE SUR LA POSITION QUE DOIT PRENDRE LA FEDERATION CANADIENNE DE BRIDGE PAR RAPPORT A L'AMERICAN CONTRACT BRIDGE LEAGUE

QUESTION 1: doit-on maintenir la FCB en vie?

QUESTION 2: la FCB doit-elle d'abord négocier avec l'ACBL?

Si oui:

- le Canada doit-il être complètement indépendant sur la scène internationale?
- l'ACBL doit-elle remettre automatiquement à la FCB une partie de l'abonnement des membres canadiens?
- si oui, seriez-vous d'accord pour payer plus que les bridgeurs américains la différence allant à la FCB?

– si oui, quel est le pourcentage en sus de la contribution américaine?

QUESTION 3: en supposant que la FCB se sépare de l'ACBL,

- allez-vous demeurer membre de l'ACBL?
- allez-vous demeurer membre de la FCB?

– si oui, quelle devrait être le montant de l'abonnement annuel?

NOM (facultatif):

NUMERO D'ACBL (facultatif):

à débattre avec l'ACBL et sur les suites à donner si les négociations échouent.

Enfin, négociations ou pas, je crois que la FCB devrait faire une campagne, en s'associant les unités et chroniqueurs, pour se monter un membership purement canadien. Il ne faut jamais perdre de vue que 5% seulement des bridgeurs s'adonnent à la compétition. Je crois fermement que plusieurs milliers de Canadiens deviendraient membres de la FCB tout simplement pour recevoir le *Digest*, qui deviendrait peut-être mensuel. Après tout, je crois que tout bridgeur fait une aubaine en payant 20 \$ seulement par année pour recevoir le Bulletin et le Digest. A titre de référence, le Bridge World et le Bridgeur vont chercher respectivement dans les 40 \$ et 60 \$ par année.

N'oubliez pas qu'il est important que vous exprimiez votre position sur cette question et de transmettre le tout à Allan Simon à l'adresse indiquée plus haut. Si vous ne le faites pas et que la FCB prend des actions à l'encontre de vos intérêts, n'allez surtout pas faire une pétition par après. Ouch!

Voilà, ma déprime est disparue.

Et comment fut votre trimestre?



Confucius say:

"If trumps break 5 - 4, you in 2 - 2 fit."

from Ross H. Patterson's collection of bridge laws, rules, maxims, quotes, dicta, truisms and trivia.

Editorial *continued from p. 2*

2. Keep the status quo, but convince the ACBL that all Canadian memberships must include a surcharge of, say, \$3/year, which is routed to the CBF to permit it to finance its activities without unduly hurting the local units. The ACBL may or may not agree to this mandatory surcharge. If the ACBL refuses, then let's think about separating. This would be the Larochelle Solution.
3. Go it alone. Proponents of this alternative argue that many smaller countries such as New Zealand, Australia or the Netherlands, have successful national organizations. Surely, they say, we're big enough to have a Canadian Bridge League, and we may well be able to negotiate a *modus vivendi* with the ACBL to ensure that masterpoint plans are compatible. That's the Horning solution.
4. Encourage players who have no particular interest in CBF objectives to continue to join only the ACBL; others, who want to receive the *Digest*, participate in Canadian championships or who simply wish to support the concept of "Canadian bridge", can also join a revamped CBF, for a charge of perhaps \$10/year. And since this is supposed to be an editorial, let's call this the Simon Solution. Note that this approach should also be acceptable to proponents of the Barnard Solution.

By the way, there have been suggestions that the current CBF Board is less than democratic in the current debate. While it is no secret that many CBF leaders advocate option 3 above, they are certainly not about to ram separation down the throats of an unwilling membership. They simply want to encourage debate and obtain feedback. How do you feel about this problem? And how do you feel a decision should be reached? Should we have a nation-wide vote by the members? Would enough members understand the issues to make such a vote meaningful? We're all groping for solutions, we certainly don't have all the answers. But please keep in mind that nobody is on a power trip here; we are earnestly trying to please the majority of our members and to do what's right, so that you and future generations of Canadian bridge players will have the opportunity to enjoy this beautiful game to the fullest.



CANADIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION

Executive

President	Aidan Ballantyne 3549 E. 22nd Avenue Vancouver, B.C. V5M 2Z5	
Vice-President	Vacant	
Treasurer	Richard Anderson 107 Scrivener Crescent Regina, Sask. S4N 4V6	
ZONE	EXPIRES	DIRECTORS
1	88	George Colter P.O. Box 2100 Fredericton, N.B. E3B 4Y6
2	89	Douglas Fraser 1380 Kenilworth Road Mount Royal, Que. H3R 2R9
3	90	Katie Thorpe 65 Tiago Ave. Toronto, Ont. M4B 2A2
4	88	Douglas J. Cannell 404 Hosmer Blvd. Winnipeg, Man. R3P 0H7
5	89	Richard Anderson
6	90	Aidan Ballantyne
<hr/>		
Charitable Fund Chairman	Moise M. Deschamps 2400 Carling Avenue, Apt. 209 Ottawa, Ont. K2B 7H2	
Digest Editor	Allan Simon 1339 Hamilton St. N.W. Calgary, Alta. T2N 3W8	
WBF and interna- tional events	Dr. Alvin Baragar 6608 84th Street Edmonton, Alta. T6E 2W9	
Executive Secretary	Barbara Tench 200 Clemow Ave. Ottawa, Ont. K1S 2B4	
Ex-officio Director	Douglas Drew 349 St. Clair Avenue West Toronto, Ont. M5P 1N3	
Alternate, International Events	George Retek 202 - 1650 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W. Montreal, Que. H3H 2P3	
Chief Archivist	Tom Dawson 1 Benlamond Ave. Toronto, Ont. M4E 1Y6	