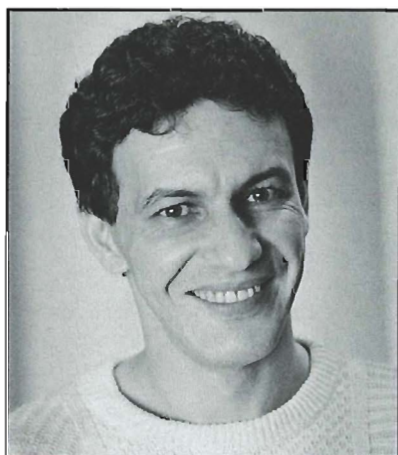


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CANADIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION
FEDERATION CANADIENNE DE BRIDGE

La Nouvelle Superétoile du Bridge Canadien



Kamel Fergani

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Editorial

The interminable discussions about the relationship between the CBF and the ACBL essentially boil down to one question: What do Canadians really want? In an effort to find out, the ACBL circulated a questionnaire to a sampling of Canadian ACBL members, club managers and unit officials. The results make for some interesting, if confusing, reading:

Here are the answers (in percentages) to the most important questions, with our comments:

What should the relationship between the CBF and the ACBL be?

	Members (M)	Club mgrs. (C)	Unit off. (U)
Should remain as it is now	26	23	23
Set up ACBL branch office in Canada	22	35	36
CBF should be separate league	12	19	18
Don't know	31	17	11
Other	3	9	17
No response	5	6	12

To us, the most significant figure is that over one-third of the sample is undecided about this basic question; no single solution has anything like majority support, but the idea of having the ACBL set up a branch office in Canada is about twice as popular as the concept of an independent Canadian league.

Assuming there were two separate leagues operating in North America, the ACBL and an independent Canadian league, to which would you belong?

	M	C	U
Pay dues to both leagues	13	11	25
Join CBF if Bulletin and masterpoints are shared	36	48	44
Join CBF even if totally separate	13	13	5
Join only ACBL	30	25	22
Don't know	8	3	3

These results can be twisted to support almost any point of view. However, it is fairly clear that most Canadians who support the concept of an independent league would like to retain the ACBL Bulletin and a common masterpoint plan.

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Kamel Fergani

ou la maturation d'un grand talent

par Maurice Larochelle

Mars 1988: Kamel Fergani fait partie de l'équipe gagnante du Men's Swiss des Nationaux du printemps.

Juin 1988: Kamel Fergani fait partie de l'équipe gagnante des championnats canadiens (C.N.T.C.).

Avant ces événements, quelques-uns des grands bonzes de la Fédération canadienne de bridge le voyaient déjà dans leur soupe collective. Il n'en fallait pas plus pour qu'ils me commandent un article sur lui, moi qui faisais partie de la même équipe lors du C.N.T.C. de 1988, de même qu'en 1983 lorsque nous perdîmes en finale. Cela me sera facile, puisque j'ai été témoin de la maturation de son talent; mais commençons par le début.

Quelques petits pas et rapidement de grandes enjambées.

Kamel a commencé à jouer au bridge en août 1977. Deux semaines plus tard, à son premier duplicate, il joue une partie de 56%, puis moins de deux mois plus tard, à son premier sectionnel, il joue une partie de plus de 70%. L'année suivante, son équipe se rend en finale de district du Grand national par équipes, à l'époque où 6 équipes seulement des Maritimes et du Québec se qualifiaient pour cette finale.

Le choix des partenaires c'est un peu comme le choix des cépages.

Kamel a eu au moins cinq partenaires réguliers, ayant beaucoup plus d'expérience que lui qui l'ont profondément marqué: Richard Wildi lui a enseigné la défense. Au contact d'André Laliberté, il a appris à polir son jeu de la carte et à développer la présence de table. François Gauthier lui a inculqué la discipline et lui a enseigné les raffinements du bridge. Doug Fraser est un modèle de détermination et de ténacité. Enfin, Raymond Fortin et lui ont travaillé et travaillent encore énormément leur système d'enchères.

Il y a des machines de bridge et il y a les dominateurs

Certains grands joueurs de bridge, comme l'Italien Pietro Forquet et L'Américain B. Jay Becker, sans être très spectaculaires, commettaient très rarement des erreurs. Plus près de nous, Sami Kehela est probablement de cette catégorie.

D'autres grands bridgeurs, je pense aux Garozzo, Belladonna, Zia et Murray sortent l'artillerie lourde à toutes les mains. Ils perdent des combats à l'occasion, mais perdent rarement la guerre. Ils sont des dominateurs.

Kamel est de cette dernière catégorie.

Voyons où vous vous situez avec le problème suivant

Compétition par paires; tous vulnérables. Votre partenaire, le donneur, fait un barrage à 2 piques et votre adversaire de droite gage 3 coeurs. Que faites-vous avec le jeu suivant?

♠ RV103
♥ A
♦ R2
♣ ARDV107

L'annonce de Kamel Fergani

Nord		
	♠ AD9762	
Est		
	♥ 72	♠ 84
Ouest	♦ 974	♥ RDV1084
♠ 5	♣ 62	♦ ADV10
♥ 9653		♣ 8
♦ 8653		
Sud		
♠ 9543	♠ RV103	
	♥ A	
	♦ R2	
	♣ ARDV107	

Si vous êtes du genre à ne pas aimer commettre des erreurs, vous ferez la demande d'as à 4 SA; votre adversaire de droite en profitera pour contrer la réponse de 5 carreaux et vous ne ferez que 12 plis au contrat de 6 SA contre l'entame d'un carreau.

Si vous avez des tendances dominatrices, vous aurez réfléchi à cette éventualité et vous

aurez analysé que votre partenaire a probablement A-D de pique pour justifier son barrage, son camp étant vulnérable, ce qui laisse l'as de carreau aux adversaires. Vous pouvez alors bondir à 6 SA, où vous réaliserez une levée supplémentaire, à moins qu'Ouest ne puisse voir au travers les cartes.

Si vous êtes un vrai dominateur, vous irez un pas plus loin et imaginerez l'as de carreau en Est pour justifier l'intervention de ce dernier lors des enchères. Faisant le pari qu'Ouest ne trouvera pas l'entame d'un carreau, vous gagerez 7 SA pour un top, comme le fit Kamel au club de Ste-Foy, en 1980, quel que 3 ans après ses débuts dans le bridge.

Quelques faits d'armes des années 80

Avant 1988, Kamel avait gagné plusieurs compétitions régionales, mais il commençait à désespérer de gagner une compétition nationale, comme le C.N.T.C., terminant deuxième en 1983 et perdant la semi-finale par quelques IMPs en 1987.

Je pourrais vous montrer des tonnes de mains, mettant notre héros en évidence, mais je préfère vous montrer cette main cocasse, jouée en partie libre à Mon club en 1986.

	Nord	
	♠ 43	
Ouest	♥ D104	Est
♠ 9762	♦ RD1098	♠ R1085
♥ 7632	♣ 754	♥ -
♦ 32		♦ AV765
♣ V96	Sud	♣ 10832
	♠ ADV	
	♥ ARV985	
	♦ 4	
	♣ ARD	

Kamel jouait en Sud le contrat de 6 coeurs. Contre l'entame d'un carreau, il fit le bon jeu d'appeler le 8 seulement, puisqu'il avait besoin de deux défausses pour éviter l'impasse au roi de pique. Si Est avait joué le valet, Kamel se serait tôt ou tard rabattu sur l'impasse à pique pour réussir son contrat. Le flanc droit toutefois, dans la plus pure tradition du "Rueful Rabbit" de Mollo, monta de l'as, puis rejeta un pique. Triomphalement,

Kamel monta de l'as fit deux demandes à l'atout terminant au mort et jeta les piques perdants sur R-D de carreau. Fallait voir son expression quand Ouest coupa le troisième carreau.

Voyons maintenant votre philosophie d'enchères

Donneur: Est

Vulnérable: Nord-Sud

Sud
 ♠ ADV97
 ♥ RD98
 ♦ A82
 ♣ V

Les Encheres

Ouest	Nord	Est	Sud
-	-	1 ♠	1 ♠
Passé	2 ♠	3 ♠	?

D'accord, vous auriez peut-être contré au lieu de gager 1 pique à votre premier tour d'enchères. Là n'est pas la question. Que faites-vous en Sud à votre deuxième tour d'enchères, aux IMPs?

L'annonce de Kamel Fergani

	Nord	
	♠ R1085	
	♥ V62	
Ouest	♦ 953	Est
♠ 432	♣ D86	♠ 6
♥ 1075		♥ A93
♦ R1076	Sud	♦ DV4
♣ 742	♠ ADV97	♣ AR10953
	♥ RD84	
	♦ A82	
	♣ V	

Cette main a été jouée lors d'un Calcutta tenu à Halifax en 1987. Personne ne pourra vous blâmer de gager 4 piques, encore moins de gager 3 coeurs, puisque le meilleur contrat est possiblement de 4 coeurs.

Kamel trouva une autre solution: ayant décidé de gager la manche, mais ayant peur que les adversaires s'attaquent aux carreaux, il gagea 3 carreaux, avec l'intention bien sûr de gager 4 coeurs si le partenaire donnait 3 coeurs. Quand toutefois Nord se contenta de 3 piques, Kamel gagea 4 carreaux et Nord donna 4 piques.



Sur l'entame d'un petit trèfle, Est fit le roi et changea à un petit coeur. Pas besoin d'être un Fergani pour gagner en Nord, puis de majorer les coeurs après avoir éliminé les atouts, pour jeter un carreau perdant du mort.

J'en vois déjà qui protestent, disant qu'un des défenseurs aurait dû flairer ce piège par trop évident et jouer carreau. D'accord avec vous. Mais c'est l'une des forces de Kamel: si vous êtes du genre à flairer ces pièges, il le saura et contre vous il fera les mêmes enchères mais avec de bons carreaux pour vous inciter à jouer cette suite. Ou encore il le fera sans de bons carreaux et vous vous direz que jamais il n'aurait utilisé ce vieux piège contre un bon joueur comme vous.

Permettez-moi maintenant une petite diversion sur ce même thème. Lors d'une compétition par paires, les choses ne vont pas tellement bien pour nous. J'ai une bonne main et j'ouvre le enchères à 1 coeur et le partenaire me fait une invitation à 3 coeurs. J'ai à peu près décidé de gager le petit chelem, mais puisque je crains une entame à carreau, je commence par dire 4 carreaux. Le partenaire gage 4 coeurs ("Je ne suis pas intéressé au chelem, Larochelle"). Je continue avec 5 carreaux. Il gage 5 coeurs (Estu sourd, Larochelle, je ne suis pas intéressé au chelem?). Je gage donc 6 coeurs, fier de moi. Mais que ce passe-t-il donc? Le partenaire réfléchit, puis gage 7 coeurs. Effectivement, je ne reçus pas l'entame dévastatrice d'un carreau pour une de chute seulement.

Et la suite

Au moment d'écrire ces lignes (décembre 1988), Kamel et ses partenaires (Raymond Fortin, Jean Bernier, André et Jacques Laliberté, ainsi que Maurice Larochelle) se préparaient en vue de défendre les couleurs du pays contre le Mexique et les Bermudes en janvier 1989, le gagnant devant participer au Bermuda Bowl, en Australie, à l'automne 1989.

Puisque c'est maintenant une des ambitions de Kamel de faire sa marque sur la scène internationale, j'aurai sans doute quelques bonnes mains à vous montrer dans le prochain Digest.

Et comment fut votre trimestre? ■

Accord Near in CBF-ACBL Talks

Last November in Nashville, CBF president Aidan Ballantyne had a lengthy audience with the ACBL committee on zonal affairs. Ballantyne's arguments focused on several problems, notably the CBF's financial crisis, the feeling that the promotion of the game in Canada could be more effectively achieved from within our country, and various administrative problems caused by the geographical and spiritual distance between Memphis and the Canadian bridge scene.

In its search for a solution, the Committee gave consideration to Ballantyne's arguments and to the results of a survey (see editorial) of Canadian ACBL members, club managers and unit officials.

Eventually, upon recommendation of the committee, the ACBL Board passed a resolution approving a \$3/year surcharge to Canadian members; this fee is to be collected by the ACBL and turned over the CBF.

Before this surcharge can take effect:

- the CBF board must approve this reform and perhaps amend its constitution: the CBF would no longer be a federation of Canadian units, but a true membership organization.
- various logistical steps must be taken, including redesign of ACBL membership forms and invoices.

It is expected that these decisions will be made later this year.

If implemented, the new plan could have the following effects:

- Reduction (but not elimination) of the financial contribution requested from Canadian units to support CBF activities.
- Upgrading of the Canadian Bridge Digest; the magazine might become a separate publication, mailed directly to CBF members.
- Eventually a small CBF office could be set up, to better coordinate activities like promotion of the game within Canada and planning of Canadian championship tournaments. ■

Canadian Women Shine at Venice

by Eric Kokish, Montreal

The 8th World Bridge Team Olympiad was staged by the Italian Bridge Federation in the Lido, Venice, a magnificent venue by anyone's standards. Playing conditions and the two Vu-Graph theatres for the spectators were excellent and the tournament was an organizational marvel. Recent Olympiads in Seattle and Miami Beach couldn't hold a torch to the Venice edition.

The Open Series attracted 56 entries, divided into two not-so-equal groups, the top four in each surviving to the quarter-finals. Within each group, the teams completed a round robin of 20-board matches, IMPs converted to Victory Points. In Group A (theoretically the more powerful), unsung Greece got off to a good start, built their confidence, maintained their poise and momentum, and coasted home first with 530.5 VP. Austria was always near the top and finished second with 513.5. The USA, Sweden, and Poland struggled for the two remaining playoff spots and in the end, Poland fell short. USA (507.0) and Sweden (494.7) survived. In Group B, Italy (after a dreadful start) and Denmark moved into controlling positions and finished 1 and 2 with 560.7 and 541.8 respectively. Great Britain, a serious contender, made things tough on themselves with some erratic play, but they pulled themselves together and finished third with 537.7. The fourth spot looked to be a battle between France, India, Ireland, and late-charging Brazil. India prevailed, with 528.1. The Canadian team (Marc Stein, npc: Bo Baran-Mark Molson, John Carruthers-John Guoba, Eric Murray-Sami Kehela) were not in their best form, but with five matches remaining, they had their opportunity. Blitzes at the hands of New Zealand and India, however, left them a disappointing tenth.

In the quarterfinals, the USA got past Denmark, India defeated Greece, Sweden crushed Italy, and Great Britain bowed to Austria. In the semifinals, India's run ended against the USA, while Sweden failed to hold on to a carryover advantage against Austria. The USA got off to a great start

against Austria but had to hold off a late rally, winning the Open title by some 42 IMPs. The winners: Dan Morse, npc: Bob Hamman-Bobby Wolff, Jim Jacoby-Seymon Deutsch, Jeff Meckstroth-Eric Rodwell. Sweden was awarded the bronze on the basis of round robin finish, but in a sporting gesture, they presented the Indians with representative plaques.

The 35 Women's Series teams were divided into three groups, each playing an internal double round robin. The top two in each group and the two high percentage thirds would continue. Great Britain was the class of Group A, with 496.7, and the runnerup was unheralded Mexico, with 471.0. The Netherlands, Sweden, China, Australia and Argentina did not make it in this group, all of them topflight teams. In Group C, the powerful American team coasted in first with 512.0 and Austria was second with 491.0. Bulgaria, one of my dark horse picks, qualified "at large" with 481.2, ahead of Italy, Japan and Poland. In Group B, Canada (George Mittelman npc: Francine Cimon-Mary Paul, Sharyn Reus-Dianna Gordon, Katie Thorpe-Gloria Silverman) was in contention all the way, but in the final round they needed a double perfect in matches beyond their control in order to qualify. Everything worked and Canada snuck in with 451 VP, behind France (497.0) and Denmark (460.7).

In the quarterfinals, Bulgaria stunned the USA, Great Britain conquered plucky Mexico, Denmark defeated Austria in "overtime," and Canada overcame longtime nemesis France to reach the semifinals. Denmark crushed Bulgaria in their semifinal, but Great Britain-Canada was desperately close all the way. Canada lost it all in the final two deals in heartbreaking fashion. Still, the overall fourth place (third place was determined by order of finish in the round robin) finish was more impressive than their fourth in Monte Carlo in 1976 and the team earned many friends with their sportsmanship, deportment, and quality play. Women's bridge is not dead in Canada, I am pleased to state. ■



"This Close"

The members of Canada's women's team in the 1988 World Olympiad were Francine Cimon and Sharyn Reus of Montreal, Dianna Gordon, Katie Thorpe, Gloria Silverman, and Mary Paul of Toronto.



by Mary Paul, Toronto

After qualifying in the round robin of the World Women's Team Olympiad by the skin of our teeth, we sat down to play the quarter final against France, who were the favourites to win the event. To set the stage, our track record against France thus far has been:

We started the 1980 and 1984 Olympiads against France and were blitzed. We played them twice in this round robin and lost heavily. And after the first quarter of this quarter-final match we were down 40 IMPs. By now they thought they were playing against children. It was time to show them that we can play bridge.

The second quarter was on Vugraph. After six boards the match was dead even; we had made back the 40 IMPs. Almost all of it happened at our table, so I knew that our NPC George Mittelman had not been doing his famous shake and shuckle. The first board established the trend.

Vul.: neither

Dealer: North

♠ -
♥ AK10932
♦ A105
♣ QJ74

♠ AK3
♥ Q865
♦ KQ963
♣ 8

♠ QJ10864
♥ 4
♦ J
♣ 106532

West <i>Cimon</i>	North	East <i>Paul</i>	South
	1♥	2♦	Pass
2♥	Dbl.	2NT	3♣
Pass	Pass	Dbl.	Pass
Pass	Pass		

There is a good point to be made here about the bidding. How does a partnership interpret the double of 2♥? Does it show extra values or is it a takeout double? For instance:

1♥	2♦	Pass	3♦
Double			

Perhaps South's interpretation was that the double was for takeout.

We defended quite well and declarer went down four (-800 in the new scoring). We got the ♠A, ♠K, ♣A, ♣K, one club ruff, and three tricks by trump promotion. I kept returning hearts whenever I was in.



Francine Cimon

Board 2 was quiet at our table. They bid and made 3♣. However, our partners bid and made 4♣ vulnerable.

Vul.: North-South

Dealer: East

♠ KQJ7	♠ A2
♥ J102	♥ AQ654
♦ 7643	♦ J5
♣ K6	♣ J943
♠ 1064	♠ 9853
♥ K873	♥ 9
♦ K98	♦ AQ102
♣ Q75	♣ A1092

That hand looks as if it could be simple to make 4♣ but not quite as simple to get there. There are only 20 HCP in the combined hands and one hand is quite balanced. Gordon and Reus did well to reach 4♣.

At our table I was on lead and chose the ♦ J, so declarer had to lose the ♦ K, ♠ A, ♥ K, and a diamond ruff as I underled the AQ of hearts. Then:

Vul.: East-West

Dealer: East

♠ -	♠ K10732
♥ KQ763	♥ A8
♦ Q98765	♦ KJ104
♣ 84	♣ Q6
♠ 5	♠ AQJ9864
♥ J109542	♥ -
♦ A	♦ 32
♣ AJ1052	♣ K973

West <i>Cimon</i>	North	East <i>Paul</i>	South
1NT(1)	3♣(2)	1♣	Pass
Dbl.	5♦	Dbl.	5♣(3)
Pass	Pass		Pass

(1) Forcing. Cimon decided that with a singleton spade she would not force to game...yet!

(2) The explanation was that it showed hearts and diamonds.

(3) Obvious misunderstanding. South thought that the showing of two suits is done only in the chair directly over the opening bid.

Luckily I led the ♠ Q, which assured our side of the maximum penalty of 1400.

We proceeded to hold on to our score. In the third quarter we leaped ahead.

In the last quarter there was an excellent slam reached by Gordon and Reus for a large pickup.

Vul.: Both

Dealer: South

♠ K1076	♠ 9853
♥ J	♥ 953
♦ QJ974	♦ K10
♣ AK5	♣ Q972
♠ J	♠ AQ42
♥ KQ862	♥ A1074
♦ 863	♦ A52
♣ J1043	♣ 86

West	North <i>Gordon</i>	East	South <i>Reus</i>
			1NT(1)
Pass	2♦(2)	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT(3)
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♣	Pass	Pass

(1) Weak no trump

(2) Forcing Stayman

(3) Further slam try (*Not* Blackwood)

The opening lead of the ♥ K was won by the ace. Reus cashed the ♠ A, noting the jack from West. Then a spade to the ten and then the ♦ Q, K, and ace. Next she played a diamond and put up the jack, dropping the ten offside.

Another well bid and well played hand by Gordon and Reus.

We managed to hang on through the last quarter and so we had finally beaten France 154-141.

THE SEMI-FINAL

We had to win our semi-final match against Great Britain to have a chance of bringing home a medal. The conditions of contest were such that the highest qualifying score in the round robin would win the bronze when knocked out of the semi-final.

After the first quarter we were up five IMPs, due largely to a huge swing we picked up on the following board:

<i>Thorpe</i>	<i>Silverman</i>
♠ AK985	♠ 64
♥ 4	♥ A98653
♦ AK1063	♦ Q87
♣ AK	♣ Q10

Can you reach 7♦ on the combined hands? With a bit of luck it makes. In real life it did make. But reaching 7♦ was the funniest adventure of the whole tournament!

Silverman intended to open a Multi 2♦ to show a weak 2♥ and 2♠, but she accidentally placed *one* diamond on the board. Her LHO pushed it through to the other side of the screen before Gloria had a chance to correct her bid. When the board returned, it showed pass by LHO, 1♠ by partner, and pass by RHO.

Then the crucial moment. Would she pass or keep the bidding going? Silverman has a stomach of iron so, deciding that the hand was too strong to be considered a psyche, she bid 1NT. The bidding proceeded:

1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣(1)	Pass
2♥(2)	Pass	2♠(3)	Pass
2NT(4)	Pass	3♦(5)	Pass
3♣(6)	Pass	4NT(7)	Pass
5♣(8)	Pass	7♦	All Pass

- (1) Artificial force; describe your hand
- (2) I have four hearts
- (3) Forcing; tell me more
- (4) I have no more than two-card support
- (5) Forcing; tell me more
- (6) Leave me alone
- (7) Roman Key Card Blackwood
- (8) One ace or the king of trumps (spades?)

Sandra Landy of Great Britain, who was sitting on the same side of the screen as Gloria, told us the next day that she had

known that something was wrong, because when the 7♦ bid came around to their side of the screen, Gloria's facial colouring changed and she slumped in her chair. But when the dummy came down she perked up and "all's well that ends well".

After the second quarter we were still up by three, but the third quarter was very unfortunate for Canada. We were down 34 going into the last quarter which again was a match on Vugraph.

This particular hand was written up in the tournament bulletin as the best defended hand of the tournament:

	♠ J	
	♥ J85	
♠ K92	♦ AQ10832	♠ Q1076
♥ 107643	♣ K75	♥ A95
♦ KJ64		♦ 95
♣ 3	♠ A8543	♣ J1086
	♥ KQ	
	♦ 7	
	♠ AQ942	

West	North	East	South
<i>Cimon</i>		<i>Paul</i>	
	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The opening lead was the ♥4 to the ace and queen. I returned the ♠Q won by declarer. After four rounds of clubs, I was in and returned the ♠6 to Cimon's *king* dummy pitched a diamond.

Cimon returned the ♠9 and when that held, returned a diamond. There was no way for declarer to unscramble nine tricks any longer.

3NT was made at all the other tables in both the Open and the Women's semi-finals. However, we lost the match 167-149, even though we regained 16 IMPs in the last quarter.

It was fun, it was great, and it was very enjoyable. It's too bad that we were not able to compete for the bronze, but at least we were "this close" to a silver or gold. Perhaps next time. . .

Thanks to all the Canadian players who have given us their support here as well as in Italy. We appreciate it. ■

Venice Olympians Extend Their Thanks

The Canadian Bridge Federation's Olympiad Fund account was known to be a bit short. It seemed that the Canadian teams for Venice were going to have to dig fairly deep into their pockets, adding an extra element of pressure that really should not be part of the players' burden.

Not to worry! To the rescue came the Toronto Unit. In conjunction with their Labor Day Sectional, a head-on challenge match was organized between the Venice-bound Open and Women's teams. Complete with Vu-Graph, expert commentary, and fabulous door prizes, the match was an attractive idea that lent itself to wide grass roots support. The sale of \$2 "admission-prize draw-support your teams" tickets raised no less than \$3500 for the Olympiad Fund, and the Toronto organizers can feel justifiably proud of their efforts.

One of the dangers in staging such a match (there was time for only 12 boards) was that someone had to lose and morale could have been adversely affected. The women won an exciting set by 13 IMPs, which had to be a shot in the arm for George Mittelman's squad (Francine Cimon-Mary Paul, Dianna Gordon-Sharyn Reus, Gloria Silverman-Katie Thorpe). Marc Stein's Open Team (Boris Baran-Mark Molson, John Carruthers-John Guoba, Sami Kehela-Eric Murray) were expected to recover in time for the date with destiny in October.

Dir: N
Vul: None

West
♠ 3
♥ 9764
♦ 982
♣ 109763

North
♠ 1087
♥ A2
♦ AK654
♣ J82

East
♠ AJ92
♥ KJ1085
♦ J103
♣ A

South
♠ KQ654
♥ Q3
♦ Q7
♣ KQ54

West	North	East	South
<i>Guoba</i>	<i>Paul</i>	<i>Carruthers</i>	<i>Cimon</i>
3♥	1♦	1♥	1♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♠	Dbl	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Our diagrammed deal was the highlight of the match. In the Open Room, Kehela-Murray reached 3NT with the North-South cards, and this might have been made after a heart lead, the queen winning. Declarer misjudged the play, however, and went one down -50. In the Closed Room Francine Cimon and Mary Paul fetched up in four spades, doubled by East, John Carruthers. West, John Guoba, led a heart and Cimon, the declarer, took dummy's ace. She played off three rounds of diamonds to dispose of her heart loser and came off dummy with a low club. East had to win and he tapped declarer with a heart. Declarer led the ♠K, which East might have ducked. Instead he took the ace and played a third heart. Declarer threw a high club from her hand and ruffed with dummy's seven. Since East seemed to be a 4-5-3-1, declarer continued with a fourth diamond from dummy. East did what he could, ruffing with the nine. Declarer did not overruff. Instead she threw another club winner. East persisted with a fourth heart, which was his only chance. Declarer parried this brilliantly. She ruffed low in her hand and overruffed in dummy. Having shortened her trumps to East's length, she was in a position to neutralize East's "guarded" trump jack. She led dummy's last diamond. East threw his last heart and declarer threw her last club. Now the ♣J from dummy left her with the queen-six of spades over East's jack-deuce. The Vu-Graph audience went wild. +590 and +50 gave the women 12 IMPs, most of the eventual margin of victory. ♠

Would You Have Done Better?

So our Open Team fared less well than expected in Venice. But how would you have done? Try these problems which our representatives encountered at the table, and then turn the page to see how you would have fared.

Section 1: Bidding problems:

A. East-West vul.

♠ J1073 ♥ 74 ♦ 9 ♣ J98642

Partner, North, deals and opens 1♠. East passes. Your bid, please.

B. Neither vul.

♠ AK8 ♥ 1085 ♦ 1076 ♣ 10983

West	North	East	South
1♦	1♠	4♥	?

C. North-South vul.

♠ AK7 ♥ AKQ7 ♦ AKQ92 ♣ 9

West	North	East	South
		1♣(1)	1♥(2)
Pass	2♣(3)	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Dbl(4)	?

(1) 8-12 HCP, at least 4 hearts

(2) Take-out double of hearts

(3) Natural

(4) Lead a club, please

D. East-West vul.:

♠ J ♥ A83 ♦ Q952 ♣ QJ743

West	North	East	South
			Pass
1♠	2♣	2♠	4♣(1)
Dlb.	5♣	Pass	Pass
5♠	Pass	Pass	?

(1) Club support, spade shortness

Section 2: Opening leads

E. ♠ 1087 ♥ 742 ♦ KQ2 ♣ K863

West	East
1♠	1♣
1NT	3NT

Your lead?

F. ♠ J753 ♥ 4 ♦ KJ1072 ♣ Q97

West	East
1♠	2♥
3♦	3♣
4♣	4♥
6♠	Pass

Your lead is the _____.

G. ♠ - ♥ AQJ102 ♦ 8542 ♣ K1043

West	North	East (you)	South
------	-------	------------	-------

Pass	1♠	Dbl.	2NT(1)
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦(2)
Pass	6♣	Pass	Pass

Pass

(1) Limit raise in spades

(2) One ace

Your lead, madam (or sir)?

Section 3: Declarer play

H. ♠ KJ85

♥ AJ982

♦ J

♣ A85

♠ A1072

♥ 1043

♦ 7

♣ K9764

West	North	East	South
3NT(1)	4♣(2)	Pass	4♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) Solid minor, no outside stopper

(2) For takeout

West leads the ♥5. Plan your play.

Section 4: Defense

J.

Dummy

♠ Q10xx

♥ xxx

♦ Qxxx

♣ Jx

East (You)

♠ Jxx


♥ QJ10x

♦ x

♣ Q109xx

West	North	East	South
3♦	Pass	3♥(1)	Dbl.
Pass	3♠	Pass	5NT
Pass	6NT	Pass	Pass

(1) just having fun

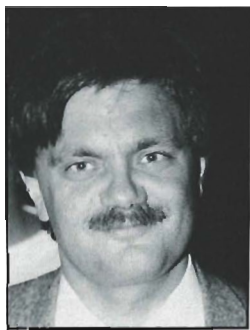
Your partner leads the eight of hearts to your ten and declarer's king. Now declarer cashes the AK of spades, everybody following, and the AK of diamonds, on which you throw a club. Now declarer plays a small club to partner's 8, dummy's jack and your queen. What do you return? 

Answers to Would You Have Done Better

(Before reading, try the questions on the preceding page)

Section 1: Bidding problems

- A. The winning bid is 4♣. Your LHO has only ♠2 ♥AKQJ9 ♦AK543 ♣Q5. At worst, you'll be in 4♣ doubled, -300. At best, you'll drive them to 5♦ or 5♥, one down. Against Italy, both Italy and Canada sold out to 4♥, making five. Give yourself nine IMPs for bidding 4♣. Otherwise, it's a push.
- B. Again, and again against Italy, it was right to bid 4♣. You'll go down two, undoubled, with the opponents cold for exactly 4♥. Lauria, for Italy, bid 4♣, while Guoba for Canada passed. This time, you've pushed the board if you bid, or lost 8 IMPs if you passed.
- C. Your partner has ♠64 ♥J5 ♦J84 ♣876432. Since you have only four club losers, and since your Egyptian counterpart, a gentleman named Naguib, bid 5♦, making six, you pick up 4 IMPs for passing 3NT doubled. Or if you redoubled, make that 9 IMPs. Or if you shot the wad and tried 6♦, make it 14 IMPs. But if you bid 5♦, like Guoba, it's a push.
- D. Again, it's you versus Naguib. If you're Guoba, you bid 6♣ and went for 300. If you're Naguib, you doubled and were -850. Partner's hand? ♠106 ♥J5 ♦KJ104 ♣AK1096. Give yourself (and Canada) no IMPs for doubling, 6 for passing and 11 for bidding.



John Guoba

Section 2: Opening leads

- E. There is only one winning lead. Partner has AJ10xx of diamonds and declarer has nine runners outside. Your teammates, Baran-Molson, diagnosed the diamond flaw in the bidding and got to 5♣, unfortunately down one. So you had to lead a diamond for a push, otherwise you lose 10 IMPs to (I kid you not) Guadeloupe.
- F. Your opponents, Englishmen Forrester-Brock, have reached the wrong slam. 6♥ is cold, and of course your teammates, Kehela-Murray, have bid it. Did you find the killing club lead and earn us a well-deserved 17 IMP swing? No? Neither did Mark Molson.
- G. The North-South hands were ♠QJ732 ♥7 ♦AKQ103 ♣A6 opposite ♠AK85 ♥K953 ♦96 ♣J97. Only a club lead beats the slam. Quantin, for France, found the lead against more revealing bidding, while Eric Murray, who was faced with our problem, led the ace of hearts. Give Canada a push if you found the club lead, else we've lost another 14 IMPs.



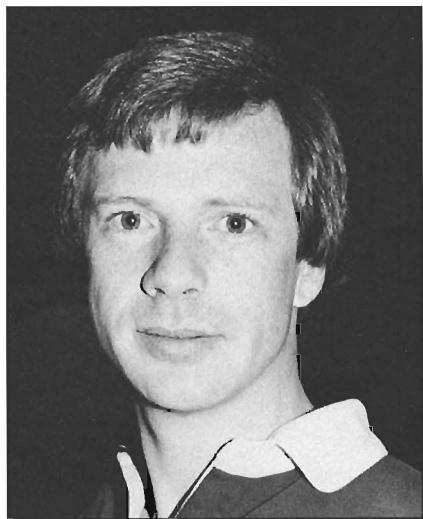
Eric Murray

Section 3: declarer play

H. The full hand was:

♠ KJ85	
♥ AJ982	
♦ J	
♣ A85	
♠ 94	♠ Q65
♥ 5	♥ KQ76
♦ AKQ86532	♦ 1094
♣ QJ	♣ 1032
	♠ A1072
	♥ 1043
	♦ 7
	♣ K9764

Molson played this hand double-dummy, earning himself praise in the ACBL Bulletin. He won the heart in dummy, played ♠ K, spade to the 10, two rounds of clubs, and a diamond. Poor West (Multon of France) was reduced to diamonds and had to concede a ruff and sluff. Molson ruffed in dummy, threw a heart, drew the last trump and conceded a club and a heart. 10 IMPs for us, and for you too, if you played it right, since at the other table, against better defense by West (Kehela), the French declarer had to go one down.



Mark Molson

Section 4: Defense

J. The full hand was:

♠ Q10xx	
♥ xxx	
♦ Qxxx	
♣ Jx	
♠ xxxx	♠ Jxx
♥ xx	♥ QJ10x
♦ J109xxx	♦ x
♣ x	♣ Q109xx
	♠ AK
	♥ AK9x
	♦ AK
	♣ AKxxx

Your teammate, Sami Kehela, bid and made 3NT by endplaying East at his table. Against the insane 6NT contract by your New Zealand LHO, just win the queen of clubs and put declarer back in his hand, where he belongs, with a heart or a club. The Canadian East, who shall remain nameless, took the queen of clubs and exited his jack of spades. Declarer sat up in his chair, took dummy's three winners, squeezing East in hearts and clubs, and scored up his slam. 11 IMPs away. Since you defended better, you win 11 IMPs instead.

So how did you do? On the nine hands. Canada lost a net of 22 IMPs, but had the potential to win as many as 72. If you did better than our team, make sure you enter the current CNTC, so you can show your stuff in Geneva in 1990. ■



Sami Kehela

Crawford Wins Richmond Trophy

37-year-old Robert Crawford of Vancouver is the 1988 recipient of the Richmond Trophy, awarded annually to the leading Canadian masterpoint winner. In winning, Crawford also set a record which is likely to stand for a long time.

Crawford was the most successful of a small group of primarily Western-based experts who played extensively on the U.S. tour this year. He accumulated his points with a variety of partners, including Larry Hicks, Gary Tomczyk, David Glen, and Cameron Doner (all from B.C.), Bernie Lambert, Dale Andersen and Martin McDonald (all from Alberta) and Jonathan Steinberg, Bill Sheryer and Alex Piliarik of Ontario. And at the Fall NABC in Nashville, Crawford teamed with CBF president Aidan Ballantyne to finish seventh in the Blue Ribbon Pairs, confirming that he is more than a "rabbit-killer".

Asked for a favourite hand, Crawford submitted this bidding coup which helped Crawford's team win the Knockout event at the London, Ont. Regional against a strong U.S. team:

Dealer: North
Vul.: neither

♠ A10973

♥ 2

♦ Q10

♣ K10762

♠ 82

♥ AQ873

♦ J9654

♣ 4

♠ K65

♥ K4

♦ AK9732

♣ J8

♠ QJ4

♥ J10965

♦ -

♣ AQ953

West	North	East	South
<i>Adams</i>	<i>Sheryer</i>	<i>Letizia</i>	<i>Crawford</i>
	Pass	1♦	2♣
2♥	3♦*	Dbl.	Pass
Pass	4♣	Pass	Pass
4♦	Pass	Pass	5♣
Pass	Pass	Dbl.	Pass
Pass	Pass		

*forcing club raise

The key to the auction was Crawford's gentle pass of his partner's four club bid. At that point, a lesser player would have attempted to crowd the auction by raising to 5♣. However Crawford, feeling sure that David Adams was about to support diamonds, did not want to contend with a five-diamond bid. Sure enough, Adams bid 4♦ and Marinesa Letizia, after lengthy thought, opted to pass. Now Crawford had a "free" 5♣ bid: Adams was effectively barred and Letizia was unlikely to bid 5♦, since she felt that Crawford was trying to push her into that contract. Sure enough, Crawford wrapped up five clubs doubled, while at the other table Crawford's teammates arrived at 5♦ doubled, making for plus 550 and a double game swing. Crawford's tip to our readers is: "When you know that an opponent is about to support his partner's suit, give him room to do so. Otherwise you end up pre-empting your own side." ■

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
1987 Gary Tomczyk*

set previous record with 1071 points.

Top Canadians in 1988

Richmond Race

Listed below are the Canadian players winning the greatest number of master-points as of the 12/1/88 computer cycle. This does not reflect the total for the year.

1. Rob Crawford, Vancouver BC	1310.17	48. Gregory Arbour, Vancouver BC	221.23
2. Lawrence Hicks, New Westminster BC	1118.37	49. Edward Zaluski, Ottawa ON	219.88
3. Gary Tomczyk, Parksville BC	787.22	50. Francois Girardeau, Montreal PQ	218.42
4. Dave Glen, Port Moody BC	748.32	51. Michael Hargreaves, Victoria BC	217.53
5. Cliff Campbell, Thunder Bay ON	681.32	52. Jacques Laliberte, Cap-Rouge PQ	216.30
6. Bernie Lambert, Calgary AB	678.01	53. Roy Veness, Ladysmith BC	207.34
7. Ken Warren, Pickering ON	600.70	54. Maurice Larochelle, Ste. Foy PQ	207.27
8. Jonathan Steinberg, Toronto ON	481.47	55. Barry Harper, Saskatoon SK	205.21
9. Leo Steil, Vancouver BC	461.68	56. Judith Gartaganis, Edmonton AB	204.26
10. Cameron Doner, Richmond BC	451.89	57. Nader Hanna, Toronto ON	202.95
11. Sadru Visram, Toronto ON	406.59	58. Christopher Hough, Toronto ON	202.86
12. Gary Whiteman, London ON	393.24	59. Eric Marchand, Montreal PQ	202.61
13. Doug Fraser, Mont Royal PQ	382.10	60. John Rayner, Mississauga ON	201.52
14. Doug Baxter, Thornhill ON	369.07	61. James McAvoy, Victoria BC	200.02
15. Aidan Ballantyne, Vancouver BC	344.86	62. David Curry, Ottawa ON	199.84
16. William Sheryer, Kitchener ON	341.22	63. Janine Rivard, Quebec PQ	198.31
17. Dr. Douglas Heron, Ottawa ON	338.13	64. George Berton, Scarborough ON	198.16
18. Boris Baran, Montreal PQ	329.21	65. Jerry Aceti, Sudbury ON	197.46
19. Kamel Fergani, Montreal PQ	320.39	66. Nicholas Gartaganis, Edmonton AB	197.25
20. Mark Arbour, Scarborough ON	314.35	67. Dudley Camacho, Scarborough ON	197.16
21. Ron Bishop, Thornhill ON	305.46	68. Sheila Forbes, Toronto ON	195.04
22. Brad Boyle, Toronto ON	302.74	69. Dan Jacob, Burnaby BC	194.57
23. Ray Chen, Toronto ON	297.05	70. Gerald Richardson, London ON	193.03
24. Sandra Fraser, Mont Royal PQ	296.53	71. Bryan Culham, Kitchener ON	192.22
25. Michael Cafferata, Scarborough ON	292.03	72. Andre Laliberte, Neufchatel PQ	192.03
26. Michael Kenny, Thornhill ON	289.30	73. David Kent, Ottawa ON	191.93
27. June Stenning, White Rock BC	286.30	74. John McAdam, Ottawa ON	191.61
28. Mark Molson, Montreal PQ	284.97	75. Charles Milne, Toronto ON	190.75
29. David McLellan, Thunder Bay ON	284.58	76. Arthur Wei, Guelph ON	189.33
30. Alex Piliarik, Sarnia ON	284.15	77. John Bowman, Nepean ON	188.71
31. Laurie McIntyre, Ottawa ON	277.42	78. Ruth Gold, Toronto ON	186.30
32. Dale Andersen, Busby AB	268.12	79. Allan Smith, Peterborough ON	185.55
33. Ken Gee, Regina SK	266.87	80. Steve Clements, Vancouver BC	185.23
34. John Ross, Flin Flon MB	260.23	81. Peter Herold, Vancouver BC	183.81
35. John Duquette, Oshawa ON	257.85	82. Stephen Brown, Ottawa ON	183.72
36. John Carruthers, Toronto ON	250.69	83. Michael Gamble, Ottawa ON	183.53
37. Donald Pearsons, Winnipeg MB	247.89	84. Valerie Hough, Toronto ON	182.06
38. Bert Eccles, Montreal PQ	246.35	85. Daniel Doston, St. Leonard PQ	180.70
39. Gerry Marshall, Calgary AB	244.20	86. Mark Stein, Mount Royal PQ	180.17
40. Helene Beaulieu, Sherbrooke PQ	239.44	87. Neil Holmes, Toronto ON	178.91
41. Pat Roy, Sherbrooke PQ	235.55	88. Martin Caley, Ottawa ON	178.83
42. Haig Tchamitch, Thornhill ON	233.61	89. Mark Caplan, North York ON	178.58
43. Fred Gitelman, Don Mills ON	233.07	90. Gary Mitchell, Regina SK	177.50
44. Keith Balcombe, Oshawa ON	227.50	91. Jean Bernier, Neufchatel PQ	177.46
45. Anna Boivin, Chomedey Laval PQ	226.56	92. David Stothart, Ottawa ON	177.41
46. Dr. Raymond Fortin, Ste. Foy	225.74	93. Michael Roche, Toronto ON	177.25
47. Larry Pocock, White Rock BC	222.95	94. P. Treuil, Ottawa ON	177.02
		95. Ronny Dobrin, Montreal PQ	174.94
		96. Harmon Edgar, Milliken ON	174.07
		97. Pierre Daigneault, Chomedey PQ	174.03
		98. Fred Lerner, Markham ON	173.99
		99. Charles Lamb, Saskatoon SK	173.59
		100. Mary Lynne Howe, London ON	170.92

Retek Elected World Bridge Federation Delegate

At its Nashville meeting, the ACBL Board of Directors elected Montreal's George Retek as one of four ACBL delegates to the World Bridge Federation.

Retek, who is starting his 10th year on the ACBL Board as District 1 representative, knows the WBF is having financial difficulties, and he believes he can help solve some of these problems. He is a chartered accountant with his own firm in Montreal, and he is chairman of the ACBL's finance committee.

He also has a solid bridge background. A strong player in his own right, he also has served as non-playing captain for the Canadian team in a Bermuda Bowl playoff.



His wife, Mari, also is a Life Master, and they play frequently as a partnership. They have one son, Ralph, 25. ■

CBF Charitable Fund Report

The Canadian Bridge Federation Charitable Fund (CBFCF) is administered by Moise Deschamps, CBFCF chairman, under the direction of the CBFCF Trustees - the CBF Zone Directors.

Charitable Fund income is derived mainly from ACBL charity games held in Canada, although additional money is occasionally generated through other fund-raising activities or by individual donation.

Historically, the CBFCF has contributed over \$600,000 to some 30 different organizations. In recent years, the CBFCF Trustees have sought to spread contributions to many, smaller charities, rather than designate a single, well-established organization. A criterion that is carrying increased weight is the degree to which the

New Chairman Needed

Moise Deschamps intends to step down as CBFCF chairman this year. Anybody willing to take on this important position is requested to notify the CBF Executive Secretary.

prospective charity would publicize contract bridge.

The annual CBFCF contribution may vary from \$30,000 to \$70,000. In 1987 a relatively large amount, \$67,000, was allocated as follows:

Canadian Foundation for Ileitis & Colitis.....	\$35,000
Association for Children & Adults with Learning Disabilities.....	15,000
Alzheimer's Society of Canada.....	15,000
Parkinson Foundation of Canada.....	1,000
Resource, Educational, and Advocacy Centre for the Handicapped (REACH).....	1,000
TOTAL	\$67,000

Despite the generous overall contribution, the CBFCF balance at the end of 1987 was over \$84,000.

In 1988, the CBFCF continued contributing to Alzheimer's, Learning Disabilities and Ileitis & Colitis. In addition, smaller amounts were contributed to worthwhile causes, including the Canadian Wheelchair Sports Association. The latter group received \$500 as part of the CBF's commitment to National Access Awareness Week, in recognition of the great potential for contract bridge among disabled persons.

Thanks to Moe Deschamps' unflagging energy and devotion, the CBF has achieved a higher political profile in Ottawa. Ultimately, Moe's work may facilitate federal funding for bridge in Canada.

The CBFCF Trustees will be meeting again in March to designate CBFCF charities for 1990. Canadian players, especially those who participate regularly in ACBL and other charity games, are invited to submit proposals as to which Canadian charities would be worthy of CBFCF support. ■

Historical Summary of CBFCF Donations 1967-1988

Canadian Mental Health Association	\$106,200
Kidney Foundation of Canada	81,300
Canadian Arthritis & Rheumatism Society	72,000
Canadian Diabetes Association (incl. Juvenile)	70,000
Canadian Foundation for Ileitis and Colitis	50,000
Canadian Lung Association	30,000
Canadian Heart Foundation	29,000
Learning Disabilities Association of Canada	25,000
Alzheimer's Society of Canada	25,000
Canadian Cerebral Palsy Association	21,000
Canadian Cancer Society	20,000
Epilepsy Canada	17,500
Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation	16,500
Multiple Sclerosis Canada	15,000
Parkinson Foundation of Canada	9,900
Toronto-Peel Post Polio Association	5,000
Canadian Co-ordinating Council on Deafness	5,000
Man in Motion	1,000
REACH	1,000
Access Awareness Week	500
Eastern Ontario Children Hospital Telethon	100
TOTAL	\$601,200



Presentation to Canadian Wheelchair Sports Association. L to R: Moise Deschamps, Dean Mellway, Aidan Ballantyne.



Presentation to Learning Disabilities Association. L to R: Hon. Dave Daubney MP, Dr. Resnick, Aidan Ballantyne, Moe Deschamps. ■

TUBBs (Two Under Balancing Bids)

by Gary MacPherson Mugford,
Bramalea, Ont.

Two Under Balancing Bids (TUBBs) were designed to eliminate the ambiguity of whether the full conventional system is on after the auction starts 1NT-P-P. In fact, so easy is it to show one-suiters and two-suiters with TUBBs that we have also adopted it in the direct position. It is also as effective against weak notrumps as strong notrumps, with a slight change in the definition of what a good hand is.

TUBBs use bids to indicate a natural holding in the suit two ranks above, (Double shows diamonds). This gives the responder several options. The suit between the TUBB-bid and the indicated suit is called the stall. The responder can show a bad hand (we suggest 0-7 HCP vs. strong, 0-bad 10 vs. weak) or a good hand with no support by using the stall. Should the notrump opener double or bid over the TUBB bid, stall with pass.

With good support and a good hand, the responder can show a balanced hand with 8-11 HCP by bidding 2NT, a hand with side shortness by bidding the indicated suit or a hand with a good side-suit by bidding the new suit. Should the notrump opener double the TUBB bid, re-double shows the third hand-type; good support in a good hand with a good side-suit in the suit that has been re-doubled. (Optionally: re-double shows the other two suits).

By the time the bidding gets back to the TUBB-bidder, he has a good idea of the relative strength of responder's hand and fit for at least the first indicated suit. Responder can show a single-suited hand by bidding the strain at the level indicated by his strength. Or he can introduce a second suit, which can be as long, but not longer than the first indicated suit.

With TUBBs handling both one-suiters and competitive two-suiters, higher bids can be reserved for radical two-suiters that can reasonably be expected to go plus, in light of the opportunity to pass out 1NT. These radical two-suiters show at least 5-5 distribution with 7-11 HCP approximately. Notice

the correlation between TUBB bids and shape:

Dbl. - diamonds

2♣ - hearts

2♦ - spades

2♥ - clubs

2♠ - 5-5, spades and a minor

2NT - 5-5, clubs and diamonds

3♣ - 5-5, clubs and hearts

3♦ - 5-5, diamonds and hearts

3♥ - 5-5, hearts and spades

OPTIONAL:

3♠ - Gambling 3NT in a minor

3NT - Gambling 3NT in a major

In a TUBB auction that starts with the responder bidding the indicated suit to show a good hand with good support and side shortness, the TUBB-bidder relays in the next suit to ask for the shortness. Responder bids the shortness naturally, using the cheaper of 2NT or three of the indicated suit to show shortness in the relay suit. Since the relay suit would be artificial, we use 2NT to indicate a natural bid in the suit, a long-suit game-try. If the TUBB-bidder chooses to raise the indicated suit rather than ask for shortness or make a long-suit try, that indicates a general game try with poorish trumps.

Why use TUBBs?

By using TUBBs, the strong hand ends up on lead except in situations where the strength is pretty well split between the three bidding hands. (The reverse is true when using TUBBs in the direct seat). Since the TUBB-bidder hasn't denied a second suit, it is dangerous for either opponent to back in. And TUBBs allow for intelligent exploration with one- and two-suited hands. You give up penalty doubles and the ability to play 2♣. ♠

CWTC Final Site Uncertain

The dates and location of the National Finals of the Canadian Women's Team Championship were still unknown at press time. Please check with your Zone Director for information.

If, included in your fees, you were required to pay an extra \$3 a year to support Canadian activities and newsletter, would you remain an ACBL member? What if the fee was \$10?

	\$3/year			\$10/year		
	M	C	U	M	C	U
Very likely	48	49	65	18	19	35
Fairly likely	25	30	19	22	23	27
Not too likely	13	4	7	30	24	17
Not at all likely	11	15	9	26	31	20
Don't know	3	2	0	4	3	2

The concept of accepting a surcharge to support Canadian activities enjoys strong support, particularly if the amount is reasonable. Keep in mind that every year a few ACBL members drop out for various reasons; probably if they had been asked whether they would renew their membership if no surcharge at all was levied, you'd still see a few "not likely" answers. We are also astounded to see that a very significant minority would pay as much as \$10/year (to our knowledge, nobody has ever proposed such an exorbitant amount – why did the ACBL include this on their questionnaire?) to support CBF activities.

Do you receive a publication known as the Canadian Bridge Digest?

	M	C	U
Yes	40	52	72
No	57	45	27

How valuable do you find the Canadian Bridge Digest?

Very valuable	21
Fairly valuable	36
Not too valuable	32
Not at all valuable	11

It is surprising to see that over half of the members (and nearly half the club managers) say they do not receive the publication you are now reading. Undoubtedly the fact the Digest is bound into the Bulletin accounts for this poor recognition factor. A lot of people leaf through the Bulletin superficially without realizing that four times a year another magazine is bound inside. We are pleased with the generally positive reaction among people who do know we exist, but there is obviously not universal approval. The Digest has not attempted to compete with the Bulletin in the areas of novice instruction or tournament reporting (other than purely Canadian events). We plan on keeping things that way – the Bulletin does a great job and all we are trying to do is complement it in areas Canadians find lacking. This doesn't interest everybody, but what does?

Other interesting tidbits can be gleaned from the poll: there are significant differences between Canadian and U.S. bridge players: Canadians feel that the Bulletin is the biggest benefit of ACBL membership, while U.S. members mention the masterpoint plan as most important. In line with this finding, it was revealed that we spend more time reading the Bulletin than our U.S. counterparts. And most important of all, we simply play more bridge – Canadians were found to be more active at all levels of the game, from clubs to North American championships. These demographic differences alone justify the CBF's survival.



Canadian Bidding Contest

THE FEBRUARY PANEL

KEN DANG (Prince George, B.C.): describes himself as “just one of the many bridge enthusiasts from the interior of B.C. who would not hesitate to travel 500+ miles to attend a regional tournament.” He has won several regional events along the way.

RAY GRACE (Calgary): is a large, but friendly, ultra-modernist whose bearded visage is becoming a familiar one at western regionals. He is the unchallenged inventor of Grace Gang Splinters (see CBF Digest, November/87).

JYM ‘Hat’ GALAND (Spruce Grove, AB): learned bridge in the legendary rubber days in Edmonton. He is a self-declared “reformed matchpoint player”, who has been to two CNTC finals and won a few regionals, including a double at the 1984 Edmonton Regional.

JOAN LUPOVICH (Montreal): attributes her many sectional and regional successes to having learned the game from some of Canada’s best players, providing her with a strong foundation. She also served for several years on the Montreal Bridge League executive.

DOUG McAVOY (Hamilton): became the Maritimes’ second Life Master in 1964. He is a certified director and a bridge pro who writes, teaches, runs seminars, and does cruises. He prefers rubber bridge, but loves travelling to NAC’s and some regionals.

JENNIFER PAYNTER (Vancouver): has put in more years of service with the Vancouver Unit than anyone I know. Along the way, she has won her share of bridge games, and is a regular participant in the CWTC finals. She is highly supportive of the CBF and the CWTC and would like to see a stronger Canadian bridge identity.

TONY “The Tuna” REUS (Roxboro, P.Q.): is a bridge teacher who has won numerous regionals. He is the proud captain of Fish International, and the creator of EHAA (Every Hand An Adventure) Fine Tuna-ed. He claims to have squeezed an opponent out of AKQ of spades two hands in a row.

JERRY RICHARDSON (London, Ont.): has played bridge for 25 years in the London area, and finds it the perfect means of relaxation from his law practice. He has won numerous sectional events and a couple of regionals, and prefers IMPs to matchpoints.



Conducted by Sandy McIlwain

THE FEBRUARY PROBLEMS

A) Matchpoints. None vul.

♠ AK7	♥ 876	♦ KQ	♣ AJ532
West	North	East	South
-	-	-	1NT
2♥	3♥	Dbl.	4♣
4♥	Pass	Pass	?

We started with a split decision:

DANG: Dbl. Tap in four spades is in wrong hand; partner didn't bid 5♣. Try to take a plus.

GALAND: Dbl. What does East's double show? Does 3♥ promise values? 4♥ is probably going down.

RICHARDSON: Dbl. Although slam is possible, few pairs will bid it. Heart leads at every opportunity should net +500, beating all games.

Choosing to bid on, and in the majority, were:

LUPOVICH: 4♠. A minor-suit slam is a distinct possibility. Partner should grasp my distribution.

GRACE: 4♠. I expect a heart void from partner (*O youth, O optimism!*-SM). Partner should bid on with the right hand, but I've played 4-3 fits before.

REUS: 4♣. I would never bid 4♣ (a cue in support of spades?), but his forcing pass seems to play me for clubs, so I'll co-operate and cue spades.

McAVOY: 4♠. Can't go wrong. Partner has diamonds and spades or a liking for clubs.

PAYNTER: 4♠. I have a good hand. Think slam, partner!

Re slam: You have as much as can be expected, although your clubs are weak and you are counting on partner for several key cards. Partner may be only waiting to hear about your spade control, however, and this is your chance to show it. You are definitely risking a minus and a poor score by bidding, it must be noted.

Will the opponents go for -500? If partner has and leads a trump they may have nothing other than seven heart tricks, but they'll take an eighth trick fairly often. You should make either 4♠ or 5♣, but can you stop in time?

Note that partner may be planning to bid over your double anyway, showing a better hand, and moving you toward slam with assurance.

Action	Votes	Score
4♠	5	100
Dbl.	3	80
5♣	0	20
4NT	0	10

B) IMPs (Swiss). N-S vul.

♠ AK1098	♥ AKQ109	♦ QJ9	♣ -
West	North	East	South
-	-	-	1♠
Pass	1NT	4♣	?

Trust the opponents to preempt on our best hand of the night.

REUS: 5♣. Pickem. What's right? I'll bid 6♦ over 5♦ (yuck), and 6♥ over 5♥ or 5♠.

GRACE: 5♣. Followed by 6♥. All pard needs is 2-4 shape in the majors and the diamond king.

RICHARDSON: 5♣. I'm bidding 5♥ over 5♦ and raising 5♥ or 5♠ to six.

GALAND: 5♣. 5♥ is not bad, but makes it tough to play in 6 or 7 diamonds.

DANG: 5♣. Will raise the expected five of a red suit to six. Over 5♠ it's a guess to bid on or pass.

LUPOVICH also bid 5♣. Little concern here over suppressing our best suit, perhaps forever. One panelist felt like showing it:

PAYNTER: 4♥. If we have more, it's over to you, partner.

This is a little more descriptive of your shape, but runs the risk of being passed, as well as losing diamonds. Slam, as in the last problem, still requires the right cards from partner.

McAVOY chose another route to show his power.

McAVOY: Dbl. Maximal. 4♥ shuts out the diamond suit. Worst consequence here is if partner has ♠xx ♥J87x ♦Kxx ♣Q10xx and we miss a laydown heart slam (with no awkward spade or diamond shortage on your left.-SM)

The main advantage of 5♣ is that to bid it we must be prepared to play in hearts, and we most certainly are. The double puts partner to a guess, as we might easily have ♠AKxxx ♥AKQ ♦QJxx ♣x, making bidding on quite dangerous. At Swiss scoring it's best not to lose the match on these hands, and 5♣ looks like the best chance for a push. How about bidding 6♣ over partner's 5♥?

(At this vulnerability a pass here should be forcing, but don't try it on the unprepared.)

Action	Votes	Score
5♣	6	100
4♥	1	60
Dbl.	1	60
5♥	0	40
6♣	0	30
6♥	0	20

C) Matchpoints. Both vul.

♠ AJ53 ♥ 4 ♦ AQ8 ♣ AJ753

West	North	East	South
-	-	1♦	?

Dave Todd sent us this hand from an old Bridge World quiz (MSC May '69), where a pass was the overwhelming choice. Be it the times or the temperature, our panel was more inclined to bid, although there were passers:

RICHARDSON: Pass. Seems more flexible than any of the bids available. Partner won't pass it out unless it's right.

GALAND: Pass. A tough one. 2♣ doubled might get ugly. It's unlikely to be passed out in 1♦, and I may have a better bid later (and you may not-SM).

REUS: Pass. I'd bid one spade if the suit were better, and I'll have another chance to bid.

What we'll do at our next turn, or the one after, is unclear. Dodging that problem were:

GRACE: 2♣. Ugly, but most flexible, and denies two singletons (see intro-SM).

LUPOVICH: 2♣. It's an imperfect world.

PAYNTER: 2♣. I'd like to have more, or better, clubs, but partner may not be able to balance. If partner bids hearts I can try spades or NT.

There was one 'value' bidder out there:

DANG: 1NT. I do have diamonds stopped.

The danger here is that partner may play you for one more heart, or some tricks. You are prepared to scramble, though.

And finally, a man who knows a spade suit when he sees one:

McAVOY: 1♠. My style. Over 2♥ I'll bid 3NT, and I'll raise 2♣ to game.

This call has some benefits: it tends to deny hearts, gets our side into the auction, keeps the

opponents out of their spade fit, and prepares you to scramble. The danger is that we may play 1♠, which may be RHO's best suit, with game on in clubs (opposite ♠xx ♥xxxx ♦xx ♣KQxxx).

Poor partner will have to balance with ♠Qxxx ♥xxxx ♠xx ♣Kxx, ♠10xxx ♥Jxxx ♦xx ♣Kxx, or ♠109 ♥Qxxxx ♦xx ♣Kxxx to salvage any matchpoints after you pass. Would you?

2♣ somehow gets the top score, as the panel as a whole favoured bidding.

Action	Votes	Score
2♣	3	100
Pass	3	90
1♠	1	70
1NT	1	60

D) Matchpoints. E-W vul.

♠ AK ♥ 6 ♦ AJ832 ♣ KQ1063

West	North	East	South
1♥	Pass	4♥	?

Resisting Temptation, Chapter 127.

GRACE: 4NT. Blackwood! And more Blackwood over 5♥. Maybe then partner will pick a minor.

RICHARDSON: 4NT. It's West's turn to bid now. Let E-W decide what to do.

REUS: 4NT. We might go set when they, too, were down, but I'm not giving up on game.

GALAND: 4NT. Five of a minor isn't usually right at matchpoints, but 4♥ is only likely to be down one (+200 at M.P.'s-SM).

PAYNTER: 4NT. Bid something of the minor persuasion, partner. I feel like having an adventure.

Less inclined towards an adventure (will partner, looking at e.g. ♠Jxxxx ♥xx ♦Qxx ♣xx, take 4NT as Blackwood? Would you rather play or defend?) were:

LUPOVICH: Double.

DANG: Dbl. Could be missing minor game or slam, but I'll go for a plus. Haven't discussed the meaning of 4NT here.

The hand seems to belong to us, and they may have five losers for +500 when we can make game, so double can't be far wrong.



Playing it safe was:

McAVOY: Pass! Any action I take will produce a minus score. Five of a minor doesn't make, and double may be construed as take-out.

The possibility that partner will pull the double exists, but he should resist the urge without big shape. Passing will separate you from the 4NT bidders — not a bad option, really.

If you bid and partner works it out, you may still go down routinely on hands where you have a fit and North isn't broke, simply because East has a singleton or void in one of the minors, an almost certain thing. Judging from the way partner's eyes are darting from fire exit to open window to opponents' serene faces, he's likely quite eager to get on to the next hand.

Action	Votes	Score
4NT	5	100
Dbl.	2	70
Pass	1	60
5NT	0	10

E) IMP Pairs. None vul.

♠ KJ8652	♥ J9743	♦ K2	♣ -
West	North	East	South
-	-	-	Pass
1♣	Dbl.	2NT*	3♣
5♣	Dbl.	Pass	?

*Preemptive club raise

The requirements around here for pulling partner's penalty doubles are a shortage of losers, extra or undisclosed values, and a very strong helmet. Read on, however:

PAYNTER: 5♣. I'm too weak to sit for penalties, and we just may make it.

LUPOVICH: 5♣. I don't want to defend with this hand. I would like to have bid 4♣ originally.

GALAND: 5♣. And I hope partner doesn't bid six. I probably just gave up my last chance for a plus score.

REUS: 5♣. Why am I always at the five-level? (Why, indeed?-SM).

RICHARDSON: 5♣. I have understanding partners. Well, broad shoulders, anyway. Besides, I like to play the hands, and thirteen cards in partner's suits say I should.

Once again standing tall was:

McAVOY: 5♥. 5♣ is only down two (See below for scoring at IMP pairs-SM). Partner's weakness is in spades. I'll take them out at the six-level. Sounds like they'll bid it up, too. (What possible advantage could E-W gain from bidding again?-SM)

A brave (or helmetless) duo let the auction conclude here:

GRACE: Pass. I hate partners that pull. We rate to take three tricks on defense more often than eleven on offense.

DANG: Pass. Would like to bid 5♣ but I trust partner.

IMP pairs scoring takes the total of the N-S (or E-W) scores on a hand (less the highest and lowest to reduce the effects of random 1400's) and divides this by the number of scores remaining to create an average, or par. Your score is IMPed against this par. In this case, the N-S par would likely be between +300 and +400, if 5♣ doubled is down two, but will be lower if several pairs bid 5♣ and are set.

+300 here will lose around two IMPs when 5♣ makes, and will gain two or three IMPs when 5♣ goes down. 5♣ bid and made will gain about two IMPs, but 5♣ down will lose between eight and ten IMPs, depending on how much company you have. The odds do not favour bidding on unless you're sure you're going to make it.

Naturally the panel is always right, but I do have several slightly used helmets I can let you have cheap, when I'm finished beating on them.

Action	Votes	Score
5♣	5	100
Pass	2	80
5♥	1	50

F) IMPs. Both vul.

♠ -	♥ A83	♦ AK9842	♣ AK93
West	North	East	South
-	-	-	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♣	Pass	?

Thanks to Bill Lim of Prince George for this one. Hearts was the most popular suit bid here, but the number varied:

RICHARDSON: 4♥. If I bid 4♦ now, how can I subsequently show this heart support?

DANG: 4♥. Describes hand and lets partner take control. 4♦ could cause problems if partner calls 5♣; could have grand in hearts, not clubs.

PAYNTER: 4♥. I'll agree hearts now and bid 5NT at my next opportunity. (Why does partner never have support for my suits?)

All of which tends to suggest that 4♥ here is forcing. Are you will to find out?

Checking in at 5♥ were:

REUS: 5♥. Wouldn't argue with four or six, but I'll take the middle action. Thinking of changing my name to Binsky.

LUPOVICH: 5♥. Partner either has a good hand or loves my club bid.

GRACE: 5♥. I hope partner will bid 6♦ with the queen or 5♣ to let me further describe.

Which sounds like 5♥ is forcing.

Going deep we had:

McAVOY: 6♥. Scientists would complete the picture here with 4♦. Not me.

This eliminates the question of what's forcing, and may be your best spot as well.

Many toyed with 4♦, one brought it home with him:

GALAND: 4♦. Intending to bid 5♥ over 5♦, hopefully describing my distribution. 4♥ sounds too final.

Delaying the heart raise may make it sound like a cue bid later, but at least 4♦ is forcing. If partner wanted to play in one of our suits, he should have raised at his last turn.

Our primary obligation here should be to not end the auction prematurely, as all the panelists seemed interested in slam. I've scored with that in mind.

Action	Votes	Score
5♥	3	100
4♥	3	80
6♥	1	70
4♦	1	70
4NT	0	10

MAY CONTEST

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

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

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

THE MAY PROBLEMS

A) Matchpoints. None vul.

♠AJ3	♥-	♦QJ1054	♣AKQ109
West	North	East	South
-	-	3♠	?

B) IMPs. None vul.

♠-	♥A2	♦KQ96	♣AK87542
West	North	East	South
-	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♥	Dbl.*	4♥	?

*Negative

C) IMPs. Both vul.

♠-	♥K8	♦AKQ8652	♣10953
West	North	East	South
-	2♠	Pass	?

D) Matchpoints. Both vul.

♠108753	♥K6	♦1082	♣862
West	North	East	South
1♥	Dbl.	Pass	1♣
Pass	1NT	2♣	?

E) Matchpoints. Both vul.

♠AJ53	♥4	♦AQ8	♣AJ753
West	North	East	South
-	-	1♦	Pass
Pass	Dbl.	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	?

F) Matchpoints. E-W vul.

♠Q4	♥Q10	♦A104	♣J108543
West	North	East	South
1♦	1♠	Pass	?

Going to the Dogs

by Jack Q. King

You wouldn't like it here, I don't think. I used to live in Toronto. Came here about five years ago with Beatrice. It was just going to be a vacation.

She'd got hold of this travel brochure and she'd said "Jack, this year we're going to St. Pierre et Miquelon, a piece of France in North America". So next thing I know we hop on a plane to St. Johns, Newfoundland, then take this bus to a town called Fortune. Then we get on a ferry to St. Pierre.

Like I said, you probably wouldn't think much of it. It's a piece of France, all right. There's about 5000 people living here, fishermen mostly, on these two islands they call St. Pierre and Miquelon. Actually, there is a bunch of smaller islands here as well, but they're just uninhabited rocks. So when we get here, we find out pretty quick there isn't much to do. That's suits me fine, but then Beatrice finds out about this island called Ile aux Marins, that's Sailor's Island. Used to be called Ile aux Chiens, that's Dogs' Island, but they changed the name. Anyway, she says we've got to go check out the place. So we take this dory from St. Pierre, it's just a short trip, and there we are on Dogs' Island. Turns out there used to be a good-sized settlement here about thirty years ago, maybe three hundred families. But they've all moved back to St. Pierre and all that's left is a bunch of abandoned houses. And the old parish priest still lives here with his caretaker. He's retired, obviously. Beatrice takes a look around at the rocks and the lighthouse and the broken-down houses and says she's going back to Toronto. I figure it's good riddance, so she takes off and I'm still here, five years later.

It's a pretty good life. I've settled into what used to be the gymnasium. Hey, I've got my own indoor pool now. And anyway I always wanted to be a fisherman ever since I was a little kid. In the winter I've got lots of time to read. I read pretty well anything, but I guess what I really like best is those bridge magazines. You know, I used to play some bridge back in Toronto. Won a few sectionals

back in high school.

I'm getting to the point. A few months back, I'm reading about this North American tri-country playoff for the Bermuda Bowl. Canada, Mexico and Bermuda playing off every year to play in the world championship. So I say to myself, why shouldn't St. Pierre & Miquelon get invited? From what I've read, I could teach some of these guys on SPM and they'd stand a chance against Bermuda, at least. So I go over to St. Pierre and talk to the governor. He thinks it's a great idea. Fires off a letter to Mr. Howard from the WBF. By then the playoff is over, Canada won again of course. But our governor doesn't give up easy. He gets the World Court in The Hague to slap an injunction on the Bermuda Bowl unless they give us a chance. So in the end they decide to have this special challenge match, Canada against SPM, right here on the islands. The winner gets to go to the Bermuda Bowl.

So the governor quickly organizes an all-archipelago championship. This is getting to be a lot of fun, so I figure Dogs' Island might as well enter. The old priest, Father Briand, and his caretaker Maman used to play bridge in the old days. The father is a sweet old guy, Maman isn't quite there, but what choice have I got? All we need is a fourth, so I get Jean-Marcel, that's the kid who steers the dory from St. Pierre. I teach him two-over-one game force and he turns out to be a pretty fast learner. We win the all-archipelago championship when we beat Miquelon in the finals by 30 IMPs, so that's how we got to play against Canada.

The four of them got here okay. One was Eric Murray. You probably heard of him. A big guy, they had to take him across on the dory all by himself. His partner was a guy called Sami. Nice guy, doesn't talk much. Then there was this other Eric, Kokish or something. He always looked like he was in pain, is about all I remember. He played with George something or other, a real nervous type.

We'd agreed on a 64 board match so the guys from Canada didn't have to stay the

night. There's no hotel here, you see. The first half is kind of crazy. For one, we aren't used to those bidding boxes. Once, the Sami guy opens the bidding one club and Jean-Marcel throws that brown TD card on the table. We don't know why he wants a director, turns out he thought it was a take-out double. Anyway things don't go all that bad and we're down only 18 IMPs. The Canadian guys don't look real happy, though I can't figure out why. They're ahead, aren't they?

First hand out of the chute in the second half I pick up ♠K864 ♥A10972 ♦54 ♣A2. It goes 3 diamonds by the George guy and Jean-Marcel plays his red double card. I told you he learns fast. I sure don't want to bid 4 diamonds because I want to make sure I'm playing the hand, besides I'd like to keep things simple with this partner of mine. And four hearts is kind of chicken, so I bid five hearts. The dory pilot stews for a while and gives me the sixth heart.

Dealer: West

Vul: Neither

	♠AQJ5	
	♥Q3	
	♦AJ	
	♣KQJ43	
♠107		♠932
♥J6		♥K854
♦KQ107632		♦98
♣95		♣10876
	♠K864	
	♥A10972	
	♦54	
	♣A2	

George leads the king of diamonds. So I win the ace and I figure I might as well try three rounds of clubs. I throw my diamond away and the George fellow I was telling you about biffs it. He plays back a spade. I win that with the jack on the table and run the queen of hearts, small, small, jack. All right. So I take another heart hook, a spade to the queen, ruff the jack of diamonds and overtake my king of spades with the ace. Then I said "jack of clubs" and this Kokish guy just puts his cards back in the board and looks like he is hurting really bad.

Later I find out that Maman opened just 2 diamonds with the West hand and Sami overcalled three notrump. His partner, that's the big Murray fellow, he doesn't go in for a lot of conventions and stuff. So he says 4NT and the Sami guy goes 6NT. The Father leads the nine of diamonds and Sami figures he knows how to play this one. He cashes all nine black winners and then gets out with his diamond for the endplay. Except Maman had seven diamonds and she kept two of them so he's down one. We won 14 IMPs on that baby.

I figured not much happened on the next fifteen boards or so, except it turned out we lost back those 14 IMPs on all kinds of overtricks and stuff. Then I got this hand: ♠AJ9864 ♥10753 ♦A6 ♣8. We're hot, they're not, so I say to myself they aren't going to suspect anything if I open a bit light. I bid a spade and Jean-Marcel, he says one notrump. I really believe in bidding those second suits so I say two hearts. Now that turkey bids 2NT. I figure I'd better say three spades, but what do you know, he goes 3NT. I could tell that the Kokish guy felt like doing something, but anyway, we all passed.

Dealer: North

Vul: N-S

	♠-	
	♥642	
	♦KJ1095	
	♣J10653	
♠10752		♠KQ3
♥K		♥AQJ98
♦8432		♦Q7
♣KQ74	♠AJ9864	♣A92
	♥10753	
	♦A6	
	♣8	

Kokish starts off with the two of clubs and George goes in with the queen. He plays back the 4 of clubs and Jean-Marcel figures he's being really tricky when he plays first the five and then the jack. So Kokish gets out with his nine of clubs and George wins the king. Jean-Marcel still didn't show them the club three so George figures he might as well play another club. Then I've got to give Jean-Marcel credit. He plays a diamond to the ace and another one back to the king.



When his queen drops Kokish starts getting that martyr look again. So anyway my partner starts running his diamonds and then he plays that club three. Kokish, all he's got left is the KQ of spades and the AQ of hearts so the poor guy thinks he's squeezed or something. I'll be darned if he didn't throw the heart queen because he figured that George better have the king. All that's in dummy is the AJ of spades and a couple of little hearts. So my partner, he figures out what to do. Throws the jack of spades away and plays a heart, because that's all he's got left. Took the last two tricks, of course. What made it real funny was that at the other table Sam or Sami opened two spades and the Father reopened 2NT. Maman raised him to three (figures that those two use Mama-Papa bidding) and Sami didn't know any better than to lead a spade. Took the old geezer half an hour, but he took nine tricks and that gives us those 14 fat IMPs right back again.

Well, we gave them a few more overtricks but by the time the last board comes along we're down only six lousy IMPs. I had ♠Q953 ♥AQ ♦J63 ♣KQJ4. Since I'm the dealer, I bid a notrump, what else. George goes double and Jean-Marcel goes two no. Kokish, he passes, and I don't know what to do. I admit I taught the guy lebensol but that can't be what he's doing. Who knows, maybe he figured out all by himself that's what he's supposed to do with a two-suiter. Anyway, I didn't see how three clubs could hurt. Now he bids 3NT and everybody passes. That's one way to get there, I suppose. George is laughing so hard he's falling from his bloody chair and he leads the ace of diamonds and here's the hand:

Dealer: South
Vul: N-S

	♠ 1074	
	♥ KJ85	
	♦ 10752	♠ KJ853
♠ A	♠ A6	♥ 10642
♥ 973		♦ -
♦ AKQ984	♠ Q962	♠ 9872
♠ 1053	♥ AQ	
	♦ J63	
	♠ KQJ4	

In the other room I found out later, Maman bid two diamonds over one notrump. They doubled her and she went for 300, which is no surprise. So all I've got to do is make three no. Like I said, George starts out with the ace of diamonds and the pained-looking guy on my right pitches the three of spades. That's what they do in Canada, it's called an upside-down signal, they tell me. This doesn't look like one of those hands where it's right to play the jack, so I just play a little one. When that George guy goes into a real long tank, I figure he's got a stiff ace or king of spades, else he's got no problem. Then he comes out with a little club. I don't like the looks of that. Anyway, I win the ace and might as well try a spade. Sure enough, George wins the ace. Now I'm thinking right along with him. He can't just clear the diamonds, else his partner is going to get squeezed and I kind of think that particular guy wouldn't like that. Even if he just plays one high diamond, I can throw my jack under that and win whatever he plays next, cash all my winners from my hand, throwing spades, and play a diamond towards the 10. So what do you know? Georgie works it all out and gets out with a heart. You've got to give the man credit. Anyway, I win that one with the ace, run my clubs, might as well pitch dummy's diamonds now, then I overtake my queen of hearts and play jack and another. That leaves something like

	♠ 107	
	♥ -	
	♦ 10	
	♠ -	
♠ -		♠ KJ8
♥ -		♥ -
♦ KQ9		♦ -
♠ -	♠ Q94	♠ -
	♥ -	
	♦ -	
	♠ -	

Now the pained-looking guy plays the king of spades and another one. I'm feeling pretty good about things. I put in the nine and say "tough luck, pal". Then I look at the dummy and sitting there is the bloody ten. ♠

by Drew Cannell
Winnipeg

Jaggy's Hand

Here's an outstanding hand that Jaggy Shivasani showed me. A real masterpiece:

Vul.: both

Dealer: South

	♠ 109	
	♥ 63	
	♦ AJ973	
	♣ A1064	
♠ 832		♠ A4
♥ QJ109		♥ 543
♦ Q106	♠ KQJ765	♦ 8542
♣ Q82	♥ AK87	♣ K973
	♦ K	
	♣ J5	

West	North	East <i>Jaggy</i>	South
			1 ♠
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5 ♥	Pass	6 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Lead: ♥ Q (yes, a trump works better).

Declarer won the ♥ A and cashed the ♦ K. He crossed to the ♣ A and pitched his club on the ♦ A. He then played the ♥ K, ruffed a heart, ruffed a club and ruffed his last heart with the ♠ 10. We are down to:

	♠ -	
	♥ -	
	♦ J97	
	♣ 106	
♠ 832		♠ A4
♥ -		♥ -
♦ Q	♠ KQJ76	♦ 85
♣ Q	♥ -	♣ K9
	♦ -	
	♣ -	

...with Jaggy to play to trick eight. If Jags pitches a card from either minor, declarer will exhaust him of his uppercut card and play ♠ K, and be able to ruff the other minor low and claim. If Jags overruffs — c'est fini. Therefore, Jaggy found the countermeasure of depositing his ♠ 4 under the ♠ 10. Declarer ruffed a minor card with the ♠ 6 and led the ♠ K (yes, I know he could have led the ♠ 7 and made his slam, but would you?) Jaggy now returned his preserved card to score the ♠ 8. Pretty. ■

COPC Finals Scheduled for Toronto

The National Finals of the Canadian Open Pair Championships will take place at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto, on March 24 and 25, in conjunction with the "Canadian Nationals" Regional scheduled at that time. The winning pair will represent Canada at the World Open Pairs Championships in Geneva in 1990. Pairs finishing 2nd through 10th will receive qualification points as follows: 2nd - 5, 3rd - 4, 4th - 3, 5th - 2, 6th through 10th - 1. These qualification points will also be awarded at the 1990 COPC and be used to qualify additional pairs for Geneva.

Pairs who have qualified for the 1989 COPC Finals should contact their Zone Director (see last page of this Digest) to enquire about travel subsidies.

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25 Years Ago

In 1964, the 2nd World Bridge Team Olympiad took place in New York City. It is interesting to look at differences between Olympiads then and now: Only half as many nations entered, allowing for a complete round-robin (the top four teams qualified for the semi-finals in the Open, while the round-robin winner in the Ladies' competition was declared champion without further playoffs); the bidding made sense to a casual player; and Canada did poorly in the Ladies' (12th out of 15 teams), but very well in the Open Teams.

Canada's Open Team consisted of Eric Murray-Sammy (as he then spelled his first name) Kehela, Ralph Cohen-Sam Gold and Jack Howell-Ron Forbes. In the round-robin, the three powerhouses Italy, United States and Great Britain pulled away from the field, leaving Canada and Switzerland in a neck-and-neck race for the fourth and final playoff spot. In a late match, Canada met the US. This was a key hand:

Vul.: E-W

Dealer: North

♠ 872 ♥ 95 ♦ Q32 ♣ K9743	♠ J1095 ♥ KJ10 ♦ K984 ♣ J5	♠ AKQ643 ♥ 872 ♦ 765 ♣ Q
	♠ - ♥ AQ643 ♦ AJ10 ♣ A10862	

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Murray</i>	<i>Krauss</i>	<i>Kehela</i>
Pass	Pass	2♣	Dbl.

Closed Room:

Cohen	Mitchell	Gold	Stayman
Pass	Pass	1♠	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

In the Open Room, Krauss opened with a heavy weak-two, Kehela doubled for takeout, Hamman passed (he must have considered 3♣), and Murray converted to penalties rather than chance an iffy 3NT. The defense collected its seven obvious tricks, for +500. In the Closed Room, Stayman overbid to a poor slam. That contract was doomed by the bad club split, and Stayman also misguessed the diamond queen, for +100 to Canada. This board helped Canada upset the US 35-21 and qualify for the playoffs.

In the 60-board semi-finals, Canada had to face the US again. After 6 boards, the US led 48-13! Thereafter, Canada outplayed their opponents, but finally succumbed 117-128, plus a 5 IMP penalty for arriving late for the first session. Canada would have won if this skinny slam had come home on Board 56:

Vul.: Both

Dealer: South

♠ J875 ♥ J2 ♦ Q1096 ♣ K82	♠ K1063 ♥ A75 ♦ J4 ♣ J754	♠ 4 ♥ 10643 ♦ K87 ♣ Q10963
	♠ AQ92 ♥ KQ98 ♦ A532 ♣ A	

When Hamman-Krauss held the North-South cards, they bid and just made 4 spades. Gold-Cohen, who correctly felt they needed one more swing to win the match, stretched to 6♣. The late Sam Gold played very skillfully, at one point taking a third-round finesse against the ♥10, but the four-one spade break was impossible to handle.

So Canada went on to play Great Britain (which had lost to eventual winner Italy by just 6 IMPs in the other semi-final) for the bronze medal. Again, the match went down to the wire and was finally decided on board 59:

continued on page 31



Reu-Ben Run-Outs



by *The Tuna (Tony Reus), Montreal*

Since the days of the “Goren”ites and their 16-18 notrumps, the popularity of the 1NT range has changed many times - first to 15-17, then to the “Molson”ites with 14-16 non-vul, then to the “weakies” with 12-14, then to the “Kokish”ites with 11-14 (with intermediates and/or long minor).

All things considered, the main purpose in choosing a notrump range is the frequency of this hand type. With this quick “get-in” action comes the need for a quick “get-out” action should the opponents choose to DOUBLE. Goren had no concern for such trivial matters, but when the EHAA boys came along wielding their “PEE-WEE” 10-12 notrump, they realized a general concern to perfect their run-out sequences. Thus the birth of REU-BEN (Reus - Bennett) now a cornerstone of EHAA (fine “tuna”ed). No matter what your notrump range, this system of escapes could be adapted easily. It not only solves all your problems but is easy to remember as well.*

It may be used when you:

- a) open 1NT
- b) balance 1NT (e.g. 1♠ - P - P - 1NT)
- c) overcall 1NT

And here’s how it works:

- A) 1NT - DBL - P
 - = Forces redouble (see section C)
 - 1NT - DBL - RDBL
 - = Forces 2♣ (see section B)
 - 1NT - DBL - 2♣
 - = Clubs & Hearts (non-touching suits)
 - 1NT - DBL - 2♦
 - = Diamonds & Spades (non-touching suits)
 - 1NT - DBL - 2♥/♠
 - = Natural with some values (invites partner to compete, but not to game)
 - 1NT - DBL - 2NT
 - = Weak with a minor or invitational if bid a short major at next turn.
 - 1NT - DBL - 3 Bids
 - = Pre-emptive

All WEAK bids except 2♥, ♠ and possibly 2NT.

- B) 1NT - DBL - RDBL - P
 - 2♣ - P - P
 - = Clubs or the start of a scramble
 - 2♣ - P - 2♦/♥/♠
 - = Natural
 - 2♣ - P - 2NT
 - = Invitational 2-suiter (not minors see section A)
 - 2♣ - P - 3 Bids
 - = Invitational

Follow-up bids are INVITATIONAL if you bid 2NT or at the 3-level.

- C) 1NT - DBL - P - P
 - RDBL - P - P
 - = They made a mistake (I hope!)
 - RDBL - P - 2♣
 - = Clubs & Diamonds or Clubs & 4 Spades
 - RDBL - P - 2♦
 - = Diamonds & Hearts
 - RDBL - P - 2♥
 - = Hearts & Spades

*Two false claims in one short sentence. Ed.

RDBL - P - 2♣
 = Clubs & 5 Spades
 RDBL - P - 2NT
 = Forcing 2-suiter
 RDBL - P - 3 Bids
 = Forcing

Follow-up bids are FORCING if you bid 2NT or at the 3 level.

If the opponents interfere in sequence B or C, 3 bids are still invitational or forcing and 2NT is lebensohl-ish.

Remember that unconventional RE-DOUBLES are S.O.S.!! A convoluted example of this has been extracted from the actual Fish International archives and is reproduced below:

EW Vul. Dealer S.

North	South
<i>Raccoon</i>	<i>Tuna</i>
A1084	J652
652	AK73
843	95
K105	QJ7

North	East	South	West
		1NT	DBL(1)
RDBL(2)	P	2♣	DBL
RDBL(3)	P	2♦!	P
P	DBL	RDBL(4)	P
2♥!	P	P	DBL
2♣	P	P	DBL
All Pass			

- (1) 13-15
- (2) relay to 2♣, remember?
- (3) S.O.S., remember?
- (4) S.O.S., remember?

Whether the Raccoon (Randy Bennett) actually made 2♣ doubled is rather anticlimactic, isn't it? You would want to be there, right? ... O.K., you dragged it out of me. ... trumps were 4-1 and he went down one (-100) but as the cards lie, the opponents can make 3♦ (+110). ■

25 Years Ago *continued from page 29*

Vul.: neither
Dealer: South

♠ K10
 ♥ QJ843
 ♦ 632
 ♣ Q107

♠ J62
 ♥ A1095
 ♦ KJ954
 ♣ 6

♠ 98
 ♥ -
 ♦ Q1087
 ♣ AKJ9532

♠ AQ7543
 ♥ K762
 ♦ A
 ♣ 84

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
<i>Kehela</i>	<i>Reese</i>	<i>Murray</i>	<i>Flint</i>
			1♦*
Pass	1NT	3♣	3♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Dbl.	Pass	Pass	Pass
*standard 1♦ opening			

Closed Room:

Gray	Gold	Schapiro	Cohen
			1♣
Pass	1NT	Dbl.	Pass
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass		

In the Open Room, Kehela led his singleton club and Murray won the jack and king. Now the bronze medal was within reach. Had he continued with a third club, Kehela would have scored two trump tricks. However, Murray shifted to a diamond. Flint took his ace, and led a heart to dummy's eight-spot, thereby restricting his heart losers to one. In the closed room (where the singleton ace of diamonds was in sight), Boris Schapiro started with three rounds of clubs. Gold accurately ruffed with the king (Harrison-Gray pitching two spades), and played a heart to his eight. But the hand could no longer be made. If Gold had continued with a diamond to the ace, and another heart, Gray would have split his 10-9. If Gold then returned to dummy with a spade to lead another trump, Gray could rise with the ace and cash two diamond tricks. So Canada lost 12 IMPs and the match, 108-97. ■



Mailbox

I am a very average bridge player with between 50 and 100 masterpoints. Practically the only time I play now is in a Team of Four league, although I do try to participate in the Canadian Nationals once a year.

I currently pay approximately \$15-\$20 a year to belong to the ACBL and in my opinion, this is one of the greatest bargains available. The Bulletin alone is worth the price of membership and I read it from cover to cover (Unfortunately I cannot say the same of the Digest).

However, rather than take a selfish approach and become involved in emotional arguments on both sides, let's step back to the root of this problem: Few members would mind an extra \$3, particularly if it meant avoiding an unpleasant situation. Most Canadians prefer a middle-of-the-road approach. Please let's not make a mountain out of what appears to be a \$3 molehill.

Philip Axelrod
Toronto, Ontario

We played the Epson at Charlebourg in Quebec. We played NS in a 22 tables tournament. We finished with 1631/2400. In the last Canadian Bridge Digest, you list the top finishers at Epson and we didn't see our names. We would appreciate a correction in a future Canadian Bridge Digest.

Huguette Jacques
Michel Allard

St. Louis de France, Que.

We re-checked our records (i.e. the list of top finishers, supplied by Epson) and your name does not appear. The following possibilities come to mind: a) your club did not pass on the results; b) somewhere between Charlebourg and Paris, your score was lost or c) our correspondents are mistaken (perhaps they played in the Royal Viking game). In any case, we are pleased to note your achievement and extend our congratulations. ■

But for the Lead

PART I

by Wayne Wicks, Bramalea, Ont.

♠ A8532		
♥ A9765		
♦ -		
♣ K95		
♠ 96	♠ QJ	♠ K1074
♥ Q102	♥ K	♥ J843
♦ KQ1085	♦ AJ32	♦ 9764
♣ 1064	♣ AQJ832	♣ 7

This hand from the Summer NAC's in Toronto was reported by Jim Jacoby, as played by Eddie Kantar. In 7♣, Kantar got the lead of the king of diamonds and reasonably decided to try for three diamond ruffs in dummy. He ruffed the opening lead and led a heart to the king, East playing the jack. Kantar assumed this to be from queen-jack. After ruffing another diamond in dummy and pitching a spade on the heart ace, he came to hand with a spade ruff to ruff his last losing diamond. He now had to decide how to return to his hand to draw the last trump. He chose to try spades and was over-ruffed for down one.

Now note the difference a club lead makes, as we got at our table. You may no longer take three diamond ruffs, but the contract is makeable if the hearts are 4-3 or the spade hook works. Your fearless writer won his eight of clubs, cashed the king of hearts, ruffed a diamond, ruffed a heart, ruffed a diamond, and ruffed another heart high, just in case. Noting the heart break, I drew trumps and claimed, making seven.

But for the opening lead... I might have been able to play like an expert, too!

1989 Rookie/Master Game

This game will take place at bridge clubs across Canada on Wednesday, April 12, 1989. Clubs will receive sanction application forms from Janice Anderson.

PART II

by Wayne Wicks

	♠ 962	
	♥ 85	
	♦ KQ1098	
	♣ A82	
♠ AJ10753		♠ Q8
♥ AK3		♥ QJ1094
♦ 43	♠ K4	♦ 752
♣ 64	♥ 762	♣ 753
	♦ AJ6	
	♠ KQJ109	

This deal came up recently at the local duplicate game. Playing with one of my regular partners, I sat North and had quite a problem after West overcalled 1NT (14-17 HCP) with three spades.

An informal polling of our local experts produced the consensus of doubling — which makes on any defence, and makes overtricks on some lines. I was fully aware that even doubled down one might not be a good score at this vulnerability and decided to bid the risky 3NT, hoping my partner had a stopper or that West might not lead a spade. It turns out my hopes came true when the West led the spade jack to his partner's queen and declarer's king. Partner then took his obvious 11 tricks.

I would have found disappointment, had West initially given me hope by leading a high heart, since East would then be able to encourage enthusiastically. The result would have been declarer claiming the rest of the tricks, 10 tricks later! I have no doubt that the reader would have had the heart on the table before passing 3NT.

But for opening lead... the other side would have taken 11 tricks.

PART III

reprinted from the ACBL Bulletin

In the Flight A Swiss Team at the Can-Am Regional in Montreal, Canadian champion André Laliberté faced this opening lead problem as West:

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

What would you lead from:

♠ AQ97543 ♥ A72 ♦ 3 ♣ J10?

It wasn't a good time to lead fourth-from-your-longest-and-strongest. The full deal:

	♠ 862	
	♥ 1054	
	♦ KQ8	
	♣ A985	
♠ AQ97543		♠ 10
♥ A72		♥ QJ9863
♦ 3		♦ 109542
♣ J10		♣ 7
	♠ KJ	
	♥ K	
	♦ AJ76	
	♣ KQ6432	

Laliberté's choice? The ♥ A! The defense ran both major suits for down nine. ♠

CNTC Finals to be Held in Montreal

The 1989 Canadian National Team Championships Finals will be held in Montreal from June 3 to 7. The first three days will see a complete round-robin between the 20 qualifying teams; the top four teams will play semi-finals on June 6, with the grand finale scheduled for June 7. Subject to confirmation by the CBF Executive, the winning team will represent Canada at the 1990 Rosenblum Cup (World Championship) in Geneva, Switzerland.

The festivities in Montreal will begin with a reception at 8:30 p.m. on Friday, June 2, at the host hotel. The following hotel has tentatively been chosen as site (but check with your Zone Director before making reservations):

Le Nouvel Hotel
1740 Boul. René-Levesque
Montreal, Que. H3H 1R3

Tel.: From Maritimes, Quebec and Ontario:
1-800-363-6063

From Western Canada: 1-514-931-8841

Room Rate: \$76/night single or double occupancy

Mention "bridge tournament" when making reservations.

The Second Annual Maurice Paul Canadian Bidding Challenge

Conducted by Eric Kokish

Last year, seven of eight pairs of Canadian superstars lost the first-ever Maurice Paul Canadian Bidding Challenge. The worthy survivors of two elimination rounds and the national final were Dangerous Dan Jacob and Growling Gord McOrmond of Vancouver, who covered themselves with glory and earned the right to sip champagne from Moose's magnificent memorial trophy. Mary Paul herself was heard to admit that those guys from out West bid those hands not so badly. What greater testimonial can there be?

This year, space and time constraints have reduced the moose hunt to five pairs bidding one set of hands in just one Digest issue, so bear with us, gentle readers.

Dangerous and Growling are back to defend their title and offend our sensibilities, and they will have to be pretty sharp again this year because their rivals are no lame duck candidates themselves. Doug and Sandra Fraser have built a strong international reputation for themselves as accurate and enterprising bidders. Which has nothing to do with taking fines. John Valliant has built a strong reputation in suburban Ottawa as an ex-motorcycle driver and acrobat, and with his longtime serious partner Dave Willis an impressive tournament record. They will bid for Canada in the World Open Pairs Geneva in 1990, so how bad can that be? Maurice de la Salle and Mark Chalfin of Edmonton, who have already toured Europe for winning the COPC in 1987, are prepared to milk that victory for everything it's worth. Whether that is to include drinking milk from the moose mug is anyone's best guess. Ron Bishop and Doug Baxter of Toronto might deserve this moment in the spotlight for their recent successes in important events, but in fact they are here only because we were afraid we weren't going to receive the evidence on behalf of the ex-motorcycle driver and his smiling partner.

Can this motley crew produce a winner, a pair deserving of Moose's silverware and the traditional triple buss from the lips of the irrepressible Mary? You bet. Matchpoints. Awards embrace lower contracts in the same strain (barring bonuses).

(1) South deals: E/W vul; South opens 1NT (12-14); North bids 3♣ (preemptive) at his first turn.

West
 ♠ A84
 ♥ A5
 ♦ K98753
 ♣ Q6

East
 ♠ K932
 ♥ KQJ10
 ♦ Q62
 ♣ A9

Awards
 3NT (E) = 10
 5♦ = 9
 6♦ = 5
 3♣x = 5
 3♣/4♦ = 3
 4♥/4♠ = 2
 3NT (W) = 1

	Jacob		McOrmond	
(1NT)	Pass	(3♣)	DBL	Jacob couldn't bid 2♦ due to
	4♦		4♥	Astronomical considerations and
	4♠		5♦	he wasn't strong enough to bid 3♦,
	Pass			so he had to (horrors!) pass.
				McOrmond had enough to double

3♣ for takeout, and Jacob had no way to invite 3NT. His 4♦ was a reasonable underbid, perhaps based on the possibility that McOrmond was major-oriented. McOrmond guessed that this might be the hand for a 4-3 or 4-2 heart fit, and Jacob "corrected" to spades, expecting both majors rather than a hand too good for a direct 3♥. Spades was not the strain

McOrmond was hoping for and he retreated to diamonds. Not a bad practical sequence, if you consider all the trappy aspects of this combination. 9 points.

Doug F	Sandra F	Douglas Fraser, a man who knows
(1NT) DBL (3♣)	4♣	no fear, doubled the weakie punitively. Over the leaping escape, Sandra had enough to cue-bid. Over
4♦	5♦	
Pass		

4♦, she assumed she was not facing a major and she contented herself with a simple raise. Cue bid 5♣? Experience has suggested that certain red flags need not be waved before the eyes of certain horned creatures. Here, if anywhere, there was a chance to reach 3NT the right way up, but Sandra would have had to bid it over 3♣. 9 points.

Willis	Valliant	Dave Willis could have bid 2♣ over
(1NT) Pass (3♣)	DBL	1NT to show a random one-suiter, but he felt he (or perhaps his hand)
4♦	Pass	

was just too thin, vulnerable. Over Valliant's double, Willis chose the same underbid that Jacob had chosen. Valliant, knowing Willis's style on hands of this type, might have raised. A poor reward for two not unreasonable decisions. 3 points.

Chalfin	de la Salle	Something new. Here 2♦ over
(1NT) Pass (3♣)	4♣	1NT would have been major suit
5♣	Pass	takeout and there was no natural 2♦

available. Hence, Mark's pass. Maurice thought that a double of 3♣ might be for business, so that 4♣ would have to take up the takeout slack. Alas, Mark "knew" that 4♣ was major-oriented. His leap to 5♣ expressed his slam interest. He conceded that he was thinking of 4♣ and that 4♦ might have been better still. Someone suggested that Maurice pass 3♣, wait for the reopening 3♦, then bid 3NT and score 10 points. That someone has been fitted with a prosthetic hand and is learning to cope. . . slowly. No points. No cigar.

Bishop	Baxter	Something newer still. Bishop
(1NT) 2♣* (3♣)	4♣	showed some diamonds with 2♣, a
4NT	5♣	transfer. He might have held a <i>longer</i>
6♣	6♥	side suit (canape). Baxter's 4♣ showed
7♦	Pass	at least a moderate diamond fit

and asked for completion of the possible canape. Bishop could have bid 4♦ here but felt he had extra values and he expressed them with a bid intended to say simply "too much for 4♦, no canape." Baxter thought 4NT was RKCB and so he showed one key card (1430 responses). The rear wheel was slipping off the Sugarland Express by now and Bishop offered up a choice of slams with 6♣, the master bid. Well, if you were Baxter, you'd choose hearts, wouldn't you? Of course you would. Bishop, having perhaps offered a choice, now retracted his offer. His opponents (the chumps) didn't dare double this one. Would it have been so silly for Baxter to risk 3NT over 3♣? Perhaps. Points? Pointless.

(2) South deals: both vul; South deals and passes.

West	East	Awards
♠ 652	♠ AKQ7	6♦ = 10
♥ -	♥ KJ1086	5♦ = 7
♦ AKQ8643	♦ J72	4♦ = 6
♣ 875	♣ 9	4♠ = 3
		3NT = 1

Jacob	McOrmond	At this vulnerability, McOrmond's
3♦	3♥	3♥ was an asking bid (it would have
3♠	5♦	been natural at favourable vul). Had
Pass		Jacob gotten this right, he would

have bid 4♣ to show first-round control and now RKCB would have led to the good slam. Here Jacob's 3♠ was a stalling effort to avoid bypassing 3NT. McOrmond expected xx or xxx in hearts and just took a shot at game. 7 points/total = 16.

Doug F

4♦

Pass

Sandra F

5♦

One man's 3♦ is another man's 4♦. Sandra's raise to game was virtually automatic. Not much to be said. 7 points/total = 16.

Willis

3♦

4♦

Pass

Valliant

3♥

5♦

Willis thought his hand was worth 3♦ and who could argue with that. It was, after all, *his* hand. The rest was routine. 7 points/total = 10.

Chalfin

3NT

4♦

Pass

de la Salle

4♣

5♦

The dreaded Gambling 3NT. 4♣ asked Mark to pass if clubs was his suit and as such it looks like a reasonable bid. Had he bid 4♦ instead,

that would have asked for shortness and slam might have been reached for no particularly good reason. The Gambling 3NT has lots of flaws. The inability to identify opener's suit quickly enough to permit slam investigation is just one of them. 7 points/total = 7.

Bishop

Pass

2♣

Baxter

2♥

Pass

If this be liberty, give us death. Now perhaps the right way to begin to describe the West hand is to pass.

But over East's Flannery 2♥ (four spades, five hearts, limited opening-bid values), not even a CNTC winner under the influence of his favourite narcotic would guess West's hand for his 2♣ conversion. In fact, neither would Bishop himself. Which gives you some idea of the intestinal fortitude of Baxter, whose loyalty to the partnership will never face a stiffer challenge. Points? Even more pointless. Total? What total?

1♦, anyone?

(3) South deals: both vul; South deals and passes

West

♠ KJ7

♥ 4

♦ A106

♣ KJ8752

East

♠ AQ32

♥ J652

♦ QJ973

♣ -

Awards

2♦ = 10

3♦ = 8

2♣ = 6

4♦ = 4

5♦/2NT = 3

2♠ = 2

3NT = 1

Jacob

1♣

2♣

McOrmond

1♥

Pass

The partnership style is to bypass diamonds on limited hand, so McOrmond started with 1♥. He

had an unenviable rebid over 2♣, but a response of 1♦ wouldn't have changed that. Would 1♦ have suggested at least five cards, then, you might ask? No, the 1♦ response is often made with just three cards and a balanced hand, anticipating a notrump rebid and starting relays. The bottom line: Jacob would not have been able to raise a response of 1♦. So there. 6 points/total = 22.

Doug F

1♣

2♦

3♣

3♠

5♦

Sandra F

1♦

2♠

3♦

4♦

Pass

The Frasers also tend to respond in a major whenever possible, but for them the inferences surrounding 1♦ smack of "length." Or so Douglas tells me. He raised. Wonderful. Sandra tried for game with 2♣.



Douglas showed length in clubs. Sandra signed off. The horned creature tried again. The white flag came out. The bull was seeing only red. Ah, diamonds, how difficult you can be. 3 points/total = 19.

Willis

1♣

2♣

2NT

Pass

Valliant

1♥

2♦

3NT

Majors first. Over 2♣, Valliant felt that he could bid 2♦ "to play!" Willis thought 2♦ was forcing, so he showed his spade stopper. In for a penny, Valliant went for the game

bonus. In the post-mortem, Willis concurred with his partner. 2♦ was indeed non-forcing and suggested a pass. Pretty nifty, more or less. No points/total = 10.

Chalfin

1♣

2♣

2NT

de la Salle

1♦

2♥

Pass

Natural responses to 1♣. Maurice gave it one more shot with 2♥ and now Mark had to choose between 3♦ (the winner) and 2NT (the

natural-looking loser). This is not an easy hand, is it? 3 points/total = 10.

Bishop

1♣

2♣

Baxter

1♦

Pass

Natural responses. Sensible rebids by both partners. A so-so score. I admit that I would bid as they did. 6 points/total = 6.

(4) North deals: neither vul; South will overcall or open 2♣ (natural) if possible.

West

♠75

♥KQ9

♦AQJ1097

♣63

East

♠AJ1043

♥A10

♦K654

♣J8

Awards

4♦ = 10

2♣ = 6

3♠ = 5

4♣ = 4

5♦ = 3

Jacob

(2♣)

2♦

3♥

4♣

(Pass)

McOrmond

1♠

3♦

3♣

Pass

All of the partnership's bids are fully comprehensible. Still, 4♣ is a relatively disgusting contract. Are McOrmond's spades good enough to suggest at 5-2 fit or should he

simply have bid 4♦? And if he had, would Jacob have let it go? I'd bet that he would indeed have passed 4♦. 4 points/total = 26.

Doug F

(2♣)

2♦

3♥

Pass

(Pass)

Sandra F

1♠

3♦

4♦

This auction answers all the questions I considered above. It makes the hand look easy, which it is not. 10 points/total = 29.

Willis

(2♣)

2♦

3♥

Pass

(Pass)

Valliant

1♠

3♦

4♦

Maybe this hand is easier than I thought. Not everyone would agree that the auction could die abruptly at 4♦ after the 3♥ try, but surely this makes a lot of sense when a deal

like this one is such a lively possibility. 10 points/total = 20.

Chalfin

(2♣)

2♦

3♦

3♣

4♥

Pass

(Pass)

de la Salle

1♠

3♣

3♥

4♦

5♦

Maurice liked his hand over 2♦ and tried a (Western) cue-bid in the hope of reaching 3NT (not that 3♦ would not have achieved the same result if that were the right thing to do). Now some mark-time/stopper/support/cue bids followed, but the

partnership was committed to game. Although 5♦ has no play, Mark and Maurice are not only unrepentant, but they are also defiant. “We’d like to play all day against people who don’t bid game on these cards.” 3 points/total = 13.

Bishop		Baxter	
	(Pass)	1♠	Baxter felt his spades were acceptable for 3♠. Now Bishop did well
(2♣)	2♦	3♦	to bid 4♦ rather than raise spades,
	3♥	3♠	but presumably Baxter felt that he
	4♦	4♥	was obliged to bid again. Now came
	4♠	5♦	that tertiary spade support, which
	Pass		Baxter may have interpreted in a
			different light (i.e. cue-bid). 3 points/total = 9.

(5) North deals: North-South vul; North deals and passes.

West	East	Awards
♠ A874	♠ J	6♣ = 10
♥ AQ6	♥ K852	4NT = 7
♦ K10	♦ Q6	5NT = 6
♣ AQ64	♣ K87532	5♣ = 4
		4♥ = 3
		6NT = 1

Jacob	McOrmond	
	Pass	A routine start. Then 3♣ was a
1♣	1♥	relay to 3♦ (McOrmond was intending
2NT	3♣	to continue with 3NT over 3♦
3♣	5♣	to show a slam try in clubs). Jacob
6♣	Pass	broke the relay with 3♣ to show a

confirmed length and slam interest, but it was not forcing (fast arrival). Jacob, who would clearly have accepted after 3♦-3NT, was on firm ground now. He knew, incidentally, that McOrmond held at least five clubs on this sequence. 10 points/total = 36.

Doug F	Sandra F	
	Pass	There was less definition here, but
1♣	1♥	it didn’t matter. 3♣ was checkback
2NT	3♣	Stayman, so 3♣ just showed length.
3♣	4♣	4♣ was natural, ambiguous about
4♥	5♣	major length. 4♥ showed length. So
6♣	Pass	far, the West hand has expressed no

Sandra converted to 5♣, Douglas had to deal with the inference that she had not jumped in clubs earlier. For better or for worse, he bid the sixth and he was pleased to discover that it was for better. 10 points/total = 39.

Willis	Valliant	
	Pass	3♣ was checkback Stayman, but
1♣	1♥	the partnership tends to show
2NT	3♣	delayed support <i>before</i> bidding the
3♣	4♣	other major in this situation. Not that
4♥	4NT	this explains Willis’s auction. It
6♣	Pass	doesn’t, but it does tell us that 4♥

4NT was natural, nonforcing, and Willis loved his hand for clubs. A subtle (perhaps unbelievably subtle) sequence to the top spot. 10 points/total = 30.

Chalfin

1♣
1♠
6♣

de la Salle

Pass
1♥
3♣
Pass

Mark elected to rebid 1♠ rather than 2NT, which I suspect is a regional treatment. Maurice's 3♣ purported to show 8-11 points and at least five-card support. Mark gave up on seven

and bid what he thought he could make. 10 points/total = 23.

Bishop

1♣
2NT
3♥
4♣
6♣

Baxter

Pass
1♥
3♣
3♠
5♣
Pass

There is reason to believe that Baxter's 3♣ was natural, and the rest is cue-bidding. If I am right about what the bids mean, then this is a good auction (although Baxter might have bid 4♣ rather than 3♣ to clarify the nature of his spade control). 10 points/total = 19.

(6) North deals: neither vul; North deals and passes.

West

♠AQ764
♥KQ963
♦J8
♣8

East

♠53
♥2
♦Q43
♣AK97643

Awards

2♣ = 10
3♣ = 8
1NT = 4
2♠ = 2
4♣ = 1

Jacob

Pass

McOrmond

3♣

that McOrmond was just a trifle heavy. Jacob was never tempted. 8 points/total = 44. A very respectable performance on a tricky set of hands. Will this be enough to retain the title?

Doug F

Pass

Sandra F

3♣

ability and position. This brought in the same 8 points, for a total of 47, enough to cop the title, bring home the Maurice Paul trophy, and the prospect of all those kisses from Mary, a former partner of Sandra's. Pucker up, buttercup.

Willis

1♣
2♥
Pass

Valliant

Pass
2♣
3♣

Not quite right for a Willis-Valliant three-bid. Would you have passed 2♣ with Willis's hand? Well, neither did he. 8 points/total = 38.

Chalfin

Pass

de la Salle

3♣

Not tempted, Chalfin had an easy pass to de la Salle's 3♣ preempt. 8 points/total = 31.

Bishop

1♣
Pass

Baxter

Pass
3♣

Not a preempt. 3♣ on the second round was natural, encouraging. One way to get around the Drury roadblock. 8 points/total = 27.

Congratulations to the winners, who never seem to lose a bidding competition of any sort, red flag or no red flag. Bad luck for McOrmond-Jacob, who seemed to have a good grip on what was going on most of the time. Our thanks to all the pairs for exposing themselves to public scrutiny. It's not clear whether the Canadian Bridge Digest has any place in the auction rooms of the nation.

Thanks to: Aidan Ballatyne, John Armstrong, Douglas Heron and Jym Galand for their assistance.



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