

canadian bridge digest

CANADIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION
FEDERATION CANADIENNE DE BRIDGE



Sandra and Doug Fraser accept Maurice Paul Trophy
from Mary Paul

Canadian Bridge Digest

ISSN 0317-9281

Issue LX, Vol. 20, Issue 2

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Deadline for next issue: June 10, 1989

Editorial

We offer our congratulations to the reigning CNTC champs, Messrs. Bernier, André and Jacques Laliberté, Fergani, Fortin and Larochelle on their victory over Mexico and Bermuda. This win qualifies them for the Bermuda Bowl which will be held in Australia this fall. Since anglophone readers have read about this event in the ACBL Bulletin, this issue of the Digest carries an article by Maurice Larochelle for the benefit of our francophone audience.

Of course, our team carries our best wishes to Australia, and we look forward to an article next February by Larochelle, our regular Quebec reporter, telling us how they won the Bermuda Bowl.

While the spotlight is on him, let us consider another topic Maurice raises in a letter to the Editor. Translated, and edited for brevity, his letter reads:

Last June, on the eve of the CNTC Finals, the CBF decided to allow several pairs to play a Forcing Pass system and fert openings (e.g. a one spade opening might show 0-9 points and four or more diamonds). I object strenuously for the following reasons:

- the majority of the world bridge community disapproves of these purely destructive systems;*
- most national organizations, including the ACBL, forbid the use of these systems, even in their national championships.*

I am familiar with the arguments for the opposite view: one must tolerate these systems, they say, because the Canadian champions will eventually have to face these methods on the international level.

However, the Canadian championship is not the world championship. After the CNTC, the winners have over a full year to prepare themselves. Last year my team, after 12 hours of bridge, had to spend their evenings studying these systems instead of resting.

If the CBF insists on allowing such systems, it should at least see to it that a detailed description of all such conventions (including suggested defenses) is sent to all teams, at least one month in advance. Otherwise, any weak team would be well-advised to play ferts in the CNTC, preferably with each pair using a complex, but different structure. With hard work, such a team would stand a good chance of winning the event.

This will help destroy the spirit of the CNTC, and the Canadian champions will perhaps become an international laughingstock, but that's another story.

*Respectfully yours,
Maurice Larochelle
Ste Foy, Québec*

We agree with Maurice that advance notification should be required. But we would have a great deal of difficulty supporting a complete ban on these systems. Too often in our society, the majority tries to protect itself by stifling the minority (use your imagination to supply examples from our political scene). The fact is that in the very countries where abstruse systems are most popular (New Zealand, Poland, Sweden, etc.), bridge is booming as never before. ■



En défaisant les Bermudes et le Mexique:

Le Canada Assure sa Participation au Bermuda Bowl

par Maurice Larochelle



Gauche à droite: André Laliberté, Raymond Fortin, Mark Stein, Jean Bernier, Jacques Laliberté, Maurice Larochelle, Kamel Fergani.

A tous les ans, chaque pays membre de la Fédération mondiale consacre une équipe championne pour le représenter lors des compétitions internationales. A toutes les années paires, chacun de ces pays participe directement aux championnats mondiaux. Les années impaires, comme ce sera le cas en 1989, il y a une ronde préliminaire régionale et seuls les champions de zone, soit 10 au total, participent à la dernière épreuve.

Du 26 au 28 janvier donc, les champions du Canada, du Mexique et des Bermudes s'affrontaient aux Bermudes pour déterminer le pays qui passerait à la ronde suivante, qui aura lieu à Perth, Australie, en septembre prochain.

Le Canada était représenté par les champions de 1988, Jean Bernier-André Laliberté, Kamel Fergani- Raymond Fortin, Jacques Laliberté-Maurice Larochelle, avec Mark Stein comme capitaine et Eric Kokish comme entraîneur. L'équipe mexicaine ne comprenait que deux paires George Rosenkranz-Miguel Reygadas, Laura Mariscal-Lucho

Konstantinovsky, avec madame Rosenkranz comme capitaine et Eddie Wold comme entraîneur. L'équipe bermudienne enfin se composait de Ian Harvey-David Pereira, Jean Johnson-Ernie Owen, Bill Souster-Joe Wakefield, avec Allan Douglas comme capitaine.

Le tournoi des Bermudes

La formule du tournoi des Bermudes était la suivante: chaque pays faisait 64 jeux sur deux jours contre chacun des deux autres. Celui avec la pire fiche était éliminé, après quoi les deux autres faisaient un autre 64 jeux. C'est le total des 128 jeux entre ces deux pays qui comptait finalement.

Avant le tournoi, le Canada était largement favori pour l'emporter devant le Mexique. Cependant, à cause des impératifs de leur travail, la plupart des Canadiens s'étaient très mal préparés, au contraire des Bermudiens par exemple, qui prirent de longues vacances pour se consacrer exclusivement au bridge.

Le Canada joua très bien contre le Mexique pour accroître progressivement son avance. Cependant, il jouait d'une façon lamentable contre les Bermudes. Après les 7 huitièmes du round robin, cela semblait sans importance, puisque les Bermudes frisaient l'élimination. Stupeur! Dans le dernier droit les Bermudes font une montée spectaculaire pour se qualifier devant le Mexique.

Le Mexique en effet a battu les Bermudes par 32 IMPs, mais a perdu par 57 contre le Canada, qui a lui-même perdu par 25 IMPs contre les Bermudes. Le Canada qui a le mieux fait au total jusque là, au lieu de commencer avec une avance quasi-insurmontable contre le Mexique, partira avec un recul de 25 IMPs contre les Bermudes.

Les Canadiens sont encore confiants, mais tout le monde craint les équipes Cendrillon. Après un autre 32 jeux, c'est la consternation dans le camp des Canadiens qui sont maintenant menés par 35 IMPs, alors qu'il n'y a plus que 32 jeux.

Pour les prochains 16 jeux, le duo J. Laliberté-Larochelle affrontera Harvey-Pereira, alors que la paire Fergani-Fortin se mesurera à Johnson-Owen. Dès le premier jeu Laliberté chute dans un chelem à moins de 50% et les Canadiens sont menés par 47 IMPs.

Le Canada récupère 42 IMPs sur les 15 autres mains. Il n'est plus mené que par 5 IMPs avec 16 jeux à venir.

Pour les derniers 16 jeux, J. Laliberté-Larochelle sont opposés à Wakefield-Souster, alors que le duo A. Laliberté-Bernier affronte Harvey-Pereira. Larochelle-Laliberté trouvent le moyen de chuter dès la première main dans un autre chelem inférieur à 50%, mais Wakefield-Souster font pire quand ils donnent 800 dans un mauvais chelem gagé librement. Le Canada l'emporte finalement par 17 IMPs.

Les Bermudiens s'empressent de venir féliciter les vainqueurs et madame Swan, l'épouse du premier ministre des Bermudes, tient à rencontrer chaque membre de l'équipe canadienne.

L'EQUIPE QUEBECOISE A-T-ELLE DES CHANCES DE GAGNER LE CHAMPIONNAT MONDIAL DE BRIDGE EN AUSTRALIE?

Tout ce qui suit est une opinion strictement personnelle. Disons d'abord que si l'équipe québécoise ne se prépare pas mieux que pour le tournoi des Bermudes, ses chances de gagner, sinon de bien faire, sont pratiquement nulles. Si elle se prépare comme il se devrait, j'évalue ses chances à 20-25%. Voyons pourquoi.

La mécanique du tournoi

Il y a 10 équipes seulement. Les champions des Etats-Unis et de l'Europe, seul Dieu sait pourquoi, ont un bye, alors que les 8 autres équipes participent à un round robin, servant à qualifier les deux équipes qui participeront à la semi-finale.

Au moment d'écrire ces lignes, les gagnants des autres zones n'étaient pas connus. Ces zones sont:

- l'Amérique centrale et les Caraïbes, le Venezuela étant particulièrement à redouter;
- l'Amérique du Sud, avec le Brésil et l'Argentine en tête;
- l'Asie et le Moyen-Orient, avec les Indes et le Pakistan;
- l'Extrême-Orient, qui regorge de bonnes équipes, l'Indonésie, le Japon, la Chine, Taiwan;
- le deuxième d'Europe;
- le Pacifique du Sud, qui délègue ordinairement le gagnant du match opposant l'Australie et la Nouvelle-Zélande. Le pays hôte ayant traditionnellement droit à une équipe, ces deux pays seront représentés.

Il y a 4 ans, le Canada a terminé en septième place seulement de ce round robin; en 1987 toutefois, notre équipe nationale se plaçait quatrième, tout près de cette fatidique deuxième position.

Si le Canada se qualifie pour la semi-finale, il affrontera automatiquement les Etats-Unis, puisqu'on tient, encore une fois Dieu seul sait pourquoi, à ce que le champion de l'Amérique affronte une équipe du reste du monde en finale.

Ordinairement, l'équipe américaine se compose majoritairement de professionnels, qui jouent presque tous les jours, et est l'équipe à battre. S'il est vrai que de bons amateurs ne peuvent ordinairement battre de bons professionnels à toute autre discipline, cela est faux au bridge. Ces professionnels en effet jouent ordinairement avec et contre des joueurs très faibles; ils ont souvent de grandes difficultés à s'adapter quand ils jouent tout-à-coup avec et contre de bons joueurs.

Les conditions pour gagner

Le talent donc est là. L'esprit d'équipe aussi est excellent. Cependant, le tournoi à la ronde dure près de deux semaines, matin, midi, soir. C'est très éreintant.

Une condition donc pour gagner est d'être en bonne forme physique. Les Suédois ont montré la voie il y a quelques années quand elle gagna le championnat du monde. Jusque là en effet son équipe faisait un peu moins bien que le Canada. Ses meilleurs joueurs arrivant à 50 ans, c'est-à-dire à un âge où il devient plus difficile de maintenir la forme lors de ces tournois interminables, l'équipe décida de mettre le paquet: ceux qui le faisaient cessèrent de fumer et tous se mirent à un rigoureux programme de conditionnement physique.

Une autre condition est de jouer souvent contre de bonnes équipes. La Grèce nous a montré la voie en 1988 lors des championnats mondiaux tenus à Venise. Traditionnellement, cette équipe était de loin plus faible que celle du Canada. Tous les membres de l'équipe prirent un congé d'un an avant ce tournoi pour se consacrer exclusivement au bridge. La Grèce n'a pas gagné le tournoi pour autant, mais au moins elle termina en première place du round robin.

Un autre atout pour le Canada est que le duo capitaine-entraîneur du Canada, Mark Stein-Eric Kokish est probablement le meilleur au monde. Ce dernier par exemple a entraîné les équipes nationales de plusieurs pays. La rumeur court qu'il a refusé une forte somme pour diriger une de

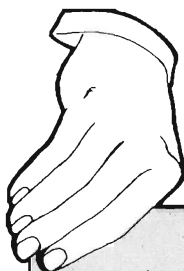
ces équipes, afin de s'occuper de l'équipe canadienne.

La disponibilité et l'argent

Pour gagner donc, il faut une bonne préparation physique et mentale. Pour jouer régulièrement contre de bonnes équipes, il faut de la disponibilité et de l'argent. Le coût d'un tel tournoi avec toute la préparation nécessaire se chiffre au moins à 80 000 \$ pour l'équipe. La Fédération Canadienne de Bridge fait bien sa part, mais nous sommes très loin du compte.

Le conditionnement physique, c'est l'affaire de chacun et du capitaine sans doute. La disponibilité, c'est aussi l'affaire de chacun et possiblement des employeurs concernés. Le financement enfin, c'est l'affaire de commanditaires. Nous espérons trouver de tels commanditaires. C'est là grâce que je nous souhaite. . .

Et comment fut votre trimestre?

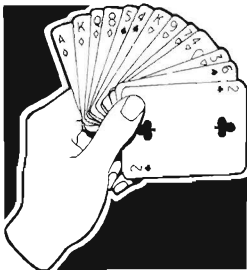


Tournoi au Maroc

Un festival international de bridge et golf aura lieu à Mohammédia, sur la Côte, près de Casablanca, du 8 au 17 juin 1989. Il s'agit d'un tournoi assez exceptionnel à un prix plus que raisonnable. Les intéressés peuvent communiquer avec Maurice Larochelle au 418-651-7940.



The Best Bid Hand of the Year



The International Bridge Press Association annually presents awards for outstanding achievements in bridge. Last year, Allan Graves of Vancouver and George Mittelman of Toronto were honoured with the Romex Award for the best bid hand in the world:

		North	
DLR: E		♠ 9843	
VUL: N-S		♥ J874	
		♦ 54	
		♣ 952	
		East	
West		♠ J107652	
♠ Q		♥ —	
♥ Q1032		♦ AK102	
♦ Q9763		♣ J87	
♣ AKQ		South	
		♠ AK	
		♥ AK965	
		♦ J8	
		♣ 10643	
West	North	East	South
Mittelman		Graves	
—	—	Pass	1♥
Pass	Pass	1♠	1NT
Dbl.	2♥	Pass	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♥	Dbl.
Pass	Pass	Redbl.	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Here’s what George and Allan were thinking during the auction:
Allan: I passed, South bid one heart, and George passed. Sometimes the best offensive action is to pass. He has no good direct bid, so he passed to await developments.

George: I had to pass with that hand. Obviously I couldn’t double with only one spade. Whenever you make a takeout double, you have to be prepared for any bid which partner makes. Whenever there is a bid which partner could make that can embarrass you, don’t make a takeout double. Don’t be embarrassed by partner’s response. I did not bid two diamonds because there is a real danger of getting doubled when you are long in the opponent’s suit. If you are ever long in the opponent’s suit and you have a bad suit of your own in which to overcall, you’re really in dangerous territory. There’s no reason to do that. You have a good defensive hand; you’d rather defend with this hand than play. Already one of your sources of tricks (hearts) has been taken away by your opponent, so your hand has become worthless for play and much better for defence. So I passed.
Allan: After North passed, I thought I had a lot of spades so I bid a spade. South bid one no trump and George doubled.
George: I had to announce that I felt that we owned the hand. I did that by doubling. I obviously couldn’t raise spades. They were vulnerable and I felt that we could get at least 200 if they played it there in one no trump doubled.
Allan: George’s double meant that he had a good hand but no convenient initial action. His heart holding would be the major reason that he didn’t act directly. North ran to two hearts and I passed it around to George. Clearly we were in a forcing auction. I expected him to bid some more.

George: When North ran to two hearts right away over a no trump doubled, that immediately suggested that he had at least three hearts, if not four, and a ruffing value. If he were balanced with three hearts, he might well have just passed.

That also made my hand look worse. My problem was that, if North were short in clubs, which was my AKQ suit, then I had lost a lot of my defence. Whenever you have too much in one suit, and you don't know how many tricks you're going to cash in it, it is a dangerous defensive holding. Even though I had only three of them, that was most of my hand.

Allan's pass was forcing. Once I doubled, I announced ownership of the hand. I was not going to let them play at the two-level undoubled. Allan had an ace-king on the side, and with his heart void, he thought I could have had the two heart bid really nailed. That's another reason that I didn't double. After his forcing pass, I should really have an ambulance double. It would no longer be co-operative.

Since they probably had a nine-card heart fit, I decided that Allan was probably long in diamonds. I could have balanced with two notrump to let him bid his suit, but my problem was that I had a singleton queen of spades. The opening bidder should have had about 18 or 19 points for the bid of one no trump, but in fact had only 15, so Allan didn't rate to have very much in high cards. No trump was wrong to play; I wanted to play in a suit. I felt that if I guessed the suit right, we might even get to the right game, which we did. The three diamond bid was what propelled us to the slam.

If I had bid two notrump to let him bid his suit, Allan would have bid three diamonds. I doubt that I would have become as excited if Allan had bid diamonds as he did when I bid diamonds. His hand suddenly became fantastic. He probably knew I had only one spade because I might well have backed into two spades with a doubleton.

The reasons I felt that I could risk three diamonds were that he knew I had a good

hand, and he knew I hadn't overcalled two diamonds. He knew I would have overcalled with two diamonds with a really good suit, so I must have a hand such as I did. I must have cards outside and my suit must not be very good. So I bid three diamonds.

Allan: When he re-opened with three diamonds, I realized that his hearts were weak because he certainly would have doubled two hearts with very good hearts. I began to see the perfect fit. I just made what I thought was the most descriptive bid with the splinter to four hearts.

George: The splinter showed one or no hearts. South doubled. At that point it was simple to just pass, and when partner redoubled, he showed a void.

Your prospects for a slam really decrease rapidly when you start with a *loser* because you have to make the rest of the tricks. That is only sensible. When you start with *no* losers, you've got a better shot. I knew we probably had a spade loser anyway, but I had an easy five club bid because I was obviously going to try for a slam.

Allan: When George cue bid five clubs, I realized that my four diamonds to the ace, king, ten were what he was looking for, so I bid the slam.

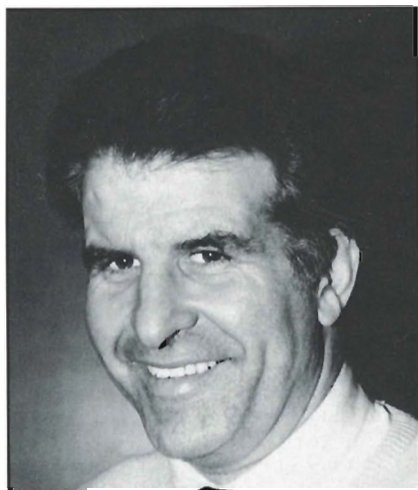
George: Since I had bid three diamonds on length and not strength in the suit, and since Allan had the ace-king, and I was still interested in a slam, how could he have had any better hand?

Digest: It seems to us you had to guess well in the play. After the heart lead, you did not have the entries to set up dummy's spades unless you played South for AK doubleton. Is that what you did?

George: Yup. ■



Allan Graves



*Allan Graves was Canada's top masterpoint winner in 1971 and 1972. If there had been a **Richmond Trophy** then, he would have won it.*

*Digest: Congratulations for winning the **Best Bid Hand of 1988** with **George Mittelman**. Where were you born and where did you learn the game, Allan?*

Allan: Thank you. I was born in Vancouver, British Columbia. My parents played a lot, and I started playing in high school when I was about 14 or 15. I started playing tournaments when I went to the University of British Columbia when I was 16.

The players who helped me most were Vancouver players at that time, such as the late **Jim Donaldson** in whose memory the Canadian Open Pairs Championship trophy is named. Jim helped many young players in the area. He was an extraordinary player — very insightful and quite a bit ahead of his time, actually, **Ron Borg** and **Paul Hagen** helped me, as well.

*Digest: How did you meet **George Mittelman**, who lived a few thousand kilometres away?*

Allan: I met George at the Ste. Agathe National Team Trials in 1971 when we were both very young. I was playing on a British Columbia team with **Neil Chambers** and

George was playing with **Eric Kokish**. We ran into each other across the table there, and eventually got together to talk about things in 1977 when I went to the Ottawa Regional. I moved to Toronto in 1978 and we started working on our partnership.

We are both sort of semi-retired at the moment. It has been very difficult because I have been in Vancouver or Vermont while George is in Toronto. We are both busy with our work, so our partnership is somewhat on the back burner now. However, we'll see what the future holds.

Digest: A tip for aspiring players, please.

Allan: There has been too much emphasis on bidding and not enough on card play. Bidding always anticipates the card play. If you are a good card player, the bidding will come along. There are many great books on card play now.

The better your card play becomes, the better your bidding becomes because you are better at evaluating the way the cards will play. The great players look at the way their cards will play opposite what their partners might have.

Digest: Thank you, Allan.

George Mittelman



George Mittelman won the **Richmond Trophy** in 1981 as the top Canadian masterpoint winner, and the World Mixed Pairs in 1982 with **Dianna Gordon**.

Digest: Congratulations for winning the **Best Bid Hand of 1988** with **Allan Graves**. Where were you born and where did you learn the game, George?

George: Thank you. I was born in Czechoslovakia and emigrated to Montreal when I was three years old. I learned the game at university.

Eric Kokish helped me most. He had started playing in high school, and had been the president of the high school bridge club. When I got to university, he was already a very reasonable player. I watched. I can learn much more by watching than by reading.

However, when you get better, you want to play with better players rather than beginners such as I was. Finally Kokish consented to play with me. The first tournament I ever played in was the North American Championships in Montreal in 1967. I got Eric to play with me in a side game.

It was the most amazing thing! Suddenly the light dawned during that one session with Kokish and from then on I could play bridge. The game became very clear to me. I don't know what happened.

Digest: How do you manage a partnership when you are almost a continent apart?

George: Allan had spent a lot of time in

Toronto, but originally it was hard because we hadn't really formulated our system. However, after you have been playing with someone for a long time you don't necessarily have to be in the same city because you know how your partner thinks and you have your system down to a T. You don't have to go over it all the time.

Whenever we played in a CNTC, I would spend two weeks in Vancouver or he would come to Toronto, and we would have two weeks of intensive training right before the trials.

We spent a number of hours a day discussing the system and how to deal with various situations. We bid a lot of hands together using the *Challenge the Champs* books from *The Bridge World*. Now you can get a computer to generate hands of any type. For example, if you and your partner have trouble dealing with the opponents' weak two-bid, or with interference over your notrump, and so on, you can generate a group of hands like those and discuss what works best.

There's really no one right system; if there were a perfect system, this game would be no fun. You have to concentrate on how you think *together*. Come to a mutual agreement as to how you deal with things. Then your partnership will function. I don't know what the best system is, but as long as you two are happy with it, then that's enough.

Digest: Thank you, George.

Tournament Goes Down to The Wire

by Eric Kokish, Montreal

My favourite bridge tournament in recent years has been the Staten Bank World Top pairs at the Hotel des Indes in the Hague, Netherlands. For this year's edition (the third), Unisys, the giant computer firm, joined forces with the Staten Bank to sponsor the unique tournament – a four-day, five-session (three 10-board matches per session), Butler-scoring (IMPs compared against a datum of all but the top and bottom scores) Invitational event for sixteen of the world's best pairs. Bidding boxes, but very definitely no screens; tuxedos de rigueur for the evening sessions; mountains of kibitzers, both at the tables and in the Vu-Graph theatre; full media coverage; complete records and five bulletins to cover the play and the social activities, which included the attendance of several ambassadors (including Canada's). How often do you get to stay in a hotel where your bathroom is the size of many master bedrooms?

On to the bridge. After two sessions, the Brazilians Gabriel Chagas-Marcelo Branco, held a narrow 2 VP lead over the Canadian stars Sami Kehela-Eric Murray, 113-111. The Austrians Jan Fucik-Franz Terraneo, who won Staten Bank I, were third with 106. After three sessions, Chagas-Branco led 164-155 over Fucik-Terraneo and the Greeks, George Karlaftis-Takis Kannavos. At this point, I was speaking with Chagas, who informed me that the Austrians were going to win and he was willing to bet \$1000 (US) on them against the rest of the field! This is typical Brazilian technique. To bet on yourself is very bad luck. How could it be bad to back fifteen great pairs against one? I showed my pluck and bet Chagas \$20, my maximum for such things. After four sessions, it was Chagas-Branco 212, Fucik-Terraneo 207, Kehela-Murray and Karlaftis-Kannavos 192.

With one match to go, it was a two-horse race for first between Austria and Brazil, with Austria 2 VP ahead. There was a dog-fight for third through sixth. Chagas-Branco drew Kreijns-Rebattu of the Netherlands for

their last bout; Fucik-Terraneo drew Tony Forrester (Great Britain) and me. At least if I were to lose my bet, I'd have something to say about it. I thought we had done very well against Fucik-Terraneo, who seemed to be feeling the pressure, and we huddled over the TV monitors to await the posting of the datums. The scores came slowly. Chagas was sure he had lost, doubling his opponents into game on the penultimate deal. It was beginning to look like a 15-15 draw for the Brazilians as more scores materialized. Meanwhile, it looked like 19-11 for us against Austria. We needed 17-13 for the Brazilians to win, since they had won their head-on match with the Austrians. The game was IMPing very badly for us, however, and with one deal to come in, it had slipped to 17-13. Chagas left.

North
DLR: W ♠ AKJ6
VUL: None ♥ AKQ642
♦ –
♣ 1094

West
♠ Q42
♥ J108
♦ K1098752
♣ –

East
♠ 75
♥ 9753
♦ A3
♣ K8653

South
♠ 10983
♥ –
♦ QJ64
♣ AQJ72

West	North	East	South
Kannavos	Zia	Karlaftis	Rodwell
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♣
2♦	3♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♣	Pass	7♣
Pass	7♣	Pass	Pass

The diagrammed deal was the final board of the tournament. Seven of the eight scores were in: two pairs had made 6S, +980; three (including Fucik-Terraneo) had stopped at 4S, +480; two pairs had gone down in the very makeable contract of 7S (including the declarer against the Brazilians). The very last result could change the datum dramatically or do nothing at all, and it could affect the score of several key matches. If you were -480, wouldn't you like your chances if you knew that Eric Rodwell was declaring 7S at the last table? So did we! What did we know. A once-in-a-lifetime disaster occurred. Rodwell, so agitated at the sight of Zia Mahmoud's dummy and the torture he had inflicted in the auction, lost his concentration. To make 7S, you would ruff the opening diamond lead, cash a high trump, ruff a heart, and take the trump finesse. Later, you would finesse in clubs and make the contract. Rodwell, as had the Dutch declarer, played a careless club to the queen at trick three. West's ruff set the contract. The other unsuccessful declarer had played off ace-king of trumps, refusing to play the pre-emptor (at his table) for Qxx of trumps.

So what did this last result do? It reduced our score to 16-14 and gave the Austrians the title and the major prize money by 1 single VP, 261-260. And worse, I had to pay off Chagas, who had won one of the worst bets ever made! The rest of the standings: (3) Eisenberg-Sontag, 240; (4) Soloway-Goldman, 234; (5) Karlaftis-Kannavos, 233; (6) Chemla-Levy (France), 230; (7) Kehela-Murray, 227; (8) Zia-Rodwell, 226; (9) Leufkens-Westra (Holland), 223; (10) Garozzo-Rotman (USA), 222; (11) Sundelin-Flodqvist (Sweden), 212; (12) Forrester-Kokish, 211; (13) Kreijns-Rebattu, 210; (14) Deleva-Lorer (Bulgaria's women), 203; (15) Rose-Reardon (GB), 203; (16) Lebel-Mouiel (France), 203. P.S. The special courtesy prize was won by Zia-Rodwell! ■



Paul Heitner
(1939-1988)

Paul Heitner died in Toronto in December, 1988 after a brief illness.

Paul was raised in Brooklyn, NY and moved to the Toronto area in 1977. He lived in Bramalea ON. He was held in the highest regard internationally as a computer programmer and systems analyst.

Paul won the Life Masters' Pairs in 1970, the Men's Teams in 1976, and was second in the Men's Pairs in 1972. He won numerous Regional titles. As of September, 1988, he was fifth ranked in Canada with 6250 masterpoints.

Paul was a leading bridge theorist and was a co-founder of *Bridge Journal*. He was a consultant for one of the North American teams while it prepared for the world championship. His comments as a panelist for the Master Solvers' Club in the *Bridge World* will be missed by readers around the world.

He was proud of the fact that several teams of poor players had told him how much they enjoyed playing *with him* after they had lost by large scores.

We will remember him as a most generous man who would give help when he was asked.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Abby and the family.

Canadian Bidding Contest

conducted by Sandy McIlwain

THE FEBRUARY HONOUR ROLL

1.	Richard Bickley	Calgary	590
2.	Bob Zeller	Kanata, ON.	580
3.	Catherine Kula	Hamilton	550
4.	Douglass L. Grant	Sydney, N.S.	540
5/7.	Milton Brody	Toronto	530
	John Gell	Toronto	530
	West Vancoughnett	Pointe au Baril, ON.	530
8/10.	Dr. Sam Ghosh	Fredericton, N.B.	520
	Harold Hansen	Burnaby, B.C.	520
	Georges Pelletier	Ste. Justine, P.Q.	520
11.	James Luxford	Toronto	510
12/15.	Helene Bellerose	Montreal	500
	Brian Livingston	Goulais Bay, ON.	500
	Kay McMullin	Barrie, ON.	500
	Ed Toczko	Kirkland, P.Q.	500

Dr. Bickley will receive a bridge book to be named later for his fine score and is our guest on this month's panel. Honourable mention to Bob Zeller, whose score would have won most other months. I appreciate all your comments and thank you for your interest in our panel's hard work and good judgment.

THE MAY PANEL

JEAN BERNIER (Québec, P.Q.): is a member of the team that won the 1988 CNTC. The team recently eliminated Mexico and Bermuda in the tri-country playoff and will represent Canada in the World Championships in Australia this September.

RICHARD BICKLEY (Calgary): is this month's reader-champ whose bridge career is "probably still to come". He has played competitive bridge sporadically in Montreal, Poughkeepsie, N.Y. and Regina but is kept busy with his work as a clinical psychologist. Not fond of smoky rooms.

PETER COOPER (Vancouver): started playing bridge at York University in 1972. "Moved to Vancouver in 1973 in order to give Mittelman his share of the spotlight." One of the all-time good guys in the game, Peter stays home alot, but has won a regional and lots of sectionals. Currently a co-editor of the District 19 Bridge Buff.

DOUGLAS FRASER (Mount Royal, P.Q.): is one of Canada's top ten masterpoint holders, working on his second 5000. He has played internationally for Canada, and won the tough Men's Swiss Teams at the 1988 NAC's. Longtime CBF Director from Zone 2.

KEN GEE (Regina): is one of the best-dressed bridge players in Saskatchewan and one of the best players, too. A regular participant in the CNTC finals and NAOPC finals, Kenny was 11th on last year's Richmond Trophy list and is a force to be reckoned with at District 18 regionals.

ALLAN GRAVES (Barnet, VT.): is one of Canada's best-known bridge stars. He has been a key member of many of our successful teams and has collected over 6,000 masterpoints. A Vancouver native, he is currently enjoying the tranquil pleasures of Vermont.

DON PEARSONS (Winnipeg): has been playing duplicate seriously for only five years, but is currently one of the most successful players on the Prairies and has been Unit 181's top masterpoint winner the last four years. He also teaches bridge and has served two terms as Unit Ombudsman.

DUNCAN PHILLIPS (Toronto): is a long-time stalwart of the Toronto bridge scene. He is one of Canada's 100 or so Gold Life Masters (2500+ masterpoints). As you will see by his answers, he enjoys an adventure at the bridge table.

THE MAY SOLUTIONS

A) Matchpoints. None vul.

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

When is 4NT not Blackwood or natural? Take one.

COOPER: 4NT. Not too confident with this (hope it's minors). Any contract: 3NT, five or six of a minor may be in the offing. Will pass 5♣ or 5♦.

FRASER: 4NT. Insisting on five of a minor. Possibly partner will be strong enough to bid more.

GEE: 4NT. Asking partner to bid his best minor. Could make six or go down two.

PEARSONS: 4NT. Partner will respond his longer minor and I will likely raise to six.

BERNIER and BICKLEY also bid 4NT here, but GRAVES had a different idea about how to show this hand:

GRAVES: 4♣. Since I prefer 4NT to be natural, the cue becomes a strong two-suiter.

A sound treatment, although partner has to be in on this one, but he has to guess right about 4NT as well. Allan doesn't say what his 4NT natural hand would look like, but I'd like to hold a few of them.

In agreement with GRAVES' treatment but choosing a different call was:

PHILLIPS: 3NT. A different and tougher problem at IMPs. A cue of the preempt (showing a two-suiter) may get you overboard if partner's hand is a disappointment.

Clearly the partnership requirements here are a sense of humour and a large, soft glove. Note that if partner is foolish enough to bid hearts over 3NT, 4NT had better be more NT.

Action	Votes	Score
4NT	6	100
4♣	1	70
3NT	1	60

B) IMPs. None vul.

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

*Negative

When is 4NT not Blackwood or natural? Take two.

FRASER: 4NT. Not Blackwood — shows diamonds as a secondary suit. If partner bids 5♦ I'll cue 5♥, but will pass 5♣ [??-SM]

GRAVES: 4NT. Definitely for takeout: long clubs, secondary diamonds. Will cue 5♥ obviously, but doubt if grand is biddable with any assurance.

PHILLIPS: 4NT. Where do you get these toughies? Slam is likely if you guess the right one. Partner's bid did not show a lot, and much in spades won't be a pleasure.

This 4NT is a little fuzzy. He doesn't say it's Blackwood, but doesn't say it isn't. Someone thought it was:

GEE: 4NT. If partner has two aces I will bid 6♦.

Once again partner's sense of humour may be required. Despite the difference of opinion on what it means, 4NT is the winning bid by volume.

Others preferred to one-time the hand:

PEARSONS: 6♣. Pard does rate to have some wasted values in spades, but I need so little for slam.

COOPER: 6♣. May miss a grand, but I'll never find out if pard has the right cards. If RHO saves, a forcing pass might get us to seven.

In a different strain we had:

BERNIER: 6♦. Partner didn't bid one spade, so there is a strong possibility he has good diamonds.

Continuing to probe was:

BICKLEY: 5♥. Expecting to bid 6♣ after partner's 5♣.

But what over 6♣? 5♥ may be taken as supporting spades, but if 4NT is Blackwood, how do you show your hand? One of my regular partners suggested 5NT, which should be easier to read than 4NT, as the GSF can't apply here. I think she's on to something.

Action	Votes	Score
4NT	4	100
6♣	2	70
6♦	1	60
5♥	1	50
5NT	0	50

C) IMPs. Both vul.

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

This teaser split the panel. One half passed, the other didn't.

GEE: Pass. It's against my nature, but this is our best bet for a plus score. Playing my Chinese system I could bid 3♦, not forcing and denying spades.

BICKLEY: Pass. Preempted by partner. At matchpoints I'd lean towards 3NT.

GRAVES: Pass. No way to improve the contract with any assurance and I'm happy enough to defend 4♥.

PHILLIPS: Pass. The pressure bid is 3NT.

I think this is a personality test. [See Problem A.-SM]

Naturally some took up the challenge:

BERNIER: 3NT. I don't like it, but this may keep the opponents out of their heart fit.

PEARSONS: 3NT. Gambling! Would make this bid at any form of scoring, but faster at matchpoints.

Unable to ignore the obvious were:

COOPER: 3♦. Next bid will be a problem. [That's the whole answer, folks.-SM]

FRASER: 3♦. If the opponents bid 3♥ and/or my partner bids 3♠, I'll bid 3NT. If the opponents bid 4♥, I would consider doubling them if partner can't support me. I don't like 3NT directly although it has preemptive value.

Again, four bidders, four passers, a perfect swing hand. If the other side bids 4♥ with half the deck out, they might be planning to make it. 3NT could be a disaster now and then and will make now and then, but even 2♠ will go down half the time here. 3♦ seems to lack subtlety, but it could be right, too.

Action	Votes	Score
Pass	4	100
3NT	2	80
3♦	2	70

D) Matchpoints. Both vul.

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

Passers held sway again here.

BERNIER: Pass. I'll try to beat 2♣, as 2♣ will likely go down on a heart-club crossruff.

GEE: Pass. I'll bid 2♠ if partner doubles.

PEARSONS: Pass. My hand has improved, but not enough for a free bid. Will bid 2♠ over the expected re-opening double.

BICKLEY: Pass, says it all for now.

Ditto PHILLIPS.

In tune with each other were GRAVES and COOPER:

GRAVES: 2♥. This exploratory cue ought to be easily understood. Will pass 2♣ or 2NT, raise 3♠ to game and correct 3♦ to 3NT.

COOPER: 2♥. Showing at least a little something. Will pass 2♣ and raise 3♠. May bid 3NT if pard shows diamonds.

More straightforward was:

FRASER: 2♠. I want to compete, but am not strong enough to bid more.

As it turned out two hearts was your best spot on this hand, as North held ♠AK♥J10975 ♦AKQ♣K53 and the opponents got three clubs, two hearts and two spades against 2♠.

If you pass and partner now doubles, you should expect to beat them a trick and keep passing, as partner is playing you for less than you've got. Some doubles must be for penalties.

Action	Votes	Score
Pass	5	100
2♥	2	70
2♠	1	60

E) Matchpoints. Both vul.

♠AJ53 ♥4 ♦AQ8 ♣AJ753

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

Yes, this hand looks familiar. Our last quiz featured our call after 1♦, and many chose to pass, saying it would be easier to bid later. So now it's later.

Making short work of it were:

FRASER: 3NT. I would never have passed 1♦ to start with.

PEARSONS: 3NT. Looks suspiciously like Hand 'C' of the February set. I would have bid 2♣ the first time, and 2♦ is insane! In spite of those two bad bids I will still bid 3NT to take the pressure off partner.

More complaints from:

GEE: 2NT. Over partner's 3♠ I'll bid four. I never pass these hands originally, as I never know what to do when it comes back to me.

Milder protestation from:

GRAVES: 3♠. Given my original pass, this marks me with strength, so partner can allow for 3NT while I allow for 6♣.

Once again think along with GRAVES was:

COOPER: 3♣. Forcing, allowing us to get to the right spot — spades? club slam? NT? 3NT is a second choice and gives out less information, but it would be nice to have partner declare NT.

Looking for more clues were:

PHILLIPS: 3♦. Allowing partner to bid 3♠, which I'll raise to four. 3♦ doesn't agree hearts, as I would raise hearts to game or invite if I had them.

BICKLEY: 3♦. This should show spades and clubs. I'm still thinking about slam, but 3NT will be about right if he rebids hearts.

The final entry makes a lot of sense:

BERNIER: 2♣. Surely forcing and showing a four-card suit, as I didn't overcall. I want to play 4♠ or 3NT.

2♣ keeps the possibility of a spade game alive and gives partner a chance to bid 2NT, but gives up on the ambitious club slam. After 3♣ North may yet declare 3NT, but the footwork is trickier.

There is a great deal to be said for these natural suit bids being forcing, as we could have limited our hand earlier, and we could hardly want to play 3♠ at matchpoints in a suit we couldn't overcall with.

In this case, there is no hurry to get to 3NT at the expense of other contracts. It means also that the cue should imply some support for hearts, as opposed to none at all. How would the cuebidders bid if their majors were reversed?

Since most partnerships never discuss these sequences, there is room for confusion in each option, so perhaps bidding at out first turn looks better now.

Action	Votes	Score
3♣	2	100
2♠	1	80
3♦	2	70
3NT	2	70
2NT	1	50

(In the absence of any consensus, I've scored it on the principle that the NT bidders were disgusted with the problem to start with.)

F) Matchpoints. E-W vul.

♠Q4 ♥Q10 ♦A104 ♣J108543

West	North	East	South
1♦	1♠	Pass	—

Our divided panel rallied around a single bid here. Just a few comments tell the story:

GEE: 1NT. I never play minors at matchpoints.

GRAVES: 1NT. Scattered values argue for the flexible NT response rather than the misfit 2♣ or the unilateral 2♠.

BERNIER: 1NT. Why look for something else?

Readers considering other bids, take heed.

Action	Votes	Score
1NT	8	100
2♣	0	40
Pass	0	30
2♠	0	20

AUGUST CONTEST

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

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

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

THE AUGUST PROBLEMS

A) IMPs. N-S vul.

♠K1065 ♥— ♦AQ10863 ♣1084

West	North	East	South
—	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	?

B) Matchpoints. E-W vul.

♠A6432 ♥J9 ♦KJ87 ♣K2

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

C) IMPs. None vul.

♠AJ6 ♥A52 ♦KQ10853 ♣A

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

D) IMPs. N-S vul.

♠Q ♥K104 ♦A1076 ♣AKJ82

West	North	East	South
—	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	?

E) IMPs. Both vul.

♠K9 ♥J1074 ♦KQ98654 ♣—

West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	Pass
3♣	4♣*	5♣	?

*Majors

F) IMPs. N-S vul.

♠Q7 ♥108542 ♦K53 ♣A104

West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	Pass
Pass	2♣†	3♣	Pass*
Pass	Dbl.**	Pass	?

† Strong

* shows values

** 22-23 flat

The 1989

Canadian Open Pairs

Championship

The finals of the Canadian Open Pairs Championship were held in Toronto March 24 and 25. 68 pairs from across the country had qualified for this event.

After one session, the leader board read:

- | | |
|--|---------|
| 1. Juan Alvarez-Allan Simon, Calgary | 198 1/2 |
| 2. Valerie and Chris Hough, Toronto | 197 |
| 3. Duncan Philips-Paul Thurston, Toronto | 196 1/2 |

With only 28 pairs qualifying for the final two rounds, the second qualifying session turned into jungle warfare as players took wild chances in efforts to score top boards. The prominent names who found themselves on the sidelines after this session included the defending champions Valiant-Willis of Ottawa. And while the field had initially included players from eight provinces, only Ontario, Quebec, Alberta and British Columbia were to survive. The leader board again showed Calgary leading, followed by two Ontario pairs, but the names were different:

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Doran Flock-S. Viswanathan, Calgary | 384 |
| 2/3. Douglas Heron-Edward Zaluski, Ottawa | 381 |
| John Rayner-Michael Roche, Toronto | 381 |

With the field reduced to 28 pairs, the third session saw two prominent pairs come to the fore: Vancouver's Ron Borg-Michael Strebinger and Montreal's Kamel Fergani-Doug Fraser. Fergani, well known for his "feel of the table", played this hand with great intuition:

Vul.: East-West
Dealer: South

<p>♠ QJx ♥ Axx ♦ Q10xx ♣ xxx</p> <p>♠ Kxx ♥ Qx ♦ xxx ♣ AKQxx</p>	<p>♠ xxx ♥ 10xxxx ♦ Ax ♣ Jxx</p> <p>♠ Axxx ♥ KJx ♦ KJxx ♣ xx</p>
--	--

Fergani opened the South hand with a weak notrump bid and everybody passed. West opened proceedings by cashing five club tricks. Dummy discarded a heart and a spade, East threw two spades and Fergani let go a spade and two diamonds, including the king. West accurately shifted to a diamond to his partner's ace. Fergani rose with the ace on the spade return and cashed his diamond tricks, followed by the ace of hearts. At trick 12 dummy was left with the spade queen and a heart, Fergani held the KJ of hearts, while West was suspected to hold the king of spades and one heart. Going against percentages (particularly if one considers that West might have doubled the 1NT opening if his assets included the heart queen), Fergani rose with the king, dropping the queen and made his contract

instead of going down two. To defeat the contract against a great player like Fergani, West would have to lead a club to partner's jack in the early play, ensuring a spade lead before the diamond ace was gone.

Including carryover, the leader board now read:

- 1. Ron Borg-Michael Strebinger, Vancouver 233
- 2. Kamel Fergani-Doug Fraser, Montreal 230
- 3. Doran Flock-S. Viswanathan, Calgary 218

In the final session, Flock-Viswanathan put on a move with a 61% game. This new combination had placed third at the Grand National Pairs in Reno and has emerged as one of the country's strongest pairs; oddly enough, and perhaps true to the stereotype of the macho Westerner, they have a minimum of agreements, preferring common sense and "just playing bridge". This board is typical of their style:

Vul.: Both ♠ Q7

Dealer: South ♥ J73

♦ J87

♣ J10972

♠ J10963

♥ 962

♦ K93

♣ Q8

♠ 82

♥ AK1084

♦ A104

♣ A63

♠ AK54

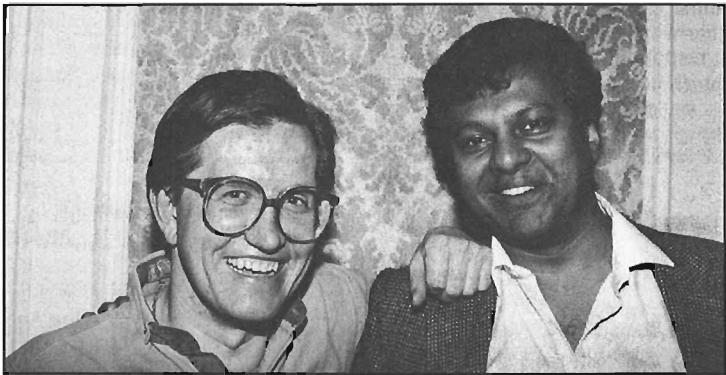
♥ Q5

♦ Q652

♣ K54

West	North	East	South
Vish		Flock	
—	—	—	1 ♦
Pass	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Flock and Vish candidly admit that neither had any idea what partner held for his bidding; then again, neither did the opponents: South led a spade to his partner's queen, won the club return with the king, and placing Flock with six heart winners in addition to the four marked minor-suit tricks, cashed the ace-king of spades to prevent the over-trick. On the run of the spades, North pitched a heart, and Flock had his contract. If you asked Doran and Vish about each other, they will both tell you: "He's hard to play with, but he's even harder to play against." While Flock-Viswanathan were overtaking Fergani-Fraser, Borg and Strebinger were not letting up. At the same event two years ago in Edmonton, Strebinger, playing with a different partner, finished second, one tenth of a point behind the winners. He wasn't going to let it happen again. Here they are in action in the last round:



Doran Flock and "Vish" Viswanathan

<i>Borg</i>	<i>Strebinger</i>
♠ 9	♠ A73
♥ AJ842	♥ K
♦ KJ8	♦ 10543
♣ AKQ2	♣ 109743
1♥	1NT
3♣	3♣
(Dbl) Redbl.	4♥
6♣	Pass

Strebinger boldly cue bid his ace of spades and king of hearts, so Borg leaped to the good slam. When the queen of hearts did not drop tripleton, and the clubs split 2-2, Borg had to guess the diamonds. He played to the jack, and that was that. Here is another hand where Borg, a 55-year old lawyer, played as though he could see through the backs of the cards:

Vul.: East-West
Dealer: South

	♠ 8764	
	♥ K86432	
	♦ 7	
	♣ J3	
♠ A10		♠ KQJ932
♥ 1097		♥ Q5
♦ AK982		♦ 103
♣ Q104		♣ A75
	♠ 5	
	♥ AJ	
	♦ QJ654	
	♣ K9862	

West	North	East	South
<i>Strebr</i>		<i>Borg</i>	
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	2♥	2♠	3♥
Pass	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

The defence began with three rounds of hearts, Borg ruffing high. He immediately led and floated the 10 of diamonds. Then he cashed the ace of clubs, and ran his six trump tricks. South was squeezed in the minors and Borg made 5, for a tied top.

In the last round, Borg-Strebinger played a 62% game to win by two boards, thus capturing the Donaldson Trophy (named for the late Jim Donaldson, Strebinger's former partner) and qualifying for the World Pair championship which will be held in Geneva in 1990. The other pairs in the top 10 earned qualifying points; next year's COPC will serve to complete Canada's lineup for Geneva.

Final standings:

1. Ron Borg-Michael Strebinger, Vancouver	469
2. Doran Flock-S.Viswanathan, Calgary	444
3. Kamel Fergani-Doug Fraser, Montreal	430
4. Douglas Heron-Edward Zaluski, Ottawa	413
5. Keith Balcombe-John Duquette, Toronto	400
6. Juan Alvarez-Allan Simon, Calgary	396
7. John Sabino-Nancy Sabino, Toronto	385
8. Douglas Fox-Mark Arbour, Toronto	384
Valerie Hough-Chris Hough, Toronto	384
10. Mike Cafferata-Ken Warren, Toronto	381



Mike Strebinger and Ron Borg

Tomczyk leads in Richmond

Gary Tomczyk, 1987 winner of the Richmond Trophy, was 133 points ahead of Haig Tchamitch after the first fifth of the the 1989 race. Lawrence Hicks was two points behind Tchamitch.

The following list includes the Reno NABC but no tournaments thereafter.

1. Gary Tomczyk, Parksville BC
2. Haig Tchamitch, Thornhill ON
3. Lawrence Hicks, New Westminster BC
4. Cliff Campbell, Thunder Bay ON
5. Doug Heron, Ottawa ON
6. William Gamble, Clearbrook BC
7. Bernie Lambert, Calgary AB
8. Colin Revill, Burlington ON
9. Ken Gee, Regina SK
10. Jonathan Steinberg, Toronto ON
11. Ken Warren, Pickering ON
12. Pat Roy, Sherbrooke PQ
13. Gerald Richardson, London ON
14. Helene Beaulieu, Sherbrooke PQ
15. Robert Lewis, London ON
16. Randy Bennett, St. Johns NF
17. Don Ellison, Rossland BC
18. Nader Hanna, Toronto
19. John McDonald, Delta BC
20. John Gowdy, Toronto ON
21. Drew Cannell, Winnipeg MB
22. Keith Balcombe, Oshawa ON
23. Fred Lerner, Markham ON
24. John Duquette, Oshawa ON
25. George Mittelman, Toronto ON
26. Joey Silver, Hampstead PQ
27. Charles Milne, Toronto ON
28. Michael Rahtjen, Vancouver BC
29. Elhel Major, Westmount PQ
30. Anna Boivin, Chomedey Laval PQ
31. Dave Glen, Port Moody BC
32. Sylvain Descoteaux, Tracy PQ
33. Neil Holmes, Toronto ON
34. John Carruthers, Toronto ON
35. Petar Gostovic, Guelph ON
36. Doran Flock, Calgary AB
37. Will May, Surrey BC
38. Gerry Marshall, Calgary AB
39. Chris Hough, Toronto ON
40. Bill Milgram, Toronto ON
41. Gary Mitchell, Regina SK
42. Fred Gitelman, Don Mills ON
43. Hubert Hunchak, Castlegar BC
44. Henry Kemper, Emo ON
45. Paul Sontag, Vancouver BC
46. John Guoba, Toronto ON
47. Brenda Robson, Brackendale BC
48. Ruth Gold, Toronto ON
49. John Gell, Toronto ON
50. Hugh McSheffrey, Nelson BC

CWTC Moved to Calgary

The Final round of the 1989 Canadian Womens' Team Championship, originally scheduled for Ottawa, has been moved to Calgary.

The event will begin with a reception at 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 20, at the host hotel. Play will commence the next morning and a complete round-robin will take place Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The semi-finals take place on Monday and the finals on Tuesday.

Calgary bridge players, excited about the opportunity of hosting their first ever Canadian championship, intend to provide unprecedented hospitality for the players and their guests.

A preferential room rate of \$74 per night, single or double occupancy, has been negotiated at the host hotel. When making reservations, mention "CWTC":

Delta Bow Valley Hotel

209 - 4th Avenue S.E.

Calgary, Alta. T2G 0C6

Tel.: 1-800-268-1133

The tournament chairperson is:

Crystal Peterson

6711 - 8th Avenue N.E.

Calgary, Alta. T2A 5P6

Tel.: 403-235-6926



The CBF Charity Foundation recently presented a cheque for \$25,000 to the Learning Disabilities Association. Pictured above is **Eva Nichols** (left) accepting the cheque from CBF vice-president **Katie Thorpe**.

CRAWFORD BREAKS RECORD IN 1988 RICHMOND RACE



The ACBL has released the final results of the 1988 masterpoint race, confirming that Rob Crawford of Vancouver won with a record total of exactly 1400 points. Runner-up Larry Hicks also broke the previous record of 1071, set in 1987 by Gary Tomczyk. June Stenning, another Vancouver area player, led all women with 314 points. The Atlantic Provinces were led by Gary Brown of Wolfville NS, ahead of Mike Hartop, Moncton NB, 196-189.

1. Rob Crawford, Vancouver BC	1400	26. Ron Bishop, Thornhill ON	307
2. Larry Hicks, New Westminster BC	1198	27. Mark Molson, Montreal PQ	306
3. Gary Tomczyk, Parksville BC	909	28. Alex Piliarik, Sarnia ON	302
4. Dave Glen, Port Moody BC	822	29. Michael Cafferata, Scarborough ON	300
5. Bernie Lambert, Calgary AB	737	30. Laurie McIntyre, Ottawa ON	299
6. Cliff Campbell, Thunder Bay ON	723	31. Sandra Fraser, Mount Royal PQ	297
7. Ken Warren, Pickering ON	628	32. Dale Andersen, Busby AB	295
8. Jonathan Steinberg, Toronto ON	569	33. Ken Gee, Regina SK	284
9. Cam Doner, Richmond BC	516	34. Michael Hargreaves, Victoria BC	280
10. Leo Steil, Vancouver BC	484	35. Marc Poupart, Longueuil PQ	273
11. Sadru Visram, Toronto ON	452	36. John Duquette, Oshawa ON	271
12. Gary Whiteman, London ON	416	37. Anna Boivin, Laval PQ	266
13. Aidan Ballantyne, Vancouver BC	404	38. Helene Beaulieu, Sherbrooke PQ	266
14. Douglas Heron, Ottawa ON	401	39. John Ross, Flin Flon MB	265
15. Douglas Fraser, Mount Royal PQ	383	40. Donald Pearsons, Winnipeg MB	259
16. Douglas Baxter, Thornhill ON	372	41. Steve Clements, Vancouver BC	256
17. William Sheryer, Kitchener ON	365	42. Larry Pocock, White Rock BC	255
18. Boris Baran, Montreal PQ	329	43. Greg Arbour, Vancouver BC	252
19. Kamel Fergani, Montreal PQ	324	44. Keith Balcombe, Oshawa ON	251
20. Michael Kenny, Thornhill ON	317	45. John Carruthers, Toronto ON	251
21. Mark Arbour, Scarborough ON	316	46. Bet Eccles, Montreal PQ	250
22. David McLellan, Thunder Bay ON	315	47. Gerry Marshall, Calgary AB	249
23. June Stenning, White Rock BC	314	48. Fred Gitelman, Don Mills ON	241
24. Brad Boyle, Toronto ON	311	49. John Rayner, Mississauga ON	241
25. Ray Chen, Toronto ON	311	50. Suzanne Lapierre, Longueuil PQ	239

Long-shot Montrealers Win



by Eric Kokish, Montreal

February 24-26, the plush Primrose Club in Toronto; 40 invited pairs; an event patterned directly on New York's Cavendish Invitational Pairs, complete with Calcutta auction; four sessions, three boards against every pair, total IMPs; screens (with both opponents visible) and bidding boxes. A professionally run event that dealt very well with the comforts and preferences of the players (notwithstanding the routine slings and arrows of the Chief Director Henry Cukoff). While providing the bridge world with another superb event (destined to become an annual classic), the Maccabi Pairs was established to raise funds to support the bridge team that would eventually qualify to represent Canada in the 1989 Maccabi Games in Israel (10% of both the Players' Pool [the entry fees] and the Auction Pool was deducted to cover expenses and help subsidize the team), July 3-20.

The gala Friday night Calcutta Auction raised the biggest purse in Canadian bridge history — more than \$240,000. The biggest price (\$12,500) was attracted by the visiting 1984 Olympiad Open Team champions from Poland, Piotr Gawrys-Henryk Wolny. Other big-ticket pairs were: Zia Mahmoud-Ifti Baqai, Neil Chambers-John Schermer, Chuck Burger-Howard Perlman, Billy Cohen-Paul Lewis, Russ Ekeblad-Ron Sukoneck, Kamel Fergani-Raymond Fortin (who will play for Canada in the Perth Bermuda Bowl in September), Bob Hamman-Nick Nickell, Sami Kehela-Eric Murray,

Steve Landen-Pratap Rajadhyaksha, Harold Rockaway-Bobby Wolff, and Joe Silver-Irving Litvack. The minimum "opening bid" for each pair was \$2500. First prize in the Auction Pool was \$57,000 (30% of the total) and the prize money went down to 10th place (1%). In the Players' Pool (the entry money less expenses), first prize was just under \$10,000. In addition to the overall prizes, there were session winner prizes of \$2500 (Auction Pool) and \$1000 (Players' Pool), so there was interest throughout for everyone.

The deals were remarkably exciting throughout the weekend, and the result was in doubt until the very end. The overall placings:

- (1) Beverly Kraft Kokish-Eric Kokish 2318
- (2) Arno Hobart-Marty Kirr 2226
- (3) Piotr Gawrys-Henryk Wolny 1798
- (4) Harmon Edgar-Chris Hough 1708
- (5) Bob Hamman-Nick Nickell 1308
- (6) Steve Aarons-Tommy Greer 979
- (7) Victor Goldberg-Don Presse 948
- (8) Billy Cohen-Paul Lewis 927
- (9) Mark Arbour-Jim Green 825
- (10) Seymon Deutsch-Kerri Shuman 788

In our diagrammed deal, nearly every N/S pair played in 3NT, which didn't make the play any less interesting:

		North				East	
DLR: N VUL: Both		♠ J984				♠ 5	
		♥ 853				♥ 10742	
		♦ 54				♦ KJ102	
		♣ AKQ2				♣ J653	
		South				South	
West Aarons	♠ AKQ1073			1 ♠ Pass	1NT	Pass	2NT
	♥ J96				3NT	Pass	Pass
	♦ 973						
	♣ 10						
		North				East	
		Kokish				Greer	
		Pass				Pass	
		1NT				Pass	
		3NT				Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Gitelman</i>	<i>Milgram</i>	<i>Caplan</i>	<i>Lorber</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
DBL	Pass	Pass	Pass

I declared from the North side against Steve Aarons-Tommy Greer after Aarons had overcalled Beverly's 1♦ with 1♠. Greer led his spade and Aarons took the queen and ace. On this trick Greer was squeezed, forced to part with a heart. Aarons suggested to a heart. While this strongly suggested that the diamond finesse would be working, two rounds of clubs revealed that this would bring my trick total to only eight. It looked as if Greer could be displayed, but I couldn't afford to lead to the ♦Q and continue with ace and another, because I would have to throw a spade and the defenders might be able to arrange for West to win the third diamond and cash his spades. There is usually a solution to this sort of problem and here it was to cash the hearts and exit from dummy with a low diamond. With hearts eliminated and threats remaining in both black suits, neither defender could do anything but continue diamonds. Now I could finesse the queen, cash the ace (throwing a spade), and throw Greer in with the fourth diamond (as I threw my last spade) to lead away from his ♣J into the split tenace.

Michel Lorber declared from the South side against Gitelman-Caplan after opening a strong notrump. Gitelman had passed over 1NT but he doubled the eventual 3NT and led three rounds of spades, Caplan parting with three hearts and Lorber a couple of diamonds (preserving his club pips). If you were Lorber, would you not suspect that the ♦K was offside? Well, so did he. But there was no need to make a commitment just yet. He played off the hearts, extracting two diamonds from Caplan, and continued with the ♣AK, Gitelman throwing a spade. Now ♣Q, club, playing poker with Gitelman. Gitelman had the ante money and came down to one diamond and a spade winner. Caplan led the ♦J. If Gitelman had worked this hard to swindle a second undertrick, Lorber was prepared

to give it to him. He finessed the queen and scored up +750.

It is a fact of life that Zia loves to declare, but there must be limits on how far a man will go to play the contract. On the next deal, Zia bid all four suits and notrump. . .

North
DLR: S ♠ K109
VUL: E/W ♥ J76
♦ 873
♣ 10863

West
♠ 52
♥ K10852
♦ J95
♣ 952

East
♠ AQ874
♥ AQ43
♦ —
♣ KQ74

South
♠ J63
♥ 9
♦ AKQ10642
♣ AJ

West	North	East	South
<i>Hough</i>	<i>Baqai</i>	<i>Edgar</i>	<i>Zia</i>
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	Pass	DBL	1NT
Pass	Pass	DBL	2♣
Pass	Pass	DBL	3♥
DBL	3♣	DBL	4♣
Pass	Pass	DBL	4♦
Pass	Pass	DBL	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Down 300 on a spade lead. It looks as if E/W should have no problems in 4♥, but after a diamond lead, tapping the East hand, several declarers got the hand wrong.

Tournament in Morocco

An international bridge and golf festival will take place in Mohammedia (situated near Casablanca, on the coast) from June 8 to 17, 1989. This event has an excellent reputation and is very reasonably priced. Interested parties should get in touch with Maurice Larochelle, tel. 418-651-7940.

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