

canadian bridge digest

CANADIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION
FEDERATION CANADIENNE DE BRIDGE



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Your Charity Dollars at Work

Canadian Bridge Digest

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Editorial

Our first order of business this month is to congratulate Canada's Women's Team for their bronze medal performance in Perth. After narrowly missing out on a medal in Venice in 1988, they proved again that they are one of the world's leading teams. If they continue to play as a team, we confidently predict a Venice Cup victory sometime in the nineties.

Our Open Team on the other hand had a disastrous tournament in Australia and finished dead last in the round robin. They are a much better team than that. Every bridge player has experienced the frustration of losing to inferior opposition, so there is no need to be overly critical of their performance. Yet we share and we understand their profound sense of disappointment.

*

The February 1989 issue carried a story by Drew Cannell entitled "Jaggy's Hand", describing a defensive coup. It now turns out that the hand has quite a history. It was in fact defended by Dung Duong (a Swiss player of Chinese origin) and reported by French writer Jean-Paul Meyer. Later, at a tournament in Morocco, Jaggy Shivdasani showed Cannell the deal and Drew received the impression that it was Jaggy himself who was responsible for the brilliancy. Recently Duong was awarded a brilliancy prize by the International Bridge Press Association, giving the hand worldwide publicity. The Digest apologizes for inadvertently misleading its readers.

*

A good deal of hoopla accompanied the Aegon tournament held in the Netherlands last summer. The publicity concerned the duplicate bridge debut of former world chess champion Anatoly Karpov. You may recall that Karpov, who had hardly played any bridge before, finished an amazing 5th in a very strong 44-pair field. Now we've checked the small print and found that the winners of the event were, drumroll please, Hanne Boonstra (Denmark) and Alvin Baragar (Edmonton).

*

The Canadian Bridge Federation is looking for a new Digest Editor. Applications should be addressed to the present editor, who would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody for their help and support.



CANADIAN BRIDGE DIGEST

1989 Venice Cup: Canadian Women Win Bronze Medal

by Mary Paul, Toronto

Perth, Australia, was the site of the 6th Venice Cup competition (Women's World Championship) but it was Canada's first crack at this prestigious event.

There were two levels of difficulties in getting to Perth. First we (that is Katie Thorpe-Gloria Silverman, Dianna Gordon-Sharyn Reus and Francine Cimon-Mary Paul. Sharyn and Francine live in the Montreal area, while all others are from Metro Toronto) had to qualify through a series of trials. Then there was the transportation aspect with a domestic airline strike in Australia. But bridge players can overcome all situations. No problem! Our team was fortunate to have John Carruthers as captain. He spent the first three days in Sydney figuring out a way to get us to Perth on time!

This year the seeded semi-finalists were the USA and West Germany. All the other teams (Canada, Netherlands, Australia, New Zealand, Chinese Taipei, India, Brazil and Colombia) played a round-robin for the two other semi-final berths. Each match consisted of 64 boards played in a double-round-robin.

As predicted in the Bulletin before we started, the Netherlands and Canada qualified for the semi-finals. We played the USA and lost the match. The Netherlands won over West Germany but lost to the USA in the finals. We played the Germans for the bronze and won. A medal is a medal, regardless of colour.

The match we played against West Germany was probably the most nerve-racking. Thorpe-Silverman and Cimon-Paul sat down for the first quarter and after 16 boards we led by 55 IMPs. But lo and behold as soon as Reus-Gordon sat down the German team started to play bridge again and our lead vanished. By the end of the third quarter we were down 2 IMPs. After a few swings back and forth the score after 61 boards was 148 to 151 against us. The following is the board that won our medal:

Vul.: None

Dealer: East

North		East	
♠ J95		♠ 108742	
♥ AJ		♥ K742	
♦ AJ862		♦ 9754	
♣ 1083		♣ —	
South			
♠ AKQ63			
♥ Q9853			
♦ Q			
♣ K6			

West	North	East	South
Paul		Cimon	
—	—	Pass	1 ♠
5 ♣	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

At my table the lead was a spade which I ruffed. I played ace and queen of clubs. A spade was returned. I ruffed and pulled the last trump. I played a heart. When I entered dummy with the king of hearts I played a diamond and lost one club, one heart and two diamonds. Down two, minus 300.

However at the other table my hand did not leap to 5 clubs directly and Dianna Gordon, South, had room to show her hearts as the second suit. Consequently when North, Sharyn Reus, was on lead against five clubs doubled she chose the ace of hearts, a wise choice. She then played the jack of hearts. When Gordon was in with the king of clubs she continued hearts, promoting the 10 of clubs in partner's hand. Down three, 500, and well-earned gain of 5 IMPs to win the match by 2 IMPs.

It should not have been this close but our team seems to nurture the type of situations that make the life of our captain very interesting.

The playing conditions were very comfortable. It was a well run tournament. Each team had a hostess. Ours was wonderful, the hospitality was great. And we all returned with a smile on our faces. ■

Tribute to Moe Deschamps

This issue's front cover shows a typical presentation ceremony in Ottawa. Charitable Fund Chairman Moe Deschamps (left) presents to REACH (Resource, Educational and Advocacy Centre for the Handicapped) Chairperson Joan Black a cheque to support REACH's goals. Also in attendance are the Hon. John Fraser, Speaker of the House, and Aidan Ballantyne (right), Past President of the CBF.

Moise (Moe) Deschamps is stepping down as Chairman of the CBF Charitable Fund (CBFCF) after four years of dynamic and dedicated service to Canadian bridge players. As Chairman, Moe had to execute decisions reached by the CBFCF and personally administer the allocation of some \$35,000/year to various Canadian charities.

This is a demanding role and Moe fulfilled it efficiently and conscientiously. However, he brought another dimension to the job: single-minded determination to promote the game of bridge and bring it to the attention of the public at large. In this regard Moe's energy and enthusiasm were something to behold.

One of Moe's promotional strategies was to directly involve noted political figures in charity presentations. Moe lives in Ottawa and has a number of key government contacts through other charity work and his own efforts on behalf of seniors' bridge. He was thus uniquely positioned to help the CBF in publicizing our game.

Moe was persistent and persuasive in pursuing politicians and their staff; his ex-

uberance and altruism soon became legend in Ottawa circles. His most notable successes on behalf of the CBF included presentations with the Hon. John Fraser (see cover), Health Minister Perrin Beatty (see below) and former Ottawa MP David Daubney, as well as interviews with the senior staff of Sports Minister Jean Charest. These initiatives may yet open the way for federal funding for bridge.

Moe was also acutely aware of the potential of publicizing bridge through the media. He maintained close contacts with a number of Ottawa reporters and as the result of his efforts bridge activities were frequently discussed under various bylines. As well, he was quick to seize other publicity opportunities, such as when he donated CBF funds to Rick Hansen's Man in Motion campaign and to victims of the Armenian earthquake. Moe's involvement in these media ventures was absolutely selfless; he thought uniquely in terms of what he could do for charity recipients and for the game of bridge.

Moe is retiring in part because he believes there should be a changeover every three years or so. This prevents "burnout", allows periodic renewal and ensures a consistent high standard of performance on behalf of the Chairman. This may be true but the CBF will greatly miss Moe and all he has done on behalf of bridge and those who are less fortunate. We wish him all the best in all his future endeavours. ■



The CBF Charitable Fund has donated \$5,000 to the Huntington Society of Canada. This photo shows Ralph Walker (left), a recipient of the 1989 Canada Volunteer Award, the Hon. Perrin Beatty, Minister of Health & Welfare, and Moe Deschamps at the ceremony.



Troisième Festival International : Le Bridge et le Golf au Maroc

par Maurice Larochelle

Ils sont fous ces bridgeurs. Le 6 juin dernier, notre équipe perdait en semi-finale des championnats canadiens par quelques IMPs devant l'équipe Molson, qui devait gagner la compétition. Le surlendemain, je prenais l'avion pour le Maroc afin de participer au tournoi en titre qui avait lieu du 9 au 15 juin, tout près de Casablanca.

J'étais accompagné de Zygmunt Marcinski, champion canadien par équipes en 1982. C'était la première fois que nous allions jouer ensemble. Nous discutâmes évidemment sans arrêt de bridge, y compris pendant l'escalade d'environ 6 heures à Amsterdam.

Nous arrivons donc à peine une heure avant la première des trois séances de la compétition par paires, laquelle était combinée avec le tournoi Epson. N'ayant pas dormi depuis quelque 48 heures, ni Zyg, ni moi, n'avons le moindre souvenir de cette ronde, si ce n'est que nous avons tout de même joué 55 %, bien que nous ayons gagé (mea maxima culpa) un grand chelem avec A-R-D de trèfle et l'as de carreau à l'extérieur. . .

Des experts de plusieurs pays étaient là, y compris quatre des membres de l'équipe nationale allemande. Voyons Jochen Bitschené, un des membres de cette équipe, au volant d'un contrat précaire de 3 sans atout, lors de la deuxième ronde de cette compétition.

Bridge in Morocco

Note to English-speaking readers: In the accompanying article, Maurice Larochelle and Austrian Fritz Kubak extol the delights of Morocco's annual bridge and golf festival. This year the tournament will be held April 30-May 5 at the famous Mammonia Hotel in Marrakesh. The cost is about \$1000, including transportation. Interested parties may contact Maurice Larochelle at (418) 651-7940.

Donneur: Est

Vuln.: N-S

Nord

♠ 82

♥ 6

♦ AV98

♣ RDV875

Ouest

♠ AV743

♥ R743

♦ 2

♣ A104

Sud

♠ D106

♥ AD102

♦ RD754

♣ 2

Est

♠ R95

♥ V985

♦ 1063

♣ 963

Ouest

—

1 ♠

Passe

Passe

Passe

Nord

—

Contre*

3 ♣

3 ♠

Passe

Est

Passe

Passe

Passe

Passe

Sud

1 ♥*

2 ♥*

3 ♦

3SA

Explication des enchères

Les Allemands sont des adeptes du Canapé, la suite la plus courte étant gagée en premier. Bien plus, l'ouverture à la majeure montre précisément une suite troisième ou quatrième. L'annonce de 2 coeurs par Sud, suite au contre négatif de son partenaire, révélait une suite quatrième dans un jeu de 13 à 15 points. L'annonce de 3 carreaux montrait une suite au moins cinquième. Enfin, sur le cue-bid de 3 piques, qui demandait à Sud de gager 3 sans atout avec un arrêt, Est aurait sans doute dû contrer pour diriger éventuellement l'entame, mais Nord-Sud se seraient alors contentés du contrat de 4 carreaux.

Entame: 3 de coeur

A l'analyse des enchères et de l'entame, le déclarant pouvait assez précisément reconstituer les jeux des défenseurs. Puisqu'il n'avait que 7 plis aux suites rouges, il

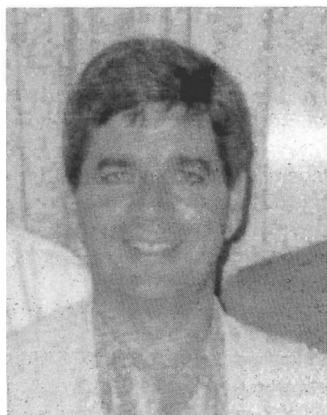
se rendit bien compte que s'il gagnait le premier coeur de la dame, avant de jouer les trèfles, que le défenseur à sa gauche serait contraint de rejouer un petit pique pour essayer de défaire le contrat.

Cependant, il lui offrit une alternative en gagnant le premier coeur de... l'as. Mettez-vous à la place du pauvre défenseur en Ouest, qui se trouva plus tard en main par l'as de trèfle. Il retourna un petit coeur vers l'hypothétique dame de son partenaire, mais le déclarant avait maintenant 12 plis.

Diabolique!

Michael Elinescu, né en Roumanie, et maintenant un citoyen de l'Allemagne de l'Ouest, est considéré comme l'un des meilleurs joueurs du monde en paires. Son travail de médecin lui laisse peu de temps pour le bridge. Cependant, il fit un spécial l'an dernier en participant à quelque 6 tournois majeurs en Europe, gagnant une bonne moitié de ceux-ci, tout en trouvant le temps de séduire plus de la moitié des femmes sur son passage. Cré Michael!

Pour cette année, il se contentera sans doute de son tournoi favori, soit celui du Maroc. Il me donna une bonne leçon gratuite de ce qu'est le bridge en paires. Je conserve pour moi ses "tuyaux" sur les enchères, mais je vous présente une main sur le jeu du déclarant.



Maurice Larochelle

Donneur: Nord

Vuln.: Aucun

Nord

♠ RD107

♥ AR92

♦ —

♣ RV1095

Ouest

♠ 843

♥ 873

♦ R963

♣ A74

Est

♠ V92

♥ V106

♦ D10752

♣ D2

Sud

♠ A65

♥ D54

♦ AV84

♣ 863

Ouest

—

Passe

Nord

1 ♣

Passe

Est

Passe

Passe

Sud

3SA!

Entame: 3 de carreau

Tu n'es peut-être pas d'accord avec mon saut à 3 sans atout, de dire Michael, mais en face d'un partenaire que je connais peu, je gage ce que je crois pouvoir faire, en donnant le moins possible d'informations aux adversaires. Son partenaire avait aussi été prévenu de ne *jamaï*s le sortir de 3 sans atout.

Si vous me permettez une diversion pour une minute, je vous avouerai que j'ai aussi joué le même contrat de 3 sans atout, mais après avoir donné beaucoup plus d'informations aux adversaires. Je dus me contenter de 9 plis sur une entame à la majeure, après avoir pris assez tôt une impasse à la dame de trèfle, après quoi le flanc droit rejeta un carreau.

Que peux-tu me dire de la main après avoir capturé la dame de carreau de l'as, de me demander Michael? Ouest semble avoir entamé sous le roi de carreau quatrième ou cinquième, lui répondis-je. Il devrait avoir une entrée, qui ne peut qu'être que l'as de trèfle, pour risquer une telle entame.

D'accord, de dire Michael, prends donc pour acquis qu'il a l'as de trèfle. Tu encaisses quatre levées de pique, notant que l'autre se

défausse d'un petit trèfle. Tu encaisses A-R-D de coeur dans l'order. . . Avant même que j'ai le temps de rouspéter, Michael enchaînait qu'il n'y avait pas de problème à laisser le treizième coeur au mort, car Ouest avait sûrement l'as de trèfle.

À la neuvième levée, le déclarant joua un petit trèfle de sa main et quand l'autre joua petit, il appela le roi. Il encaissa maintenant le treizième coeur, puis plaça le flanc gauche en main à trèfle. Celui-ci devait ouvrir les carreaux, ce qui faisait un onzième pli en un top pour le déclarant.

Bien sûr, Ouest aurait pu se défaire de l'encombrant as de trèfle de dire Michael, mais en paires peu de joueurs pensent à ces choses.

Un spécial Elinescu!

Après la compétition par paires libres de trois séances, il y avait une compétition par paires mixtes de deux séances. J'avais le plaisir de jouer avec madame Laila Kabbaj de Casablanca. Voici une main de cette compétition, alors que nous affrontions les événements gagnants, soit Christian Mari, champion du monde par équipes en 1980, et madame Roth. J'étais le déclarant quand Mari fit un jeu défensif assez rare, appelé le Coup du crocodile.

E.H.A.A.

continued from p. 11

In summary, if you want to a) put some fun back into the game b) test your table presence c) go home with a few good stories d) be surprised at your opponents inability to double e) bid your **tootsies** off f) make them work it out at the 2 and 3 level and g) **win!** — try **every hand an adventure** (E.H.A.A.) and see!

Good luck and remember that I'm always keen to share a good E.H.A.A. adventure. So drop me a line at:

Fish International Headquarters
33 - 9th Avenue
Roxboro, Que.
H8Y 2M7



Donneur: Sud

Vuln.: Tous

Nord

♠ ADV75

♥ D75

♦ 6

♣ AR76

Ouest

♠ R3

♥ V9632

♦ AR82

♣ 83

Sud

♠ 9864

♥ A84

♦ D107

♣ D54

Est

♠ 102

♥ R10

♦ V9543

♣ V1092

Ouest

—

1 ♥

Passe

Passe

Nord

—

Contre

4 ♠

Est

—

Passe

Passe

Sud

Passe

1 ♠

Passe

Entame: as de carreau

Devant le singleton de carreau du mort, madame Roth en Est joua haut, soit le 9, pour montrer une préférence à un retour à la suite la plus chère, c'est-à-dire le coeur. Docile, Mari en Ouest rejoignit un petit coeur.

J'aurais sans doute mieux fait de duquer, mais croyant qu'Est montrait une préférence à coeur, parce qu'elle avait un singleton à cette suite, et voyant la possibilité de faire deux plis additionnels si le roi était en Ouest et si les trèfles étaient 3-3, j'appelai la dame, qui fut couverte du roi et de l'as.

Le déclarant prit ensuite l'impasse au roi de pique, rentra chez lui par la dame de trèfle, puis rejoignit un pique. Il élimina les trèfles et retourna finalement le 8 de coeur. . .

Voyez la suite si Ouest joue disons le 9. Le flanc droit doit gagner du 10 et doit rejouer un carreau. Le déclarant n'a qu'à insérer le 10, puis à couper le roi, après quoi il revient chez lui à l'atout pour jeter le dernier coeur du mort sur la dame de carreau.

Mari toutefois ne l'entendait pas ainsi. Raisonnant que le déclarant aurait laissé courir le premier coeur vers son jeu s'il avait

eu le 10, il joua le valet de coeur, gobant dans la gueule du crocodile le 10 de sa partenaire. Il encaissa évidemment le 9 ensuite pour limiter le déclarant à 10 plis.

Tout cela pour une levée supplémentaire seulement, me direz-vous, mais cela faisait la différence entre la première et la deuxième place.

En parallèle avec les autres compétitions, il y avait un "World Team" sur 6 séances. Au départ, il y avait 12 équipes, dont les équipes nationales du Maroc, de la Tunisie, de l'Allemagne et du Portugal, ainsi que plusieurs bonnes équipes de la France. Faute de combattants, on dut faire certains mélanges. Ainsi, mon partenaire Zygmunt Marcinski et moi-même faisions équipe avec les Autrichiens Jan Fucik et Fritz Kubak, membres de l'équipe ayant terminé en deuxième place l'an dernier aux championnats mondiaux à Venise.

Dans une finale de 20 planchettes, notre équipe défaisait celle d'Omar Sharif, avec Christian Mari, champion du monde en 1980, Jean-Paul Meyer, éditeur du Bridgeur et Quantin, membre de l'équipe nationale de France. Voici une main de cette finale:

Donneur: Nord

Vuln.: Tous

Nord

♠ A105
♥ AD764
♦ A7
♣ A95

Ouest

♠ D4
♥ V10985
♦ 65
♣ 10874

Est

♠ RV876
♥ R3
♦ 42
♣ RV63

Sud

♠ 932
♥ 2
♦ RDV10983
♣ D2

A notre table, Sharif et Mari en Nord-Sud, firent deux levées supplémentaires au contrat de 3 sans atout. A l'autre table, Kubak

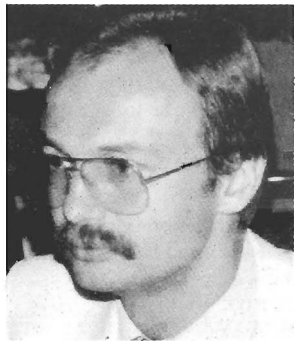


Jan Fucik

et Fucik, respectivement en Nord-Sud, des adeptes du Blue Club, développé par le célèbre Blue Team, aboutirent au contrat de 6 carreaux à partir de la séquence d'enchères suivante:

Ouest	Nord	Est	Sud
Meyer	Kubak	Quantin	Fucik
—	1 ♠*	1 ♠	Contre*
Passe	2 ♥	Passe	3 ♦
Passe	3SA	Passe	5 ♦
Passe	6 ♦	Passe	Passe
Passe			

* 1 trèfle est artificiel et montre un jeu d'au moins 17 points. Le contre est aussi artificiel et montre un jeu d'au moins 7 points d'honneur et un maximum de 2 contrôles, les rois comptant pour un contrôle et les as, pour deux.



Fritz Kubak

Entame: dame de pique

Le déclarant, Fucik, appela l'as de pique du mort, puis l'as de coeur et coupa un coeur. Il fit deux demandes à l'atout terminant au mort et jeta un pique sur la dame de coeur, avant de couper un coeur et de jouer tous les atouts.

A trois cartes de la fin, le déclarant, le mort et Est s'étaient réduits à un pique et deux trèfles. Le flanc droit fut alors placé en main à pique et dut forcément ouvrir les trèfles.

Kubak nous faisait remarquer que le joueur en Est aurait fait suer Fucik un peu plus en gardant deux piques et le roi de trèfle sec. Si le déclarant suppose que ce dernier avait au départ V-10 quatrième à trèfle, il doit maintenant jouer la dame de trèfle pour faire son contrat.

Le même Kubak nous faisait remarquer

que son partenaire aurait sans doute trouvé la solution. Cependant, même le grand Fucik aurait été réduit à l'impuissance si Ouest avait entamé d'un petit au lieu de la dame de pique. A trois levées de la fin, si l'autre prend la peine de débloquer le roi, il pourra prendre la main par la dame de pique pour ouvrir les trèfles.*

Cette main nous rapportait un gain de 12 IMPs au lieu d'une perte de 13 IMPs, si le contrat avait chuté. On peut donc dire que c'était la main du match, puisque l'écart final n'était que de 14 IMPs.

Comme dernière compétition, il y avait le Patton (ce que nous appelons le Suisse) sur deux séances. Une victoire populaire fut celle de madame Maelstrom et de messieurs Robson, Alami et Rerhay. Monsieur Rerhay, ancien ministre des Finances du

* Ce n'est pas certain. Dans la revue autrichienne "Österreichisches Bridge" nul autre que Fritz Kubak signe un article qui constate... l'événement principal fut le World Team, une compétition selon la méthode KO entre équipes nationales. Les Autrichiens jouèrent avec les Canadiens Maurice Larochelle et Sigmund Mucinsky qui représenteront le Canada au Bermuda Bowl en Australie [Ce n'est pas exact. A.S.]. Nous avançons sans difficultés en finale, où nous rencontrons France I, l'équipe d'Omar Sharif, qui bien sûr est particulièrement populaire au Maroc. Dans un match très serré la partie suivante décida le résultat en notre faveur: (suivent les jeux et la description des enchères)

Dans la salle ouverte les Français n'avaient jamais l'idée de jouer un chelem et ils réussirent dix levées au contrat de 3SA. Dans la salle fermée Kubak gagea le chelem. Meyer entama la ♠D, que Fucik gagna. Il joua l'♥A et coupa un coeur. Suivirent deux rondes d'atout, terminant au mort, et la ♥D, en défaussant un ♠. Il coupa un autre ♥ et maintenant Fucik joua tous ses atouts. Avant la dernière ronde de ♦ la situation fut la suivante:

	Nord	
Ouest	♠ —	Est
♠ —	♥4	♠RV
♥V	♦ —	♥ —
♦ —	♠A95	♦ —
♠1087		♠RV
	Sud	
	♠9	
	♥ —	
	♦3	
	♠D2	

Sur le ♦3 Ouest et le mort jetèrent des ♠, Est le ♠V. Alors Fucik joua ♠ pour le roi sec de Quantin, et sur le retour du ♠V il mit la dame pour réussir son contrat.

Cependant la position finale n'est pas aussi simple que l'on ne puisse penser. Au même moment où Fucik concéda la levée de ♠ à Quantin, Ouest était squeezé en ♠ et ♥, et il ne pouvait garder qu'un seul ♠. Donc, si Est avait eu le ♠V10 et Ouest le ♠R, Fucik aurait dû jouer le ♠2 plutôt que la dame sur le retour du ♠V. Le déclarant aurait eu le même problème si Est avait jeté le ♠V plutôt que le ♠V sur le dernier ♦. Est-ce qu'il a gardé le ♠R ou le ♠10 singleton? Doit on jouer le ♠2 ou la ♠D?

Donc le déclarant réussira toujours la partie s'il devine correctement. Bien entendu, sur une attaque autre que pique, il joue simplement un ♠ vers la D pour la douzième levée. Mais même l'entame inusitée d'un petit ♠ ne bat pas le contrat. Le déclarant joue un petit ♠ du mort à la première levée. Est ne peut rejouer ♠ et un double squeeze se développera. Ouest doit garder coeur, Est doit garder pique et le ♠9 deviendra la douzième levée.

Ce tournoi est sûrement un des plus beaux auquel j'ai participé, non pas parce que nous avons gagné, mais à cause de l'atmosphère particulièrement sympathique. Les marocains firent preuve d'une grande hospitalité; la température était merveilleuse et la mer était propre. Je peux recommander ce tournoi, qui aura lieu à Marrakech l'an prochain, à tous ceux qui veulent combiner un tournoi plaisant avec des belles vacances.

gouvernement marocain, est aussi le président de la Fédération royale marocaine de bridge. Pour avoir joué contre lui il y a deux ans et cette année, je peux répéter ce que je lui ai dit lors de la remise des prix, à l'effet que je n'ai jamais vu un joueur de bridge s'améliorer autant en si peu de temps. Voici une main qu'il a joué en Sud il y a quelque temps.

	Nord		
	♠ AR108		
	♥ RV875		
	♦ A105		
	♣ A		
Ouest		Est	
♠ 6532		♣ 4	
♥ 43		♥ D1092	
♦ 98764		♦ RD32	
♣ D6		♠ 10853	
	Sud		
	♠ DV97		
	♥ A6		
	♦ V		
	♣ RV9742		
Ouest	Nord	Est	Sud
—	—	—	1 ♣
Passe	1 ♥	Passe	1 ♠
Passe	2 ♦	Passe	3 ♣
Passe	3 ♠	Passe	4 ♦
Passe	4 ♥	Passe	4SA
Passe	5 ♣*	Passe	6 ♣*
Passe	7 ♠	Passe	Passe
Passe			

* Comme la plupart des Nord-américains, les Marocains montrent 0 ou 3 as par la réponse de 5 trèfles, mais contrairement à nous, ils ne comptent pas le roi d'atout comme une carte-clef. De là, le Joséphine à 6 trèfles, qui demande au partenaire de gager le grand chelem avec le roi de pique.

Entame: 2 de pique

Sans cette malheureuse entame, monsieur Rerhayé aurait pu encaisser les cinq as et rois hors l'atout, puis couper quatre fois de chaque côté. Maintenant, il n'y a plus que 12 plis si l'on procède de cette façon.

Il faut donc majorer une suite hors l'atout

et il faut penser au trèfle en premier car le contrat est tout cuit si cette suite est bien faite, c'est-à-dire 3-3 ou la dame deuxième.

Pour tenir compte de toutes les possibilités, le déclarant fait mieux de gagner d'un gros honneur de pique au mort. Il encaisse maintenant l'as de trèfle. Il traverse chez lui par l'as de coeur et encaisse le roi de trèfle.

Quand il voit la dame de trèfle, la suite est facile à condition de ne pas se barrer les pieds. Il faut couper un trèfle, puis éliminer les atouts. Il n'y a plus qu'à réclamer le contrat.

Lors de son discours de clôture, monsieur Rerhayé arracha une promesse à Omar Sharif de revenir à chaque année à ce festival international. L'an prochain, le tournoi sera tenu au célèbre hôtel Mammonia de Marrakech, du 28 avril au 5 mai. La première journée est réservée à une compétition entre les chefs d'entreprises et les parlementaires. Le 29, c'est un pro-am. Enfin, le festival régulier a lieu à compter du 30 avril. Pour environ 1 000 \$ (avion, hôtel demi-pension), c'est une occasion unique de visiter cet extraordinaire pays, qui n'est dépassé que par la courtoisie de ses gens, tout en jouant au bridge avec plusieurs vedettes internationales et en jouant au golf sur quelques terrains réputés. Les intéressés peuvent communiquer avec l'auteur de cette chronique.

Jean-Guy Maltais de Chicoutimi

Je m'en voudrais de passer sous silence une lettre que monsieur Jean-Guy Maltais de Chicoutimi m'adressait.

Selon monsieur Maltais, les clubs de la région du Saguenay avaient il y a peu de temps quelque 50 tables par semaine et cela est maintenant passé à plus de 90 tables; de plus le niveau de compétition a augmenté à un degré appréciable.

Cela est dû à la formation et à l'encouragement à leurs bridgeurs débutants. Ainsi, la région du Saguenay, lors du tournoi maître-recrue d'avril dernier, a présenté la plus forte participation canadienne, soit 60 équipes.

Bravo. Et comment fut votre trimestre?



Sizzling to the Top or E.H.A.A. Fine Tunaad

by Tony (Tuna) Reus

(East Wing of the hospital for the mentally ill)

Have you ever played in the finals of the Life Master Pairs wondering where your opponents bought their quality drugs? The round is called and yet another pair of Bjorn Borg clones arrives and sanity leaves. Stand up and say "I'm not going to take it anymore!" If it's madness they want, I'll give them **controlled madness**.

Let's start with the system cornerstones:

- 1) 1NT=10-12 HCP, balanced or quasi-balanced (e.g. 5-4-2-2, 6-3-2-2) =15-17 HCP vul vs n.v., 3rd seat vul & all 4th seat

This covers more than one-quarter of the hands you were passing before. Make them pay!

Responses:

Forcing & non-forcing Stayman, 2♥ & 2♠ to play, 2NT for minors weak (or strong if you bid major shortness at your next turn), 3 and 4 level bids are preemptive. Texas for postional majors. Develop a good run-out system and play negative doubles.

- 2) 2♣, 2♦, 2♥, 2♠ =undisciplined, 5-11 HCP, 5-11 card suit length
 - any shape (could even contain a side 4 card major if in upper range)
 - could be 5-5
 - optional: respect for vulnerability
- N.B. All weak 2's with a suit of 5 solid missing the A, K, Q, J, 10 shall in future be referred to as a FOE 2-bid ("Fear-of-Eric" [Kokish] — as a teammate).

Responses:

Raises are strictly competitive and preemptive in nature, new suits are **not** forcing, 2NT is invitational but not forcing (no clear fit — opener rebids suit or lower ranking suit non-forcing, rebids higher ranking suit to force), 2♦ over 2♣ and 3♣ over 2♦, ♥, ♠ is invitational raise or forcing in a new suit. If opponents interfere — Dbl is penalty, Rdbl is S.O.S. (or invitational raise). N.B. Rdbl is S.O.S. by both sides.

- 3) 2NT=weak preempt in any suit
- 4) 3♣, ♦, ♥, ♠=Goren-type preempt
- 5) 4♣, ♦=Namyats
- 6) 4♥, ♠=Natural (less than 4♣, ♦)
- 7) **Overcalls** — (except vul vs not vul, or opposite passed partner or when playing against pairs who play Fishbein) pretend they didn't open the bidding!
 - 1-level=4+ suit with opening bid
 - 2-level=weak 2 as above
 - 3-level=more preemptive or intermediate if 1-level was not available.

Other Less Important Opening Bids:

- 1) 1♠=11-17 HCP, could be short
 - rebid 1NT with 15-17, 2NT with 20-21, 2♦ with 22+ or standard ♣/♦ reverse, 3NT with 10 tricks + minor, or 3-level bid to show a force with that suit.

Responses:

1♦=0-7 or diamonds

Jumpshift=0-7 plus goodish suit

Inverted raises

Checkback system after 1NT rebid

Stayman and transfers over 2NT rebid

- 2) 1♦=could be as short as 2
 - rebid 1NT with 12-14 balanced, 2NT with 18-19, 3NT with a good minor.

Responses:

Jump shift=4-8 plus goodish suit

Inverted raises

Checkback system after 1NT rebid

Pattern out after 2NT rebid

- 3) 1♥, ♠=Natural, play all the goofy gadgets you normally play.
- 4) Pass=0-9 balanced (good inference to be drawn here, huh?) or F.O.E. 2-bid or F.O.E. 1NT

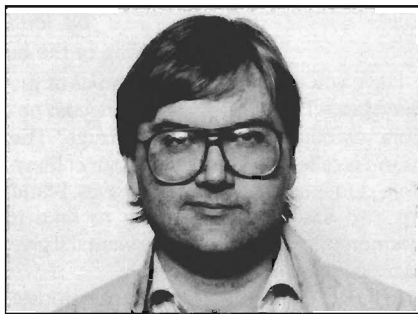
How many times have you gone home from a tournament a **loser**? Well, using this system, you may not change the odds of losing much but you will always (guaranteed) have a good story to tell. Like the time I went to the Toronto Nationals and during the tournament my **partner** preempted in clubs six times and I had **seven** clubs each time!

continued on p. 7

Canadian

Bidding

Contest



Sandy McIlwain, moderator

THE AUGUST HONOUR ROLL

A quite select group. Almost all of the respondents had trouble with problems A & B, putting them at odds with our virtually unanimous panel. The winner is always invited to appear on a future panel and receives the bridge book of his/her choice. Thanks again for all your comments.

1.	Jen-Guy Maltais	Chicoutimi-Nord, P.Q.	530
2.	Wilfred Aziz	Chicoutimi, P.Q.	520
3/4.	John Thompson	Peterborough, Ont.	500
	Martin J. McDonald	Calgary, Alta.	500

THE JANUARY PANEL

This month's panel is also select and has covered most of the issues despite their limited number. I thank them all for responding and taking care of business so efficiently.

MAURICE LAROCHELLE (Ste. Foy, P.Q.) has won the CNTC and also placed second and fourth in the event. He writes a daily bridge column in Québec, and has taught bridge to over 1,000 people.

JEAN-GUY MALTAIS (Chicoutimi, P.Q.): is our reader-champ, and taught bridge on Quebec's North Coast from 1978-1985, both at clubs and on the radio. He is a Life Master, mainly, it appears, as the result of terrorizing recent Montreal Regionals, and played in the COPC Final last year, calling it a "marvellous experience".

ZYGMUNT MARCINSKI (Beaconsfield, P.Q.): has had numerous successes in his fairly brief career. He won the CNTC in 1982, and made the semi-finals in 1987. In 1985, he played in the quarter-finals of the Vanderbilt and placed fifth in the Life Master Pairs. He has several regional victories in addition and is now semi-retired from bridge.

CHRISTIE MCKINNEY (Edmonton, Alta.): majored in bridge at her McGill sorority and has since studied, lived, and worked in England, the U.S. and Eastern Canada. She has won two regionals, both with husband Dick, and has played in two COPC finals and two CWTC finals. Has been described in print as a "Matchpoint Maniac".

KEN PENTON (Calgary, Alta.): is also semi-retired from bridge. His best successes were in the early 70's, since then family responsibilities have kept him from competing more fully. He has managed to play in three CNTC Finals along the way.

JANUARY SOLUTIONS

A) IMPs. Both vul.

♠ AQ7 ♥ 64 ♦ J ♣ AQ76543

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1NT	Pass	?

One advantage to holding a long suit is that you can bid it when your turn comes around, apparently to show both strength and weakness.

MARCINSKI: 3♣, half out of fear that they can make many tricks in hearts if I let them find their fit, and half out of bravado, since both 3NT and 5♣ are entirely possible.

McKINNEY: 3♣. Partner can pass or convert to 3NT. 5♣ may also make. This preempt also makes it harder for the opponents to find their red-suit fit.

The playing strength of the hand seems to compensate for the paucity of high-card values, but will partner play us for a more solid suit and bid game on ♠ KJx ♥ Qxx ♦ K109xx ♣ xx or the like? Will he fail to bid game on ♠ xxx ♥ AJ10 ♦ Q10xx ♣ xxx, where the opponents' chances for tricks are greatly reduced?

Which leads us to the next point, that you can bid your short suits to put your long suits in perspective.

LAROCHELLE: 2♣. Better than 3♣ or 3NT, I think. Now I can bid 3♣ over 2NT, and pass over 3♣ and 3NT.

PENTON: 2♣. We have a huge club fit and our opponents have the majors. 2♣ helps deter the opposition from entering the auction and allows partner to evaluate better than 3♣ would.

MARCINSKI argues that 3♣ helps partner evaluate better than 2♣, but fails to sound convincing. With ♠ xxx ♥ Axx ♦ 109xx ♣ Kxx partner will likely pass 3♣ with 3NT unstopable, but will almost surely bid game over 2♣.

More daring was:

MALTAIS: 3NT. At IMPs, I don't want to chance losing a vulnerable game. 3♣ might suffice if we were not vul.

It's hard to see how 2♣ would stop us from reaching our game if we have one, and seems to

keep partner in the picture more than 3♣ or 3NT. 3NT has the added disadvantage of making partners wonder why they showed up.

Action	Votes	Score
2♣	2	100
3♣	2	90
3NT	1	50
2♣	0	20
4♣	0	5
5♣	0	0

B) IMPs. E-W vul.

♠ K97 ♥ AKQ8 ♦ AK10943 ♣ —

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♣	Dbl.	?

This hand is really two problems, the usual bidding problem and the additional one of solving North's sequence. Since each of our panelists chose a different call, one or both of the problems may have been insurmountable.

PENTON: 5♣. Partner must have four small hearts to raise my second suit. Should hold ♠ Ax ♥ xxxx ♦ x ♣ AQJxxx or better. Telling him about the spade king has the best chance of getting our side to the grand.

McKINNEY: 6♥. I thought of seven, but partner failed to jump earlier and is marked with only three hearts. Hope he can trump diamonds high so I can establish the suit, and that I can pitch my losing spades on his clubs.

Already we are in doubt as to what partner is showing here. Penton's example begs the question, why not 1♥ over 1♦? Why would partner make an abnormal bid with a normal hand? McKinney's suggestion that North has denied four hearts makes 6♥ seem risky, especially when coupled with the possibility that 4♣ might show something other than the ace, a void perhaps?

MARCINSKI: Pass. Let's find out what he's up to. I intend to follow-up with 5NT (pick a slam), and probably seven in the red suit of his choice, unless he bids 5♦ followed by 6♦, the concern being that he only has xx in diamonds.

MALTAIS: 5♣. Giving partner a choice of small or grand slam in diamonds or hearts. If I had bid 2♦ at my first turn I would know better if diamonds might be playable.

Neither of these two is clear about the suit yet, although Marcinski seems headed towards seven of something. Is there any chance that Maltais might play 5♣?

LAROCHELLE: 4NT. And be content with 6♥ if partner shows one ace. I've seen him cue-bid singletons before.

We will certainly need both black aces to make thirteen tricks, unless we're planning to ruff our losing spade and set up diamonds with partner's four (we hope) little hearts, and there is the possibility that the four spade bid shows a void (0-4-2-7), making a spade (ruff) at trick one a likely fatal lead against seven. Might he have a singleton, say ♠x ♥J10xx ♦x ♣AKQJ10xx? I think he must have four hearts, else why raise on jack-third at best when he could simply rebid clubs again and prefer hearts at his next turn.

Partner's four-spade bid should guarantee four hearts if his 3♥ bid didn't; otherwise he is leading you down the garden path. Rather than playing him for a hand he can't have (e.g. Penton) which will require diamonds and hearts breaking to make all the tricks, play him for a poor hand with a basket of clubs and a spade control and hope six hearts will play. Or bid 4NT and play 6♥ anyway.

Action	Votes	Score
4NT	1	100
6♥	1	80
Pass	1	70
Redouble	0	70
5♠	1	60
5♣	1	50
Grands	0	20

Scores reflect attempts to solve the problem rather than pass the buck and/or take away partner's bidding room.

C) Matchpoints. N-S vul.

♠AQ10 ♥72 ♦KQ95 ♣9854

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	2♣	Pass
Pass	Dbl.	Pass	?

One choice here was to go for the possible penalty.

MALTAIS: Pass. I don't see any game here, I have an easy heart lead. Mustn't let our non-vulnerable opponents bid too freely.

We do seem to have the balance of power and control of all the suits but clubs (suggesting a trump lead, perhaps?), but it appears that our lack of trump honours and the undisclosed nature of partner's hand swayed the rest of the panel towards bidding.

MARCINSKI: 3♣. If partner knows he's playing with a South who is too puritanical to double 2♣ with any hand containing less than four spades, then he should have a perfect picture of my hand.

McKINNEY: 3♣. Should imply that I have the other two suits. I'll pass 3♥ or 3NT.

PENTON: 3♣. A two trick set does not replace what appears to be a vulnerable game/slam in diamonds. I must tell partner that my passed hand is now an opener with no wasted club values.

LAROCHELLE: 3♣. Not very bright, I suppose, but better still than passing over 2♣.

Which means, I suppose, that if you can get a good score by defending with no tricks in the opponents' suit, you can get a better one by being in game somewhere, even if you have no idea what it is. I like my partners to have a little something in trumps when they pass these doubles, but some would say that's exactly what you have.

The point is well-taken that 3♣ describes this hand, for what else could you possibly have. If one bid can describe your hand this well, this must be the right time to use it.

Action	Votes	Score
3♣	4	100
Pass	1	70
3♦	0	40

D) Matchpoints. None vul.

♠A93 ♥J852 ♦Q4 ♣A1076

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♠	Dbl.	Rdbl.
Pass	4♠	5♦	?

Let's deal with the minorities first.

McKINNEY: 5♠. Partner either has a weak or strong hand — but certainly lots of spades. This shows him I have a fit. Pass would be my second choice.



It's true we have thus far not revealed our spade fit, but what would a pass now show?

MALTAIS: Dbl. Partner's four spade bid prevents me from thinking we can make five spades, as it shows long spades and not much else. By doubling I might save a few matchpoints.

Taking the opposite tack, Maltais attempts to put the brakes on his partner, simultaneously revealing a marked preference for defending at matchpoints. Should we not have one more defensive trick for this double? What did the majority have to say about it?

MARCINSKI: Pass. Redouble established a force here, so this "action" should show 2-way values and unwillingness to make a decision.

PENTON: Pass. This must be forcing. Double would tend to show a rock-bottom redouble and more defensive values. My pass says I will accept his decision.

LAROCHELLE: Pass, and let partner make the mistake. Seriously, this is an invitation to 5♣. Who knows which side should defend?

All of which seems sensible. Pass shows spades and not diamonds, otherwise we would double. No one questioned the original redouble, which got us this far on a decent fit and very marginal defensive values, but that's perhaps because they'd have a bigger apparent problem if they'd bid a reasonable two spades over the double.

Action	Votes	Score
Pass	3	100
Dbl.	1	60
5♣	1	50

E) Matchpoints. None vul.

♠ A983 ♥ J10 ♦ 1062 ♣ 10853

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♣	Pass
Pass	Dbl.	Pass	?

Perhaps we should change this to a passing contest.

PENTON: Pass. Partner has a diamond trap and spade shortness. 3NT is out of the question. With a club-heart two-suiter I would expect him to balance with 3NT.

MARCINSKI: Pass. Take your sure plus, lead the heart jack. Partner has a good hand, short spades, less than five hearts, some diamonds, but 5♣ may go down if West has the diamond ace, and 3NT down if West has a spade to lead.

McKINNEY: Ugh! Partner's marked with diamonds, but I'm not sure of the rest of his hand. I fear the opponents' crossruff if I bid 4♣. Of course 3♣ doubled may make.

Double here must certainly allow for penalties, and our trump trick and nuisance length will provide some defense. But will it be enough?

MALTAIS: 4♣. Weak hand, weak bid. I'm not sure I can defeat 3 spades. It's up to you now, partner; how's your game?

LAROCHELLE: 4♣, and pray. East has a big pile of spades and a small pile of hearts. Partner has a trap pass in diamonds and some clubs, I hope.

Both suggesting that our sure plus isn't so sure, after all. We can look at the hands we might have held at this juncture, and some worse ones we would surely have bid on, so partner's worst fears will not be realized yet. We are able to bid his best suit and we are likely to provide some tricks for the cause.

It seems, however, that 3♣ doubled will net us +300 often enough to make passing the winning call, even when 4♣ will make. The no trump hogs will be rewarded about a third of the time, about average for them.

Action	Votes	Score
Pass	3	100
4♣	2	80
3NT	0	30
5♣	0	10

F) IMPs. None vul.

♠ 5 ♥ K1075 ♦ J3 ♣ A98532

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♣	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♦	Pass	?

We've made one stab to improve the contract. Will another one be our undoing? Several were willing to take the risk here.

McKINNEY: 3♣. I mean this as a signoff.

Could be our only chance for a plus.

MALTAIS: 3♣. I love taking tricks with those small clubs. 2♦ may be in trouble

on a trump lead. Partner may still have the right hand for game.

PENTON: 3♣. Our only slim chance for a plus. We lack values and communication for a 2NT call, the 4-2 and 5-1 fits are unappealing, and there is room for partner to have Kx of clubs (dreaming).

This is certainly our most likely seven or eight card fit, and the other suits don't seem to offer any harbour, but shouldn't we be just a little concerned about the glaring misfit possibilities? Aren't there hands where too much optimism can be deadly?

MARCINSKI: Pass. Before the doubling starts and this minus score starts being denominated in 100's rather than 50's.

This caution seems more likely to prove useful in the long run, with the added chance that West may balance their side into trouble. If West has the hand to balance with a double, East unfortunately, may be quite prepared to sit for it.

LAROCHELLE: 2NT. I couldn't bear playing in a 3-2 fit in diamonds. At match-points, though, I would have passed.

This bid should keep E-W from balancing, and you might even take a few tricks. The obvious danger here is that partner may raise and one of the opponents may be able to double. Larochelle's concern about a 3-2 fit may be unfounded here, but the problem would intensify if 1NT had been forcing.

Despite my whining, the majority chooses the 3♣ call here, and it was the only makeable spot when the hand was played, so theory must give way to bidding your long suit, about where we started.

Action	Votes	Score
3♣	3	100
Pass	1	70
2NT	1	60
2♣	0	10

MAY CONTEST

To enter the May contest, write your answers to the May problems (comments are welcome, but not required), together with your name and address on a sheet of paper or postcard and send to:

Sandy McIlwain
Canadian Bidding Contest
#6, 2160 - 39th Ave. West
Vancouver BC
V6M 1T5

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

THE MAY PROBLEMS

A) IMPs. N-S vul.

♠ — ♥K5 ♦AQJ10 ♣AQJ10743

West	North	East	South
2♥*	2♠	4♥	?

*weak

B) IMPs. Both vul.

♠QJ84 ♥AKQ5 ♦KJ983 ♣ —

West	North	East	South
—	—	1♣	Dbl.
2NT*	Dbl.†	5♣	?

*Preemptive club raise

†Responsive (Value-showing) double

C) IMPs. Both vul.

♠763 ♥J86 ♦AQJ732 ♣Q

West	North	East	South
—	1♣	Dbl.	Rdbl.
1♥	1♣	2♥	?

D) IMPs. N-S vul.

♠QJ765 ♥J2 ♦KQJ10 ♣A4

West	North	East	South
—	1♣	Pass	2NT*
3♣	4♣	5♣	?

*Jacoby 2NT

E) Matchpoints. Both vul.

♠A5 ♥AK43 ♦3 ♣KJ10643

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♣
Dbl.	Pass	1♥	2♣
2♣	3♣	3♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	?

F) IMPs. Both vul.

♠7 ♥632 ♦AKJ954 ♣K82

West	North	East	South
—	Pass	1♣	2♦
Dbl.*	Pass	4♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

*Neg.

You lead ♦A. All follow.

Dummy: ♠ —

♥J1087
♦Q8763
♣AJ97

What card next?



Maurice Paul Canadian Bidding Challenge

by Eric Kokish

This ain't the Blue Jays; this ain't no disco. This is merely the third edition of the Canadian Bidding Challenge, a semi-official event designed to enshrine or embarrass as many of Canada's top pairs as possible in the allotted space in the Digest, which has mercifully been reduced in each advancing year.

If you think bridge is a bidder's game, I agree with you. Whether our four pairs of expert Canadian bidders can add some useful evidence to support our theory is still moot. The six hands that follow will sorely test their skill, perhaps.

Back to defend their title are **Douglas and Sandra Fraser** of Montreal, who tend to win every bidding competition that they enter. It is rumoured that Sandra ties Douglas to a kitchen chair three nights a week and refuses to release him until he says "Pass" six consecutive times without wincing. Believe what you will, their training methods seem to have worked. Which is hardly good news for this year's challengers. The Frasers play a variation of Eastern Scientific with lots of gadgets.

From Toronto, we are being treated to a few moments with **Marty Kirr-Arno Hobart**, the current CNTC champs who made their mark internationally with a solid performance in the 1987 Bermuda Bowl in Ocho Rios, Canada's best showing to date. Besides those achievements, they almost won the lush 1988 Canadian Maccabi Invitational Pairs. Whether all this was because of or in spite of their methods, we will soon see. They play a club system that trades heavily on canapé principles.

From Saskatoon, we have **Dr. Don Campbell** and his mother, **Gladys**, who have earned their moment under the microscope through an amazing string of performances in bidding contests organized by the International Bridge Academy and the International Popular Bridge magazine. Not to mention the p.r. possibilities in a mother-son victory. They play "Two Over One, Prairie Style".

The Far Western Challenge will come from British Columbia. **Rob Crawford** (Vancouver) and **Larry Hicks** (New Westminster) finished 1-2 in the 1988 Richmond Trophy race and they have both been winning consistently in the past few years. Larry played with distinction on the team representing North America in the 1989 World Junior Championships in Nottingham. They play "Two over One Game Forcing" with some toys. Will the boys seize this opportunity to retrieve the Moose Mug for Western Canada. In a recent interview Mary Paul was heard to admit that she wished them well. "I'm tired of kissing familiar lips," she said. Yes, fellow Canadians, the traditional triple buss from Mrs. Paul is still one of the rewards for victory. An eventual photo will tell all. Root for the Digest to stay solvent long enough.

Matchpoints. Awards embrace lower contracts in the same strain (barring bonuses).

(1) South deals; Neither Vul;

West	East	Awards
♠ KQ	♠ AJ754	4♠ = 10
♥ AKQ4	♥ 972	3NT = 7
♦ A974	♦ J83	4NT = 5
♣ 964	♣ A2	4♥ = 4

It wouldn't be wildly unlikely for 3NT to go down (club lead, spades 4-2, hearts 4-2) with 4♠ a much better contract, but reaching the 5-2 spade fit with two balanced hands, all suits stopped, and plenty of high cards looks like too tall an order for most mortals. The main shot is for West to pretend that his hand is not balanced,

something with which I am not at all comfortable. Whether or not he pretends that he has a five-card heart suit will probably not matter.

Sandra	Douglas	Sandra knew that she had a balanced hand, and her 2NT rebid showed 18-19 HCP, more or less. If 3♠ is the partnership method to check for 3-card support, it seems bulky. If East has a six-card suit and slamish values, West has a good hand and can afford to cue-bid 4♥, as Sandra did. But if 3♠ could be some random five-card suit and game values, West has no idea whether to raise the spades or rebid 3NT, hoping the clubs will be covered. Still, whatever the agreements happen to be, no one could argue with the result. 10 points.
1♦	1♠	
2NT	3♠	
4♥	4♠	
Pass		

Kirr	Hobart	One strong club; one "artificial positive" 1♥; one natural (unlimited?) NT; transfer to spades; 2NT to deny interest in spades. We consider this a marginal action with such a good doubleton, but apparently this is the easiest way for the partnership to begin the search for other 4-4 fits. 7 points.
1♠*	1♥*	
1NT	2♥*	
2NT	3NT	
Pass		

Gladys	Don	1 natural diamond (too strong for a 15-17 notrump); Over 1♠, Gladys was unwilling to rebid 2NT without something better in clubs. She risked a reverse that was fine on values but very dangerous as to suit length. Over Don's forcing 3♦, Gladys could see the writing on the wall. She tried 3♠ in the hope that Don could bid 3NT. But Don could "see" 3451 opposite and he liked his hand for slam. He cue-bid 4♣, heard a return cue-bid of 4♦ (perhaps 4♣ would have been better in context), then tried RKCB for spades. Uncertain about which suit was meant to be trumps, Gladys assumed diamonds for the moment, showing two key cards, no trump queen. When Don signed off in 5♠, Gladys knew that he had been interested in her ♠Q (spades trumps) and so she saw it through with 6♦, offering Don a choice of slams should he have four diamonds. Don chose spades, but the partnership was well beyond its depth. Alas, no points.
1♦	1♠	
2♥	3♦	
3♠	4♣	
4♦	4NT	
5♥	5♠	
6♦	6♠	
Pass		

Hicks	Crawford	Here we see a different follow-up structure after a reverse. Crawford's 2♠ was forcing and Hicks' 3♠ tended to show (I believe) something like 2452 with nothing in clubs. Presumably, with 3352 he'd bid 4♣ and with 3451 he'd splinter. For Crawford, slam was still possible if Hicks had very good (longer) diamonds with less in hearts, so he made a try with 4♣. Hicks, whose hand wasn't quite the one he described, elected to sign off at 4♠. Crawford respected that and the boys had secured a superb score to kick off the contest. 10 points.
1♦	1♠	
2♥	2♠	
3♠	4♣	
4♠	Pass	

(2) South deals; E/W Vul;

West	East	A pretty good mesh here, with East's diamond honours facing length and the major suit tens pulling their weight. Should East drive to game opposite an opening bid, or should he merely invite? That game turns out to be so good is perhaps incidental here. Switch West's minors and most power auctions to game would lead to a so-so contract (3NT is worth bidding on that combination; 4♥ is not) rather than a good one.
♠AJ6	♠Q109	4♥=10
♥AQ10842	♥J73	3♥= 6
♦654	♦AK83	2NT= 4
♣7	♣Q94	3NT= 2

Sandra	Douglas	The Frasers open light, so Douglas settled for a gentle raise to 3♥. Since her hand might have been worse, Sandra closed her eyes and raised herself to game. 10 points. TOTAL=20. Can the Town of Mount Royal stars be stopped?
1♥	1NT*	
2♥	3♥	
4♥	Pass	

Kirr	Hobart	Is there something we should know about Hobart's 1♠ response?
1♥	1♠*	(Perhaps it acts like a limited, forcing notrump; not too likely since
2♥	2NT	they do play 1NT forcing with no upper limit. An old convention
Pass		card of theirs describes 1♠ as "5-card suit", forcing by inference
		since they mention that two-over-ones are not forcing). Still, if that

were the case, might Kirr not be supporting those spades. We suspect that 1♠ has been changed to some sort of waiting bid. Over 2♥ Hobart thought his choices were an invitational 3♥ and an invitational 2NT, aiming for 3NT in a layout where the black queens were carrying their weight. When Kirr felt that he had to pass 2NT, the partnership had to settle for a mediocre result. 4 points; TOTAL=11.

Gladys	Don	Don started with a forcing notrump response and when Gladys
1♥	1NT*	showed a sixth heart, he took the straightforward route to 4♥
2♥	4♥	where Hobart had gotten involved with a search for notrump. Don
Pass		was right this time, but it's easy to see how 3NT might have been
		a superior contract opposite a different West hand. 10 points.

TOTAL=10.

Hicks	Crawford	Crawford chose the same sequence as Don Campbell, reason-
1♥	1NT*	ing that Hicks was likely to hold a short suit somewhere, making
2♥	4♥	3NT an inferior spot. 10 points. TOTAL=20.
Pass		

Now if East could rebid 2NT, forcing, wouldn't that be the best way to explore for the best game. My personal preference is to play that 2NT is always forcing when one partner shows a six-card (or longer) suit. The theory is that three-of-the-suit will usually be at least as good a contract as 2NT in those cases and over 2NT, the hand with the long suit can often make a useful descriptive bid.

(3) South deals and opens 3♣; E/W Vul;

West	East	6♦ = 10	Well, it's tough to be perfect against preempts, isn't
♠ 108	♠ A6	5NT = 6	it? West really should pass over 3♣ and East should
♥ A10765	♥ 42	5♦ = 5	reopen with 3NT, not liking it much. After this it's
♦ KQ63	♦ AJ85	4♥ = 4	anyone's guess. Whether West goes quietly or finds
♣ KJ	♣ AQ1072	5♣ = 4	some way to invite (via a size-ask of some sort or a
		3♣ x = 3	transfer or a quantitative raise) he will be doing
			something reasonable. Even reaching the good 6♦

might work badly in real life with the expected bad breaks lurking.

(3♣)	Sandra	Douglas	Sandra risked a takeout double of 3♣, and now Douglas
	DBL	4NT	had to judge the best way to get his huge hand across. He
	5♣	6♣	decided to show both minors wholesale with a jump to
	Pass		4NT. Sandra misread this, however, and showed one ace
			(1/0/2/3). Doug was going to raise either minor to six and

he stayed with his plan. As it happened, this time he was raising a non-suit. In diamonds, the clubs can be used for discards. In clubs, there was no chance for more than eleven tricks. So TMR grinds to a halt with a rare disaster. TOTAL=still 20.

(3♣)	Kirr	Hobart	Kirr was very close to a direct-seat takeout double but
	Pass	3NT	he rejected it because of his club holding. Hobart tried 3NT
	Pass		since that was probably the partnership's last chance to
			reach the cheapest game contract. Kirr gave him lots of

room, which I believe is the right thing to do in the long run in jammed auctions. 6 points. TOTAL=17.

	Gladys	Don	
(3♠)	Pass	3NT	Gladys felt that her pass over 3♠ was routine. Don tried
	4NT	Pass	hoping to buy some cards. Now Gladys considered
			a 4♣ cue-bid in an attempt to reach a red-suit contract,
			but she had to deal with the possibility that Don had

already bid a good portion of her hand. She opted for the conservative (I would say middle-of-the-road) raise. 6 points. TOTAL=16.

	Hicks	Crawford	
(3♠)	4♥	4♠	Hicks went for someone's throat (generosity of spirit
	5♣	5♦	prevents me from naming the owner of that throat) and
	5♥	Pass	now Crawford felt he had too much to pass. Who could
			blame him? His 4♠ was not a cue-bid but rather RKCB for
			hearts (4NT would have been a spade cue-bid). Hicks

showed one key card. Crawford asked for the ♥Q (hoping for the jack or ten to go with it) and Hicks denied it. Unwilling to shoot out ♥AJ10xxx(x), Crawford gave it up at 5♥. The sight of his partner's hand brought him considerable pain, none of which disappeared when he realized that he had chosen unluckily over 4♥. Had he cue-bid spades (via 4NT), Hicks would have shown his diamonds and the diamond slam would have been bid, wily and also nilly. No points. TOTAL=20.

(4) North deals; Neither Vul;

West	East	3NT=10	The trick here is for West to describe his power
♠3	♠AK82	4♥= 9	and pattern without letting East believe that there
♥AK6	♥J742	5♣= 8	is a true red-suit fit. A good hand for anyone play-
♦AK8	♦Q542	5♦= 5	ing: 1♠-1♦; 3♠ as specifically this hand type
♣AQ10852	♣6	slams= 2	(with East responding 1♦, not 1♥, and West hav-
			ing a forcing "reverse" to 2♦ available).

Sandra	Douglas	
	Pass	This is my idea of good bidding. Sandra's 3♥ cast a bit of doubt
1♣	1♥	on her diamond length (her reverse was forcing and Doug's raise
2♦	3♦	showed a good hand. Note that there was no inference about a
3♥	3NT	fifth heart since the partnership bypasses diamonds freely to bid
Pass		a major over 1♣ with limited hands. Doug had a lot of duplica-
		tion in spades, indifferent diamonds, no club fit. Despite his useful
		values, he was in a strong position to bid 3NT and Sandra, with
		only her sixth club and perhaps an extra pip or two in reserve, respected her partner's
		decision. 10 points. TOTAL=30.

Kirr	Hobart	
	Pass	Let's say two martians had been sent to earth to try to learn bridge.
1♣*	2♣*	They eavesdropped one evening at the bidding site of Hobart and
2♦*	2♥*	Kirr and were treated to the depicted auction. "Very interesting,
2♠*	2NT*	Mojo, one of them gives immediate support with a singleton, which
3♣*	3♦*	seems to inaugurate a six-step one-over-one sequence to waste time
3NT	Pass	and irritate the spectators. Then the guy who got raised signs off
		in 3NT, apparently convinced that the six-step really denied that
		trump support after all. Curious, these earthlings."

Well, Harry, what DID it mean? 1 strong club. 2 "positive three-suiter" clubs. Four bids to reveal that East was 4441♣. 3♣ asked for strength and East showed 8-10 HCP (had he shown 11+, Kirr would have known of a singleton honour since they open all 11-point three-suiters with the points in the long suits). With the long spades set to declare 3NT (best), Kirr took his best shot, which worked nicely. 10 points. TOTAL=27.



Gladys	Don	Gladys started with a natural (although potentially a doubleton, with 4432 shape) 1♣. The partnership does not respond "up-the-line," following Walsh-style philosophy, so Don started with 1♥. Gladys might have dabbled with a 2♦ reverse here, but she decided to offer a splinter raise of hearts, implying four-card support. With most of his hand wasted, Don tried 3NT, and now Gladys tried to finish describing her hand with 4♣. Don couldn't be sure about the missing fourth heart so he signed off in the agreed trump suit. 9 points (this might be worth more in real life). TOTAL=25.
	Pass	
1♣	1♥	
3♣*	3NT	
4♣	4♥	
Pass		

Hicks	Crawford	This sequence led to some heavy partnership discussion, which might surprise few of us out here in readerland. 2♣ was hardly obvious and 2♦ was semi automatic. Over 3♣, Crawford was faced with a very awkward rebid. He chose to stall with 3♦, hoping Hicks had a major or a clear rebid. 4♦ was not a raise but rather RKCB for diamonds 5♣ asked for the diamond queen and 5♠ showed both the ♦Q and the ♠K. 5NT was a general grand slam try (but was this wise, considering that Crawford could not hold the ♠K for his original pass and the possibility of ruffing out the clubs would require long trumps [diamonds] and some good luck?). Crawford, who didn't have long diamonds, was afraid that he might have deceived his partner, and rather than hope for a fourth trump from Hicks, he shot out 6NT. Crawford would have preferred 3♥ to 4♦ while Hicks would have preferred 4NT (natural) to 3♦. 2 points. TOTAL=22.
	Pass	
2♣	2♦*	
3♣	3♦	
4♦	4♣	
5♣	5♠	
5NT	6NT	

(5) North deals; E/W Vul; South will overcall in hearts.

West	East	6NT(E)=10	This is a tricky little number once South overcalls in hearts. This is a real-life problem and the hearts were indeed 6-0, with the ♠A over the king and clubs 5-3. With West on play, North would have a normal-looking club lead against anything, and at 6♦, North would double for a heart lead and collect a serious penalty. The task for E/W is first to reach a notrump contract from the East side, then to reach a small slam. And why not?
♠KQJ5	♠A6	2♥x= 7	
♥K754	♥AJ3	5NT(E)= 5	
♦52	♦AKQJ73	1♥x= 4	
♣632	♣K9	3NT(W)= 3	
		6NT(W)= 2	
		5/6♦= 1	

	Sandra	Douglas	Sandra's decision to bid 2NT finished the partnership's chances here. As to whether the bid showed a true positive, Doug's decision to pass 3NT suggests that 2NT might have been with considerably less. As to whether Sandra was worth 3♠ over 3♦, it's just as well that she thought not. 3 points. TOTAL=33.
(2♥)	2NT	2♣	
	3NT	3♦	
		Pass	

	Kirr	Hobart	Trouble. Kirr's DBL showed 7+ HCP, blanced. 1♠ was intended as a relay, asking for controls. The pollster's notes provide us with little clarification here but either 2♣ showed 4 controls or it showed 5, making it an impossible bid and hence natural, a long suit. Now Hobart asked some questions (or made a natural 4NT bid) and it is written that 6♦ was intended as a slam choice between diamonds and spades (6♠ was going to be converted to 6NT). No points whatsoever. TOTAL=27.
(1♥)	Db!*	1♠*	
	2♣	1♠!	
	5♣	4NT	
	5♥	5♦	
	7♠	6♦	
		Pass	

Gladys	Don	There's something about that 4-2 spade fit that lures the sailors onto the rocks on a moonless night. The Campbell clan seemed to be well on the way to heaven when Don was able to show a balanced 23-24 HCP, Gladys contributing a forcing pass to 2♥. Now Gladys cue-bid 3♥, intending it as "forcing" Stayman. Don thought 3♥ was a transfer to spades, as it would have been without competition. He completed the transfer, then responded to ♠RKCB. Which explains the result. Sort of. No points. TOTAL, still 25.
(2♥) Pass	2♣	
3♥*	2NT	
4NT	3♣	
6♣	5♣	
	Pass	

Hicks	Crawford	Here Hicks chose to get his spades into the game at the earliest opportunity. In this situation, he was supposed to have at least a 5-card suit headed by two of the top three honours. Close enough, and a good bid in my opinion. Crawford couldn't be sure of slam at all, but in the worst case it would require 3-3 spades. He couldn't restrain himself and drove to 6NT after ♠RKCB revealed no unexpected key cards. Bingo. 10 points. TOTAL=32.
(2♥) 2♣	2♣	
5♦	4NT	
Pass	6NT	

Still a contest going into the last deal. Don't bite your nails, Mrs Moose. Or hang from any cliffs.

(6) North deals; Both Vul;

West	East	2♣=10	Will East open with a one-bid, a three-bid, or a pass? Will East get to show his spade support conveniently? Will the partnership manage to stop at a safe level, let alone find the highest scoring strain? Gee, I dunno. How about you?
♠KQ852	♠J96	3♣= 9	
♥A72	♥543	3♣= 5	
♦QJ9	♦3	1NT= 4	
♣76	♣AKQ932	4♣= 3	
		4♣= 2	
		2NT= 1	

Sandra	Douglas	If Douglas passes the East hand, we can expect the others to do likewise. Sandra had a no-problem opening in fourth seat and now Douglas had some options, one of which was a Drury 2♣. Instead he chose 3♣, showing good clubs and a spade fit, usually 4+ cards. Sandra signed off. Douglas, secure in the knowledge that he couldn't have passed a better hand initially, bid one for the road. Expensive. 3 points rather than 9. GRAND TOTAL=36. Still, that might be enough to win.
1♣	3♣	
3♣	4♣	
Pass		

Kirr	Hobart	1NT=13-15, or a good 12. For my money, West has none of the above. 2♣ (in the last set of notes I have) was a relay to 2♦. If these notes on the dreaded Pinnocchio notrump structure are still alive, 2♣ would be an "impossible" rebid, perhaps showing five spades and a maximum. That might explain Hobart's 4♣. Another possibility is that they have switched to Puppet Stayman. All possibilities, however lead to 3 points, a GRAND TOTAL of 30 for the match.
1NT	2♣	
2♣	4♣	
Pass		

Gladys	Don	The Campbells tend not to open light in the fourth seat, so Gladys toyed with throwing it in. She decided that this might not be so clever in a bidding contest, so she hazarded 1♠. Don's passed-hand jump to 3♣ showed good, long clubs and some spade support. When Gladys signed off in 3♣, Don couldn't contain himself.
1♣	3♣	
3♣	4♣	
Pass		

His breach of partnership discipline cost him severely. 3 points, a GRAND TOTAL of 28 for the match.

One pair left with a chance to dethrone the Frasers? Out in the bleachers, the peanut vendors are doing a booming business. Can Larry Hicks and Rob Crawford produce one last good result?

Hicks	Crawford	
	Pass	1♠, he tried 2♣, Drury. Hicks' rebid of 2♠ showed five spades
1♠	2♠*	and no obvious interest in game. Where the other Easts were
2♠	Pass	bullish, Crawford, who had room to make a relatively cheap try,
		emulated Mr Bear. With weak trumps and the possibility that the

defenders could take enough tricks or kill the club suit, Crawford's decision to quit at 2♠ seems sensible. There are lots of matchpoints to be won on the low side, and it's sometimes easy to forget that in the course of playing your normal aggressive game. 10 points, a GRAND TOTAL of 42. The fans go wild.

Okay, Mrs Paul, exercise those lips. The traditional triple buss will take place sometime in the coming year as the Moose Paul trophy moves West again. Thanks to all the pairs and pollsters Sandy McIlwain, Pat Boyle and John Armstrong, for their tolerance under trying conditions. Talk about pressure. ■

COPC, CNTC Finals Information

The national finals of the Canadian Open Pairs Championship will take place April 13-14 in Toronto's Sheraton Centre Hotel in conjunction with the Spring Regional. Further information is not available at press time. Qualifiers are urged to consult the ACBL Bulletin's Toronto Regional ad for hotel information. Or telephone Janice Anderson, the CBF National Co-ordinator.

The national finals of the Canadian National Team Championship will take place June 2 to 6 at the Hotel Novotel, 3 Park Home Ave., North York ON, M2N 6L3. Rooms are \$89/night, single or double occupancy and must be reserved no later than May 7. To reserve, phone (416) 733-2929 or Fax (416) 733-3403.

Book Review

This delightful book* is mainly a collection of hundreds of quotes about the game we love. Let me give you a few examples: *Learn from the mistakes of others. You won't live long enough to make them all yourself.*—Alfred Sheinwold. Or how about *My trophies from the cinema are lined up, hidden in corners, lost, objects of little value in my eyes; I have been known to leave them behind in hotel rooms. Yet the smallest bridge cup is a treasure.*—Omar Sharif. Some quotes are funny, others wistful, some are wise, others silly. But the book is hard to put down and, reading the book on a plane on the way to a tournament, we couldn't help but read out loud to our teammates another and yet another one.

Interspersed throughout the text are bridge trivia quizzes ("What is the Rabbi's Rule?") and silly lists ("All-funeral bridge team: Allan Graves, George Coffin, Bobby Nail, William Grieve, etc.") which appealed to our sense of humour and love of the less serious side of bridge.

**Classic Bridge Quotes, by Jared Johnson. 120 pages, paperback. Published by Devyn Press, Louisville KY. \$6.95 US from all bridge supply houses.* ■

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