

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE CBF | DECEMBER 2012

bridge *Canada*

Melee in Montreal

CANADIAN BRIDGE CHAMPIOSHIPS | P20

The French Connection

TRANSNATIONAL MIXED TEAMS | P28





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Many of the photographs in
this magazine are being used
compliments of Jonathan
Steinberg. Thank you Jonathan!

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NEXT MAGAZINE

SPRING 2013

Deadline

March 1, 2013

AD RATES

Full page \$ 500

Half page \$ 300

Quarter page \$ 175

Business Card \$ 100

Happy Holidays to all our readers - I hope you are planning to spend many cozy hours holding cards this holiday season.

The response to our new magazine layout has been very positive. You can look forward to more great issues in 2013. This issue features some wonderful articles and we're already building up a good collection for our April 2013 issue. We're still looking for photos.

Current rules regarding electronics are making it more and more difficult to get photos during tournament play but we'd also like photos from your local club games, unit games, and celebrations!

Don't forget we have an active Facebook Page where all web updates are posted so LIKE the page and keep in touch! **Ho ho ho ...**



Editor - Jude Goodwin

stay **connected**



[Facebook.com/Canadian.Bridge.Federation](https://www.facebook.com/Canadian.Bridge.Federation)



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CANADIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION MISSION STATEMENT: The mission of the Canadian Bridge Federation is to promote bridge within Canada and protect and advance the national interests of Canadian bridge, including the selection and support of Canadian bridge teams and players for international bridge competition.

letter

from the president

For over 25 years Janice Anderson has been the face of the CBF. As the CBF Executive Assistant, and the only CBF employee, Jan has been the engine that ably keeps the CBF operations running. At the last CBF board meeting in April, Jan informed the board of her desire to retire. To allow enough time to train her replacement and for the orderly transition of the CBF office, Jan set her retirement date to be at the conclusion of the 2014 Canadian Bridge Championships.

I am pleased to announce that Ina Demme from Toronto has accepted the challenge to replace Jan as the CBF Executive Assistant. Many of you know Ina as a player, teacher and a director. Ina is also an actuary who held management positions in sales and marketing over a 20 year career in life insurance. Ina's management, marketing and business skills will be a definite asset to the CBF. Under Jan's coaching and supervision, Ina will gradually assume some of Jan's responsibilities during the next year with the goal of Ina assuming full responsibility for the position on January 1st, 2014.



On the international front, the 41st World Team Championships (Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup and Senior Bowl) will be held in Bali, Indonesia September 16-30, 2013. Teams representing Canada will play off against Mexico for the right to represent WBF Zone 2 at the championships. Mexico will be the host of the zonal play-offs which are tentatively scheduled to take place some time in the first two weeks of July.

Also, the WBF has decided to adopt a new 20-point victory point scale. Subject to a cap, the new scale awards each IMP margin of victory a specific and equal VP award. The new WBF victory point scale is very similar in concept to the 80-point scale that we used at the Canadian Championships in the 80's and 90's. The new VP scale will be used at the Canadian Championships starting in 2013.

Finally, a reminder that the 2013 Canadian Bridge Championships will be held at the Delta Toronto East (<http://www.deltahotels.com/en/hotels/ontario/delta-toronto-east/>) May 25 - June 1. The hotel has undergone major renovations last year and I am certain that you'll enjoy the playing conditions, the free parking and the excellent hospitality. I hope to welcome many of you in Toronto.

Nader Hanna

FROM THE CBF OFFICE

Ina Demme from Toronto has accepted the challenge to replace Jan Anderson as the CBF Executive Assistant assuming full responsibility for the position on January 1st, 2014.



SUPPORT THE CBF

Are you a member of the CBF?

You can check your CBF status through My ACBL on www.acbl.org. If you did not include CBF dues with your ACBL dues you can still become a paid-up member of the CBF by completing the form at the bottom of this page.

Time to renew your ACBL

membership? Don't forget to include the CBF dues with your ACBL renewal!

C.B.F. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

(Please print clearly to ensure you receive your mailings)

NAME: _____

ACBL PLAYER NUMBER (if you have one): _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

FEE ENCLOSED: _____ \$22.00 (\$13 for Junior members) DATE: _____

MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO CBF | MAIL TO : CANADIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION 2719 JOLLY PLACE REGINA SK S4V 0X8



FUND GAMES @ SECTIONALS

Would you like to earn 1.4 times as many masterpoints (silver) at your next Sectional?

For \$1 CDN per person, your sectional can award silver points at Regional rating. Your Sectional organizers just need to decide to hold either a one-session, a two-session or two single-session Fund games at your next sectional. If holding International Fund or Charity Fund games at your Sectional, the additional \$4 per table is sent to the CBF Executive Assistant. For Junior Fund (as of January 1, 2013) or Grassroots Fund games, the money is submitted to the ACBL. The tournament Director will know how to report the game. Easy as pie. Players win extra masterpoints and at the same time help support one of the special Funds. Talk to your Sectional organizers now!!

The CBF thanks the following for holding International Fund games at their 2012 Sectionals: (as of Nov. 1, 2012)

Unit 430 (Vancouver) 2 sectionals
Unit 573 (South Sask.) 2 sectionals in Regina
Unit 391 (Northern Alberta) 2 sectionals in Edmonton
Unit 192(Ottawa) 3 sectionals. 1 in Ottawa, 1 in Kingston & 1 in Arnprior
Unit 575 (North Sask.) 2 sectionals. 1 in Saskatoon & 1 in Meota
Unit 228 (Thunder Bay) 1 sectional
Unit 166 (Toronto) 1 sectional
Unit 246 (Brampton) 1 sectional

The CBF thanks the following for holding Charity Fund games at their 2012 Sectionals: (as of Nov. 1, 2012)

Unit 431 (Victoria) 2 sectionals in Victoria
Unit 192 (Eastern Ont. & Outaouais) 1 sectional in Smiths Falls

CANADIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION

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A MEMORIAL FUND TO HELP SUBSIDIZE YOUTH CATEGORY CANADIAN PLAYERS



Erin Berry Memorial Fund

This fund was established in 2001 as a trust fund set up by Erin Berry's father, Larry Berry. The Trust Account is meant to help Juniors 19 or younger with expenses incurred to attend bridge events. The Memorial Fund will be used to help subsidize Youth-Category Canadian players, who are paid-up members of the CBF, for bridge-related activities. In no case will any individual receive more than 75% subsidy to the bridge activity.

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS MAY 15.

To apply for an award from the Erin Berry Youth Memorial Fund, an application for funding must be submitted to the CBF executive Assistant by May 15th. An application must include the following:

- Candidate's name, address and ACBL number.
- Candidate's birth date and a copy of their birth certificate.

- Description of the event for which they wish subsidy for with particulars on dates, cost, etc.
- Budget of expenses for each event.

The types of events that might be covered for funding are:

- Bridge Camps
- Youth NABC
- Youth Championships
- World Scholar Games
- Bridge training sessions
- Canadian Junior Trials
- World Youth Team Championship
- World Schools Team Championship
- Other bridge-related activities

Only after the above are granted will the Trustees take a look at tournaments. Funding will not be given for cash prize events nor for events in which an individual is receiving pay or compensation making it a professional arrangement.

Please submit all applications for funding to the CBF Office.

THANK YOU GEORGE

The CBF would like to thank George Retek for his support of the CBF during his 30+ years on the ACBL Board of Directors representing ACBL District 1. George was instrumental in helping the CBF get recognized by the Canadian Olympic Committee (COC) and has represented the CBF at COC meetings on more than one occasion. George served on the CBF International Committee and the CBF Investment Committee.

Thank you George – we wish you all the best.





CBF STAC INFO

SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT AT CLUBS

The CBF Canada-Wide STAC is run through the ACBL headquarters. Here are instructions on how to register your club for a STAC Game and receive your hands.

SET UP YOUR MY ACBL ACCOUNT

All clubs must register through the ACBL Website.

The first thing you have to do is set up a "MyACBL" login. If you already have one then you are set to proceed with registering. To set up your MyACBL Login:

- Go to the ACBL website www.acbl.org
- On the left hand side of page click on MyACBL
- A new page will come up where you type in your ACBL player number and your email address (you must type this twice). You will be emailed a temporary password and then you can log in and set up your own password.

You need to set this up before you can register. As a club manager you should do this as a lot of information for club managers is available once you have signed up through MyACBL.

REGISTER YOUR CLUB FOR THE STAC

- Go to the ACBL Website www.acbl.org
- Click on Tournaments. A list comes up
- Click on the "GO" button after the word STACs. You get a calendar listing.
- Scroll down to: 02/18/13 02/24/13 Canada Wide STAC
- Once you find this follow across the page and click on the LINK at the far right side.
- A page about the STAC comes up. Scroll down to "Registration form" You will be asked to log in to MYACBL. You will then be able to register your club for the STAC.

OBTAIN YOUR HAND RECORDS

- Log in www.acbl.org
- Select Tournaments
- Select Sectional Tournaments at Clubs
- Scroll down the calendar to Canada Wide STAC – click on LINK at the far right hand side of page (be sure you are on the Canada Wide STAC line)
- Go down list of links that comes up and click on HAND RECORDS
- A screen will come up where you must log in to MyACBL
- Type in your ACBL player number and your password. Click SUBMIT

You will now have a page come up that will list your hand records. Check what you want and then at the bottom of the page click on DOWNLOAD.

A new page will come up with instructions on how to DOWNLOAD your game hand records.



CBF CHARITABLE FOUNDATION GRANTS

The CBFCF meets once a year -- usually in May -- to select the charities that will receive funding. Charities are usually designated one year in advance of receiving the funding. Actual dollar amounts of the donations are assigned in the year they are given out. To find out how you can apply for a donation from the CBFCF, visit our website at www.cbf.ca and choose CBF Charity from the menu at left.

National Donations \$ 4000

Alzheimer Society of Canada \$ 4,000

Chairman Donations \$ 2000

Alzheimer Society of Manitoba \$ 300
Creative Retirement Manitoba \$ 300
Lighthouse Mission \$ 220
Manitoba Chamber Orchestra \$ 300
Morden Friendship Activity Centre -
Snow Angels \$ 270
Prairie Theatre Exchange \$ 400
Siloam Mission \$ 210

Zone One Donations \$ 2000

Alzheimer Society of Nova Scotia
Halifax Duck Derby \$ 500
Walk for Memories \$ 500
Cochester Stroke Club \$ 400
MS Society of Nova Scotia \$ 200
Western Memorial Hospital Foundation \$ 400

Zone Two Donations \$ 2000

L'amitié n'a pas d'âge \$ 1,000
Seniors Association of Kingston Region \$ 1,000

Zone Three Donations \$ 1600

Community & Home Assistance to Senior \$ 400
North York Seniors Centre \$ 500
Ontario Gerontology Association \$ 300
Peel Senior Link \$ 400

Zone Four Donations \$ 2000

Alzheimer Society of North Bay \$ 300
Alzheimer Society of Sudbury \$ 400
Alzheimer Society of Thunder Bay \$ 500
Good Neighbours Active Living Centre \$ 300
Gwen Secter Creative Living Centre \$ 500

Zone Five Donations \$ 2000

Alzheimer Society of Calgary \$ 1000
Saskatoon Council on Ageing \$ 1000

Zone Six Donations \$ 2000

Lower Mainland Grief Recovery Society \$ 500
Mustard Seed Food Bank \$ 400
Nanaimo Community Hospice Society \$ 300
North Shore Hospice Society \$ 400
Penticton & District Hospice Society \$ 400

Total Grants \$17,600



Monday, January 21

1-Bracketed KO: Rounds 1.....	4:00
Stratified Charity Open Pairs.....	4:00
Stratified Charity 199er Pairs.....	4:00

Tuesday, January 22

1-Bracketed KO: Rounds 2 & 3.....	10:00 & 4:00
2-Bracketed KO: Rounds 1 & 2.....	10:00 & 4:00
Gold Rush StratiFlighted Pairs.....	10:00 & 4:00
Morning Side Game Series: 1 st of 5.....	10:00
NEWCOMER PAIRS (0-5 MP's) FREE	10:00
Stratified Open Swiss Teams.....	4:00
Afternoon Side Game Series: 1 st of 5.....	4:00

Wednesday, January 23

2-Bracketed KO: Rounds 3 & 4.....	10:00 & 4:00
3-Bracketed KO: Rounds 1 & 2.....	10:00 & 4:00
Gold Rush StratiFlighted Pairs.....	10:00 & 4:00
Morning Side Game Series: 2 nd of 5.....	10:00
NEWCOMER PAIRS (0-5 MP's) FREE	4:00
Stratified Swiss Teams.....	4:00
Afternoon Side Game Series: 2 nd of 5.....	4:00

Thursday, January 24

3-Bracketed KO: Rounds 3 & 4.....	10:00 & 4:00
4-Bracketed KO: Rounds 1 & 2.....	10:00 & 4:00
Gold Rush StratiFlighted Pairs.....	10:00 & 4:00
Morning Side Game Series: 3 rd of 5.....	10:00
NEWCOMER PAIRS (0-5 MP's) FREE	10:00
Stratified Swiss Teams.....	4:00
Afternoon Side Game Series: 3 rd of 5.....	4:00

Friday, January 25

4-Bracketed KO: Rounds 3 & 4.....	10:00 & 4:00
5-Bracketed KO: Rounds 1 & 2.....	10:00 & 4:00
Gold Rush StratiFlighted Pairs.....	10:00 & 4:00
Morning Side Game Series: 4 th of 5.....	10:00
NEWCOMER PAIRS (0-5 MP's) FREE	4:00
Stratified Swiss Teams.....	4:00
Afternoon Side Game Series: 4 th of 5.....	4:00

Saturday, January 26

5-Bracketed KO: Rounds 3 & 4.....	10:00 & 4:00
Emily Quennell Bracketed Compact KO.....	10:00 & 4:00
StratiFlighted Open Pairs.....	10:00 & 4:00
Morning Side Game Series: 5 th of 5.....	10:00
NEWCOMER PAIRS (0-5 MP's) FREE	10:00
Stratified Swiss Teams.....	4:00
Afternoon Side Game Series: 5 th of 5.....	4:00

Sunday, January 27

StratiFlighted Swiss Teams.....	10:00 & TBA
A SHORT LUNCH BREAK WILL BE PROVIDED	
Stratified 199er Swiss Teams.....	10:00
Stratified 199er Swiss Teams.....	2:30
Fast Pairs.....	10:00am to 12:30 & 1:30 to 4:00



CALGARY

CBF INTERNATIONAL FUND

REGIONAL

JAN 21-27, 2013

Marlborough Park
Community Centre
6021 Madigan Drive NE
Calgary AB

TOURNAMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Daily Knockouts
- Daily 2-Session Gold Rush Pairs
- Daily Single-Session Side Game Series
- Daily FREE Supervised Newcomer Games
- FREE Reception for 199ers, Sponsors and Goodwill Members 2:00 - 3:30 pm, Tuesday and Saturday

TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

CO-CHAIR | Frank Ayer | frank.ayer@shaw.ca | 403 283 3716
CO-CHAIR | Delores Hedley | dollyd@telus.net | 403 254 4995

Tournament sponsored by the Canadian Bridge Federation
and Calgary Unit 390 of the ACBL

PREFERRED ACCOMMODATION

Free transportation between hotels and playing site

Radisson Hotel Calgary Airport | 1 800 661 1678 | \$115
Coast Plaza Hotel | 1 800 661 1464 | \$119
Pointe Inn | 403 291 4681 | \$71.10



ERIN BERRY

ROOKIE MASTER GAME

Prior to winning the 2012 Erin Berry game, **Bette Gallander and Karen Wood** had played the occasional four hands as partners while substituting at a social bridge game several years ago in Victoria, BC.

This fall, while at the same bridge lesson on Monday, they made a decision to play on Wednesday night, took about 15 minutes right before the game to discuss a card, and sat down to have fun at the Erin Berry game. Bette plays duplicate on an occasional basis while Karen has been playing on a regular basis for nearly three years. Both players agree that bridge continues to be a fascinating game and want to thank their various teachers, mentors and partners as well as the Canadian Bridge Federation for sponsoring this game.

The 2012 Erin Berry RM game was held across Canada on October 24.

442 pairs took part in 19 clubs. The largest game was held at the Kingston DBC – 29 tables. Moncton DBC had the second highest turnout with 17.5 tables.

The CBF would like to thank Peter Morse, CBF Vice-President and Zone VI CBF director, for doing this year's analysis. Complete results may be found on the CBF website.

NATIONAL WINNERS (442 PAIRS)

- | | |
|---|--------|
| 1. Karen Wood & Bette Gallander
Capital City BC | 74.61% |
| 2. John Weston & Eileen Watson
Aurora BC | 71.03% |
| 3. Mary Ellen Rowland & Gail McIntyre
Belleville DBC | 67.82% |
| 4. Ken Gabora & Richard Anderson
Regina DBC | 67.56% |
| 5. Candice Jones & Wayne Fahie
Saskatoon DBC | 66.72% |

ZONE ONE WINNERS: (141 PAIRS)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------|
| 1. Ed Kaine & L. Stevens
Fundy DBC | 65.43% |
|---------------------------------------|--------|

ZONE TWO WINNERS: (58 PAIRS)

- | | |
|---|--------|
| 1. Maureen Day & Eric Chase
Kingston DBC | 62.50% |
|---|--------|

ZONE THREE WINNERS: (61 PAIRS)

- | | |
|---|--------|
| 1. John Weston & Eileen Watson
Aurora BC | 71.03% |
|---|--------|

ZONE FOUR WINNERS: (13 PAIRS)

- | | |
|---|--------|
| 1. Allan Turnock & Alice Faveri
Tuxedo Bridge Studio | 65.00% |
|---|--------|

ZONE FIVE WINNERS: (119 PAIRS)

- | | |
|--|--------|
| 1. Ken Gabora & Richard Anderson
Regina DBC | 67.56% |
|--|--------|

ZONE SIX WINNERS: (50 PAIRS)

- | | |
|--|--------|
| 1. Karen Wood & Bette Gallander
Capital City BC | 74.61% |
|--|--------|



2013 CANADIAN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS



DELTA TORONTO EAST 1 416 299 1500

Be sure to mention the Bridge Tournament when booking your room. Rate: \$115 + Tax

CNTC-A | Sat, May 25 - Sat, June 1, 2013

Pre-registration required (details bottom left).

CNTC-B (<2500mpts) | Sun, May 26 - Thur, May 30, 2013

Pre-registration required (details bottom left).

CNTC-C (<1000mpts) | Wed, May 29 - Fri, May 31, 2013

Pre-registration required (details bottom left).

CWTC | Sun, May 26 - Fri, May 31, 2013

Pre-registration required (details bottom left).

CSTC | Wed, May 29 - Sat, June 1, 2013

- All team members must be born in 1953 or earlier
- All team members must be paid-up CBF members
- Pre-registration is not required. Purchase entry on site prior to game time. Guaranteed two days of play.

CIPC | Thu, May 30, 2013

No pre-qualification required and no pre-registration. Participants must be paid-up CBF members.

COPC | Fri, May 31 and Sat, June 1, 2013

- Club qualification required and must be paid-up members of the CBF
- Pre-registration not required
- Two-session one day qualifying followed by two-session final

SWISS TEAMS | Sat, June 1, 2013

- Two-session Regionally-rated Swiss teams
- Open to all. No pre-registration, no pre-qualification & CBF membership is not required

CNTC-A, CNTC-B, CNTC-C & CWTC PRE-REGISTRATION DETAILS

Pre-register with the CBF Office by APRIL 6, 2013. Registration forms also online at cbf.ca. Registration must include:

- Team Captain's name & ACBL number
- Captain's postal address, phone number and email
- Name and ACBL # for all team members
- Round robin entry fee (non-refundable)
CNTC-A: \$924 CNTC-B: \$540
CNTC-C: \$300 CWTC: \$744 **

All team members must be paid-up members of the CBF. For CNTC-A, CNTC-B & CNTC-C, all team members must have club round qualification earned in a club game or purchased from the CBF.

No Zone Finals • Form your teams • Enter by April 6, 2013

*** If 6 or fewer teams enter the CWTC National Final the Round Robin entry fee will be increased as a double Round Robin will be held over 4 days*



SYLVIA CALEY

PRINCIPLES OF PLAY



Second in a series of articles on Principles of Play
written by Sylvia Caley

Expanding Your Convention Card Part 2

In the last article we covered responses to opening 1NT and opening 2NT. Now let us move up into the realm of opening 3NT. If you like you can play that an opening 3NT shows 25-27 HCPs but this has a relatively low frequency. Those who choose to play Namyats (Opening 4♣ = a good 4♥ bid and an opening 4♦ = a good 4♠ bid), will use 3NT to show a minor suit preempt. Another possibility is to play what Boris Baran plays, which is that 3NT shows 8 to 8 ½ tricks in a major suit.

If that is your agreement you would open 3NT with:

♠ x
♥ A K Q x x x x
♦ x x
♣ x x

MAJOR SUIT OPENINGS

For opening 1 of a Major you might consider the following options.

Option 1: Standard American or a Forcing Club system with 5 card Majors (1NT forcing is optional)

Option 2: Standard American with 5 card Spades and 4 card Hearts (A workable system for good declarers)

If you play Option 2, all of the following hands would be opened 1♥:

♠ x	♥ A K Q x	♦ A x x x	♣ K x x x
♠ x x	♥ A K 10 x	♦ A J 10 x x	♣ x x
♠ A x	♥ A K Q x	♦ x x x	♣ x x x x

Option 3: Standard American or a Forcing Club system with 4 card Majors (Famous players who like 4 card Majors include Bob Hamman, Karen Allison and Sabine Auken)

Option 4: 2/1 Game Forcing. This is very popular and is frequently played with invitational jumps to the 3 level. If you play 3 level jumps to be invitational and partner opens 1♠ you would bid 3♣ with

♠ x
♥ K x x
♦ x x x
♣ A Q J x x x

and you would bid 3♥ with

♠ x
♥ A Q 10 x x x x
♦ K Q
♣ x x x

Option 5: 2/1 except for same suit rebid by responder. This is my personal favorite and it goes nicely with Old Fashion Strong Jump Shifts. If you play Option 5 the only 2/1 auctions that are not game forcing are the auctions in which responder bids a suit at the 2 level and then rebids the same suit at the 3 level over any minimum rebid by the opener. Example auctions of this are:

1♠ 2♣	1♠ 2♦	1♠ 2♥
2♠ 3♣	2♥ 3♦	2NT 3♥

Be sure to define your responses to opening 1 of a major. I normally play that 2NT by responder shows a forcing raise. You may prefer to play that 2NT is natural and forcing. That's fine as long as your partner agrees. Responding 3NT should also have some definition. I've seen 1M-P-3NT played 3 ways:

- 1) A forcing major raise (for those who play 2NT natural)
- 2) A flat game hand with 3 card support and a choice of contracts (3NT or 4 of the Major). Opener may also cue bid looking for slam.
- 3) A preemptive raise to 4 of the Major with one defensive trick. This is what I play with Boris and many of my other partners. Over 1♠ we would bid 3NT with

♠ x x x x x
♥ x
♦ A x x x
♣ x x x

Also be sure to define your passed hand bids. Many players play some form of Drury by a passed hand. Drury or Reverse Drury is useful but only if you and your partner both remember!

MINORS

These days many players play Inverted Minors. If you play this then 1m-P-2m is forcing and covers both limit raise and forcing raise hands. The limit hand simply passes partner's minimum rebid or makes a minimum rebid of their own. Partners need to agree if a 2NT rebid by opener can be passed. The forcing hand simply makes another forward going bid.

If you do not play inverted minors you should choose between the following options:

Option 1: 1m-P-3m Forcing Raise

If you play this you also want to play that something shows a limit raise.

Goren played the following auctions as limit

1♣ 1♦	1♣ 1♦	1♦ 2♣	1♦ 2♣
1any 3♣	2♣ 3♣	2♦ 3♦	2NT 3♦

Option 2: 1m-P-3m Limit Raise

If you play this you need something to show a forcing raise. Now the following auctions become forcing raises

1♣ 1♦	1♣ 1♦	1♦ 2♣	1♦ 2♣
1any 3♣	2♣ 3♣	2♦ 3♦	2NT 3♦

If it goes against your grain to play that these auctions are forcing you may want to adopt "Jump in the other minor is fit and forcing". That would mean that 1♣ - 2♦ and 1♦ - 3♣ show a forcing raise.

Moving right along you will want to discuss the range of 1m-P-2NT. The most popular range for this is invitational 10+ to 12-. In my partnerships with Rhoda Habert and Boris Baran we have always played that 2NT is forcing. The advantage to this is that it can be one of two point ranges either 13-15 or 18-19. The hand with the larger range simply bids again over partner's minimum bid. If you agree to play this you will occasionally have to temporize by bidding a 3 card major over partner's opening 1 of minor. For example if partner opens 1♦ we would bid 1♥ with:

♠ Q J x
♥ A J x
♦ K x x
♣ x x x x

You will also want to discuss the meaning of jumps by a passed hand. In most of my partnerships we play that jumps are fit-showing and invitational. For example in response to 1♣ as a passed hand we would bid 2♥ with:

♠ x
♥ A Q J x x
♦ x x x
♣ Q J x x

Fit jumps normally show 4 or more of partner's suit and 5 or more of the suit bid.

Well there is lots to discuss. Martin's mother Marg would have said, "Shall we have a cup of tea?" Boris Baran would say, "Meet me at The Second Cup." Choose your ground but do put some time into your convention card. As my Dad would say, "It'll pay off in Spades!" Best of luck!



BY MIKE YUEN

UP ANTENNA

Some players just have the knack of knowing the lay of the land when they play bridge.

Robert Lebi, Toronto ON and Dan Jacob, Vancouver BC. are just a handful of players that have that gift. Here's a hand from the Life Master Open Pairs Final evening session in the Fall 2012 NABC.

Board 4. Dealer West. Both vulnerable.

Robert (East) held:

♠ 9 7 ♥ A K Q 10 8 4 ♦ A Q ♣ A 7 5

West	North	East	South
Pass	3♠	4♥	All pass

DUMMY

♠ K 8 5 3

♥ 6 3 2

♦ 9 8 6 5 3

♣ J

LEBI

♠ 9 7

♥ A K Q 10 8 4

♦ A Q

♣ A 7 5

The lead was the ♣K

This was Robert's line of play:

The King of clubs was led, it went Jack, six won by the Ace. At trick 2, he trumped the five of clubs in dummy with the six of hearts, all following. Then Robert ran five rounds of trump. After seven tricks, these were the remaining cards.

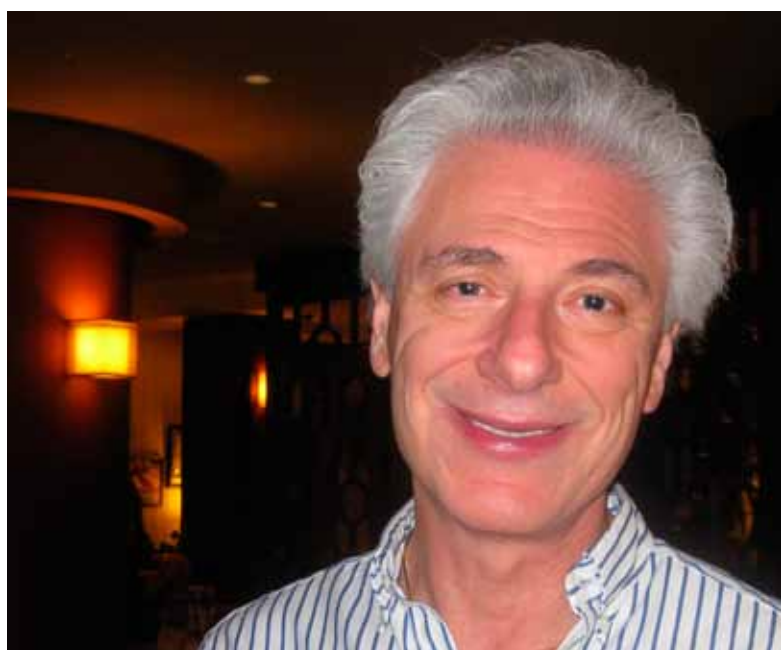
North			
♠	A Q J 10		
♥	—		
♦	7 4		
♣	—		
West		East	
♠	K 8 5	♠	9 7
♥	—	♥	4
♦	9 8 6	♦	A Q
♣	—	♣	7
South			
♠	—		
♥	—		
♦	K J		
♣	Q 10 9 8		

On the sixth and final trump, there was no escape for South - he was trump squeezed. If he discarded another Diamond, Robert would have played the Ace and dropped the King so South had to discard a club..

At Trick 8, Robert threw South in with a club and waited for his two diamond tricks! Ten tricks made for a great score.

The Full Deal. Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

North			
♠	A Q J 10 6 4 2		
♥	J 7		
♦	7 4		
♣	6 3		
West		East	
♠	K 8 5 3	♠	9 7
♥	6 3 2	♥	A K Q 10 8 4
♦	9 8 6 5 3	♦	A Q
♣	J	♣	A 7 5
South			
♠	—		
♥	9 5		
♦	K J 10 2		
♣	K Q 10 9 8 4 2		



DAN JACOB | ROBERT LEBI

A few boards later it was Dan's turn to shine. Board 11. Dealer South. None vulnerable.

Dan (West) : ♠ K J 7 4 ♥ K 7 5 3 ♦ K J ♣ K 8 7

This was the auction :

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	2♦
dbl	pass	3♦	pass
3♥	pass	4♥	All pass

The lead was the ♦ 9

This was the dummy :

West	East
♠ K J 7 4	♠ A 10 8
♥ K 7 5 3	♥ A Q 2
♦ K J	♦ 8 6 4 3
♣ K 8 7	♣ Q J 2

The play went nine, three, Ace and Jack. The seven of diamonds came back, King, North ruffing with the four of hearts and four. At trick 4 North played the five of clubs, Jack, three and seven. Dan drew three rounds of trumps ending in hand. He then played the Jack of spades, covered by the Queen, won with the Ace and three. Next came the Queen of clubs, four, eight and North ducked.

At Trick 9, Dan played the six of diamonds from dummy, ten, and ruffed with the last trump. North was caught in an interesting non-material squeeze position (North did not have to discard a winner). He discarded a club.

With 4 tricks to play, these were the remaining cards.

	North	
	♠ 9 5 2	
	♥ -	
	♦ -	
	♣ A	
West		East
♠ K 7 4		♠ 10 8
♥ -		♥ -
♦ -		♦ 8
♣ K		♣ 2
	South	
	♠ 6	
	♥ -	
	♦ Q 5	
	♣ 10	

Dan now led the spade four, and finessed the eight when North withheld the nine. He cashed the ten of spades, then exited with a club to end-play North for a stepping stone to his good King of spades.



MIKE YUEN

The full deal.

	North	
	♠ Q 9 5 2	
	♥ J 9 8 4	
	♦ 9	
	♣ A 9 6 5	
West		East
♠ K J 7 4		♠ A 10 8
♥ K 7 5 3		♥ A Q 2
♦ K J		♦ 8 6 4 3
♣ K 8 7		♣ Q J 2
	South	
	♠ 6 3	
	♥ 10 6	
	♦ A Q 10 7 5 2	
	♣ 10 4 3	

Well done!
These guys can play.

2012 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

In mid-August the World Bridge Games (formerly called the Olympiad) as part of the World Mind Games, were held in Lille, France. In the Open division, 60 teams were divided into 4 groups, with the top 4 teams in each group qualifying for the round of 16 start of the knockout phase. Each group had one top "seeded" team – USA, Netherlands, Italy, and Monaco. The remainder of the groups were chosen using approximate rankings of countries with the goal of keeping the relative strength of each group the same.

Each team would play the other 13 teams in their group in 16-board matches (plus one Bye), 3 matches per day. The playing conditions were outstanding. A spacious playing area with excellent lighting featured lots of room between tables. The tables, screens, trays and cards were all like new. Each table received their own set of 16 boards; no caddies were needed. Security was well thought out – random cell phone checks were conducted, caddies accompanied players to the restrooms, and there were even subtle strategies – with the screens setup, a player could typically have a relatively unobstructed view of one player at the next table; however, that player in view was always the same geographical direction as you. If anyone was trying to sneak a peek at a hand, they would only see the hand that they themselves would hold; all Norths were not facing the same end of the room. There were numerous competent directors available. In addition to 5 matches each round being broadcast on the Internet, the Bridgemes in use meant those following online were able to see the contract, lead, result, and IMPs scored in each match in real time.

BY DANNY MILES

Read Danny's excellent article in its entirety online at www.cbf.ca.



NON-PLAYING CAPTAINS LIST

In 2008 the CBF established a list of potential non-playing captains for our open, women's and senior teams competing in the various World Championships. The purpose of the NPC list is to assist teams in selecting their NPC in a timely fashion, in order to maximize the team's preparation time for the championships. The list, which is updated annually, includes CBF members in good standing who have adequate international experience, either as a player or as a NPC, who have expressed interest in performing the NPC role, and have been approved by the CBF Board of Directors. All people on the NPC list MUST be paid-up members of the CBF and beginning in 2013 they will have had to have been continuous members of the CBF since January 1 of the previous year (for 2013 this means since January 1, 2012).

If you are interested in being an approved NPC, please send your name, contact information and a brief description of your international experience, to Janice Anderson at jan@cbf.ca. The deadline for submitting an expression of interest is January 1, 2013.

BY NEIL KIMELMAN



“The 2012 Canadian Bridge Championship was held in beautiful Montreal this past spring.”

The 2012 Canadian Bridge Championship was held in beautiful Montreal this past spring to determine our national champions, and more importantly, to identify the teams that would represent Canada at the World Championships in Lille, France.

The hospitality of the tournament was great. This was due largely to one person, Jean Castonguay, who worked tirelessly with few helpers. The free Starbucks coffee all week was for me a true gift! I will not comment on the weather or the construction. But I will report on the premiere event, the CNTC A's.

Eighteen teams participated this year. Unfortunately there were no teams west of Regina participating in the CNTC A's. There were three reasons that contributed to this reality:

- 1** Overlap with the Vancouver Regional
- 2** Untimely death of a player that caused one team to withdraw, and
- 3** The trend where some of the best players choose to compete in the Seniors event.

The consensus was that the six favourites could be ranked in roughly:

MELEE IN MONTREAL

1. RAYNER (defending champs - Rayner, John; Roche, Michael; Klimowicz, Piotr; Hanna, Nader; Turner, David; Hughes, Roy

2. L'ECUYER, Nicolas; Demuy, Vincent; Amoils, Leslie; Wolpert, Darren; Miles, Daniel; Korbel, Daniel

3. CANNELL, Drew; Lavee, Daniel; Thurston, Paul; Smith, Jeff; Daigneault, Pierre; Fergani, Kamel

4. TODD, Bob; Fisher, Doug; Kimelman, Neil; Pearsons, Don; Steinberg, Jonathan; Sabourin, David

5. JANICKI, Paul; Kleinplatz, Morrie; Kuz, Bob; Senensky, Barry; Frukacz, Waldemar; Cooper, Stephen

6. TEAM MICHEL CARRIÈRE; Carrière, Ronald; Pollack, Frederic; Crevier, Larry; Fourcaudot, Marc-Andre; Davidson, Ranald; Gamble, Michael

After Day 1 Only Carrière and Cannell were in the top 8. L'Ecuyer was 11th, Rayner 14th and Todd 16th. The start of Day 2 had the latter two teams playing, which turned into a 24-6 win for Todd, dropping the former champs all the way back to 17th. The following hand contributed greatly to this outcome.

How do you play 6♥ on the ♦K lead? (Solution later in the article)

Declarer

♠ K Q 9 6 4 2
♥ A J 10 8 6
♦ 8
♣ A

Dummy

♠ A 7
♥ K 9 5 3
♦ A 9 3
♣ 9 7 4 3

After Day 2 Zaluski continued their fine play and were the leaders followed closely by L'Ecuyer, Sinno, Cannell, Martineau and Krnjevic. L'Ecuyer got the better of the Todd team with a 24-6 win. A 22-IMP swing was generated when both declarers had to guess whether RHO had the ♠Q or the ♠A. L'Ecuyer guessed it while his counterpart didn't. Here is a very constructive hand on how to maintain trump control that earned the L'Ecuyer team another 7 IMPs when the Todd declarer didn't get it right:

Contract 4♠ lead: ♥2.

Declarer

♠ K 9 8 5 2
♥ 7
♦ Q 9 8 6 5
♣ K 9

Dummy

♠ A Q 3
♥ A 9 8
♦ 10 4 3 2
♣ A 10 5

MELEE IN MONTREAL

by Neil Kimelman

The key on the hand is to attack diamonds immediately. The actual declarer drew three rounds of trumps and played on diamonds. The opponents won the first diamond to play a 3rd heart, reducing declarer to one trump. When the diamonds split 3-1 offside, declarer had to give the opponents the lead two more times. The 1st exhausted his trump, and the last time was to cash the long heart. North, L'Ecuyer held:

♠ 7 6 ♥ 10 6 5 4 2 ♦ A J 7 ♣ Q 4 3.

DAY 3

On Day 3 Cannell moved to the top of the leader board, comfortably ahead of Carrière and Zaluski. Todd had snuck up to 8th place, well ahead of Martineau in 9th. Rayner was 26 VPs behind the final playoff spot and had a lot of work to do on the last day in order to qualify.

DAY 4

And Rayner did just that by scoring 19 (vs Carrière), 21 (vs Sinno) and 25 vs. Krnjevic!! Krnjevic won only 13, 3 and 1 victory points on the last day and ended up just out of the 'money' 1 VP behind Martineau who was 9th.

The final round robin standings:

1)	Cannell	308
2)	Carrière	304
3)	L'Ecuyer	295
4)	Janicki	287
5)	Sinno	284
6)	Zaluski	283
7)	Todd	279
8)	Rayner	266

Despite getting blitzed in the first match of the round robin by Brough and losing the last match to the other mostly Winnipeg team Todd, Janicki played steadily all week and at the end of Day 4 qualified for the knockout phase. Before we get the knockout phase here is the solution to 6♥:

Declarer

♠ K Q 9 6 4 2
♥ A J 10 8 6
♦ 8
♣ A

Dummy

♠ A 7
♥ K 9 5 3
♦ A 9 3
♣ 9 7 4 3

You can only go down if you lose two heart tricks. You can make it on any 3-1 heart break unless spades are 5-0. Therefore start by playing a club to your ace and a spade to the ace (guarding against a spade void on your left. If this gets ruffed play on trumps, playing the hand that had short spades to have the long hearts. Assuming the ♠A lives, play a 2nd spade. If it gets ruffed by East hope that hearts were no worse than 3-1. If it gets ruffed in front of you, play West not to have two singletons, and cash the ♥K first. The full deal:

♠ K Q 9 6 4 2	♠ 10 8 5 3
♥ A J 10 8 6	♥ void
♦ 8	♦ K Q 5 4
♣ A	♣ Q J 10 8 2
♠ J	♠ A 7
♥ Q 5 4 2	♥ K 9 5 3
♦ J 10 7 6 2	♦ A 9 3
♣ K 6 5	♣ 9 7 4 3

The actual Rayner team declarer cashed the ♥A at trick two and could no longer make it. Danny Miles of the victorious team recalls his fate on this deal:

'After my partner opened 1♠ and RHO overcalled unusual 2NT for the minors, I passed, planning on doubling later which Daniel Korbel and I play to show an invitational "negative double" hand. LHO jumped to 5♦ and while the tray was on the other side of the screen, I thought wouldn't it be cool if partner, red vs white without hearing a peep out of me, bids at the 5 level? Sure enough, the tray came back with 5♥ from partner, pass from RHO.

Well, I did not want to bid 6♦ and risk having a "slow" 6♥ come back, so I just bid 7♥. Unlucky, RHO's 2NT bid was on 4-0-5-4 and partner (6-5-1-1 missing the spade jack) could not draw trumps and ruff a spade in dummy. Another outstanding contract down the tubes, lose 13 vs -1430 at the other table.'

THE QUARTER FINALS

The Quarter – Final selection, or as I like to call it, “How we (Todd) always end up playing, and losing to Korbel and Wolpert in the 1st round”, had a slightly different ending. Cannell chose Sinno, Carrière chose Todd, L’Ecuyer took Zaluski and that left Janicki with the hot and cold Rayner team.

Cannell	44	54	38		
Sinno	35	27	16		Withdrew
Carrière	27	19	38	30	114
Todd	49	28	24	58	159
L’Ecuyer	54	59	69		
Zaluski	50	28	10		Withdrew
Janicki	56	16	46	49	167
Rayner	45	31	29	23	128

The L’Ecuyer team had a relatively easy time with Zaluski. Here is an interesting deal from the quarter-finals. With neither vul, North – South held:

Declarer	Dummy
♠ K Q 10 6 4 3	♠ -
♥ A 10	♥ K J 9 8 7
♦ A 2	♦ K 3
♣ Q 8 2	♣ A K 10 6 5 4

The bidding went:

West	North	East	South
	Korbel		Miles
-	-	-	1♣
pass	1♠	pass	2♥
pass	3♣	pass	3♦
pass	4NT	pass	5NT
pass	7♣	All pass	

Miles won the opening low diamond lead in dummy and played a low spade. This turned out to be necessary for a reason we’ll see later. He then drew just one round of trump with the Ace (a trump to the queen turns out to be better), LHO following with the ♣9. Then a heart toward the Ace. On this trick, LHO played ... the ♦8!!



NEIL KIMELMAN

That’s right, west was 0-1 in the round suits. The hand was now an open book. Miles ran the ♥10, ruffed a spade, cashed the ♦K, cashed the ♥K, ruffed a heart, and in the ending below, played a spade.

♠ K Q 10	♠ -
♥ -	♥ Q 6
♦ -	♦ -
♣ Q	♣ J 7
Immaterial	
♠ -	
♥ J	
♦ -	
♣ K 10 6	

Regardless of east’s play, you succeed as Miles did, by ruffing (or over-ruffing), then ruffing your last heart with dummy’s ♣Q, and claim via a trump coup at trick 12.

THE SEMI-FINALS

Todd was the only bottom four finishing team to advance to the semis, and was selected by the Cannell team. The Semi-final scores by quarter:

Cannell	39	24	50	36	149
Todd	23	64	35	28	150
L'Ecuyer	42	42	49		
Janicki	19	15	11		Withdrew

One match was as close as can be, while the other was the opposite. As can be seen Todd used a big 2nd quarter to enable them to get to the CNTC A final for the first time. One of the big pickups occurred when I held ♠A876 ♥J5 ♦AQ432 ♣Q8. The auction started:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
2♦ ¹	pass	2♥	?

What do you bid?

¹ Multi, a weak two in one of the majors.

² Pass if your weak two is in hearts, or correct with spades.

The choice is between passing and doubling for takeout. Here you have an opening bid, but it is a minimum with a questionable J♥ and ♣Q. On the plus side you are short in hearts, the likely suit on your left, and you have four cards in the 'other' major. The hand short in their suit must take some action, though risky, so I doubled which was passed around. My thinking was that I was risking a potential small minus (not vulnerable) for a large gain. The full deal (hands rotated):

	♠ 10 9	
	♥ A K 10 4	
	♦ K J 8	
	♣ A 9 7 2	
♠ Q J 2		♠ K 5 4 3
♥ Q 9 8 7 6 3 2		♥ -
♦ 5		♦ 10 9 7 6
♣ J 5		♣ K 10 6 4 3
	♠ A 8 7 6	
	♥ J 5	
	♦ A Q 4 3 2	
	♣ Q 8	

Although my ♥J lead didn't turn out to be very good lead, we still scored one diamond, two clubs (declarer mis-guessed), 4 hearts and 1 spade, for +800. We won 12 IMPs when the opponent with my hand did not double on the identical bidding. Personally I think the ♥ suit is too weak to open this hand vulnerable as Cannell did, and it cost him and his team when he made that choice. It was L'Ecuyer vs. Todd in the final.

THE FINALS

There were a couple of interesting aspects to the 2012 CNTC final. Not only did the finals contain five Winnipeggers (Danny Miles lived most of his life in Winnipeg), the players got along extremely well and expected a cordial, well fought, fast-paced battle (not like the final of this year's Vanderbilt for example). For the Todd players this was a welcome change from what they felt was very antagonistic behaviour on the part of Lavee and Cannell towards some of Todd's players during the semis. L'Ecuyer was considered a huge favourite by most bridge pundits. This proved to be true as Todd lost all four segments on Saturday, though they were all very close:

L'Ecuyer	37	41	25	36	139
Todd	19	32	19	23	93

Down 46 IMPs with 64 boards to go was no reason for Todd to panic and we did not feel there was a need to play any differently, other than eliminating our errors. Unfortunately the 5th segment resulted in some poor play and decisions from some of our players, and the 6th segment ended in another 31 IMPs away. We surrendered and offered warm and sincere congratulations to the better team. The final score: L'Ecuyer 243 – Todd 150.

Several hands stand out. First the ultimate in extreme distribution couple with some comic relief. None Vul., IMPs, you hold as south: ♠ QJ87652 ♥- ♦- ♣ KQ10965 and hear 1♦ by RHO. Fortunately we were playing Klinger. Unlike Michaels, I can show all my two suiters in one bid. Here 2♥ shows spades and clubs.

"The CNTC A once again included the top players in Canada reorganized into line-ups that they felt would lead them to victory."

The bidding continued:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Wolpert	Pearsons	Amoils	Kimelman
-	-	1♦	2♥ ¹
2♠ ²	pass	3♥	4♠
4♥!	pass!!	pass	4♠!!!

1 Klinger, showing spades and clubs.

2 Limit raise or better in support of diamonds.

As you can see the bidding took a couple of unexpected turns! I assume Darren Wolpert accidentally bid 4♥, thinking my spade bid was at the three level, not the four level. For some reason my partner chose to accept this bid. He would have been better off to call the director and Wolpert would have likely made his bid sufficient by bidding 5♥. When it got back to me I decided to make sure partner knew my distribution and repeated my previous call. It was the vugraph operator now who had the biggest problem at the table as she had to figure out how to show this 'illegal' auction!! The story ended with E-W bidding 5♦. My partner doubled and we beat it three for +500. Before I continue this saga, here is the full deal (hands rotated):

♠ AK	♠ 10 9	♠ J 4
♥ A 6 5 3	♥ Q J 8 4 2	♥ K 10 9 7
♦ J 7 5 4 3	♦ K Q 10 8	♦ A 9 6 2
♣ J 8	♣ J 3	♣ A 7 4
	♠ Q J 8 7 6 5 2	
	♥ -	
	♦ -	
	♣ K Q 10 9 6 5	

We lost 3 IMPs as the bidding at the other table went:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Fisher	L'Ecuyer	Todd	Demuy
-	-	1NT ¹	3♠
3NT	pass	pass	4♣
Pass	4♠	dble	All pass

¹ 12-14.

4♠ is cold. Next on the distributional top ten:

N-S Vul., IMPs, you hold as south:

♠ A ♥ K Q 9 7 6 ♦ - ♣ A K 9 7 6 5 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	pass	4♠	?

East has certainly put the pressure on you. You have a great hand if there is a decent fit and the chances appear good as east has few cards outside of spades, and partner did not pre-empt in diamonds. 6♣ is what I bid.

I thought that all in all, partner rated to have what I needed to make slam. After a bit of thought it went double, all pass. This was the full deal (hands rotated):

	♠ Q		
	♥ 8 5 4 2		
	♦ Q J 6 3 2		
	♣ J 8 3		
♠ 10 3		♠ K J 9 8 7 6 5 4 2	
♥ A J 10 3		♥ -	
♦ K 9 7 4		♦ A 10 8 5	
♣ Q 10 4		♣ -	
	♠ A		
	♥ K Q 9 7 6		
	♦ void		
	♣ A K 9 7 6 5 2		

My choice did not work out, but I would bid it again. Notice if I had West as a partner 7♣ is cold!! If you just consider dummy it looks like a decent contract. But in reality 6♣ went down 3 for -800. Despite looking like a big loss, it was only 4 IMPs!! At the other table the bidding went:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Sabourin	L'Ecuyer	Steinberg	Demuy
pass	pass	4♠	5♣
pass	pass	5♦	dbld
5♠	pass	pass	dbld
All pass			

5♠ is cold, and made for 650.

Once all is said and done...

The CNTC-A once again the top players in Canada having reorganized themselves into line-ups that they felt would lead them to victory. The calibre of bridge seemed fairly high all week.

Many players felt that more decorum and consideration for other players is needed and that the CBF board needs to take a sterner approach to address unruly behaviour and misconduct, as they successfully did with changes to the penalties for excessive slow play.



PHOTOS TOP TO BOTTOM: Canadian enjoying themselves during the 2012 Canadian Bridge Championships. Photo 1: David Sabourin, Isabelle and Jeff Smith. Photo 2: Jan Anderson and Marie Duval. Photo 3: Brenda Bryant, Kamel Fergani, Elwin Brown, Paul Thurston, John Cook. Photo 4: Brenda Bryant and Kamel Fergani.

1943 - 2012

DOUG HERON

Doug Heron served on the CBF Board of Directors from Jan. 1, 1990 to Dec. 31, 2001 and then again Jan. 1 to August 31 in 2003. He served as CBF President on two occasions 1992 - 1993 and 1998 - 2000.

Dr. A. Douglas Heron, of Ottawa, passed away on October 22nd, 2012 at the age of 69. Doug is survived by his wife Christine, his children Anne, Tracy (Steve), Alex (Sheilagh), Tina (Graham), his grandchildren Eric, Allan, Ryan, Olivia, Jack, Sean, and by his sister Beth.

After graduating from the School of Medicine at Queen's University, Doug worked as a Flight Surgeon and Physician with the Canadian Forces in Germany and later moved to Ottawa to practice as an ENT Physician. He had a passion for bridge, and his proudest moment was winning the Canadian Open Pairs championship with his son, Alex. Doug loved his time at the cottage, his time on any golf course and his travel holidays. Doug approached each day with a positive outlook and made the most out of each situation, with no regrets.

The team in the 1991 photo at right won the 1990 CNTC National Final. They then won the Tri-Country playoff and went on to finish tied 11th in the Bermuda Bowl. Doug also won the 1998 COPC National Final playing with his son Alex Heron. Photo left to right: Dave Willis, John Valliant, Randy Bennett, Mike Betts, Doug Heron, Edward Zaluski



THE FRENCH CONNECTION



We are proud to have won a silver medal for Canada and delighted to have had such good team-mates, but the “what ifs” often haunt our dreams.

We served as non-playing captain and coach of the Canada Open Team in Lille, France. The 14th World Bridge Games began August 9th, as part of the World Mind Games, which also included chess, go, draughts (aka checkers), and xiangqi (Chinese chess). The games (formerly called the World Team Olympiad) were staged at the Lille Grand Palais.

In the Open event, Team Canada, comprised of Les Amoils, Vincent Demuy, Daniel Korbel, Nicolas L'Ecuyer, Daniel

Miles and Darren Wolpert, fought their way into the round of 16 where they faced Monaco, the pre-tournament favourite. Going into the last segment of the 96-board match, Canada led by 18 IMPs, but did not hold on to advance.

Prior to our arrival in Lille we made tentative arrangements to play in the Transnational Mixed Teams (TMT), subject to the success of the Canada Open Team. By the time Canada ended its run against Monaco both of us felt

emotionally and physically drained. We had spent many hours preparing briefing material for the team before the event and on-site. The loss to Monaco was just as disappointing for us as it was for the players. Our TMT team-mates (Darren Wolpert, Hazel Wolpert, Daniel Korbel and Linda Wynston) were still keen to play in this World Championship event so we entered the TMT, proudly designating ourselves "Canada".

Before we tell you the rest of the story, decide what you would do in the following situations:

1. You hold ♠ K Q 8 5 3 ♥ Q 10 9 5 ♦ K 10 5 2 ♣ - .

The world champion on your left opens 1♦. The auction proceeds as follows:

LHO	RHO
1♦	1♠
2♦	2♥
3♥	4♠

Are you game enough to double? In any case, what is your lead?

2. You (North) are in 4♠x after the auction below. East leads the ♥K, cashes the ♣A and leads another heart. Plan the play.

West	North	East	South
--	pass	1NT ¹	2♦ ²
3♥	4♠	dbl	All pass

¹ 15-17

² Spades + another suit

	North		South
♠	A8643	♠	QJ752
♥	97642	♥	10
♦	Q	♦	AJ10432
♣	Q8	♣	4

3. You hold ♠ A Q J 9 6 4 2 ♥ -- ♦ 10 5 4 3 2 ♣ 10 not vulnerable versus vulnerable. Your RHO opens a Precision club. What do you bid?

4. As North you hold ♠754 ♥104 ♦AJ4 ♣QJ873 everyone vulnerable. The auction proceeds:

West	North	East	South
--	--	1NT ¹	4♠
5♦	?		

¹ 15-17

What is your bid?

5. You hold ♠ A Q 8 7 5 ♥ 10 7 ♦ Q 2 ♣ J 6 5 4 not vulnerable versus vulnerable. LHO opens 1♥, partner overcalls 1♠ and RHO bids 6♥. What do you do?

The format was a three-day Swiss with five rounds of 10 boards per day, using the World Bridge Federation (WBF) 30 Victory Point scale. The top eight teams would enter the knockout (KO) stage. Our first match was against a Swiss team over whom we prevailed by 17 IMPs (20-10 VPs) and our second match generated a similar win against a Scottish team. Those wins moved us into 9th place. However, we stumbled in our 3rd match against an Italian team and dropped to 18th.

The 4th match turned out to be our best yet, as we blitzed a Norwegian team. That meant we faced a high ranking French team in the last match of the day. Even if one refused to be a scoreboard watcher, it was possible to gauge one's relative position by the assigned table number. The top team played at Table 1 and so forth. Our match against the French team was at Table 2 (it turned out that our blitz in round four had vaulted us into 4th place). We managed an 18-12 victory and surprisingly moved into 2nd spot. The scores were bunched - 2nd place was a mere 9 VPs ahead of the team in 17th position.

Lille - Day 2 (Hearts Are Forever)

After confirming that no scoring errors had been reported, we took a picture of the scoreboard to prove to our friends that, indeed we had been competitive for at least one day.



Bushels of IMPs traded hands in the first two matches, but the end result was a small win (17-13) and a small loss (14-16). We had dropped to 9th and had to play Reese Milner's team, then holding down 10th position. Milner had some high-powered talent on his squad and wounded us 20-10. The loss dropped us to 12th and we all felt a little demoralized. The next opponent was from India and included Subhash Gupta, who had lived in Alberta for a number of years and was a previous Canadian National Team champion.

It was one of those magical rounds where everything we did turned out well. Our 25-3 win moved us back into a qualifying spot (tied for 6th through 8th). Our final match of the day was against SAIC Red, whose front four had frequently represented China in world competition. The match was fairly close until the penultimate board:

DLR: N E/W Vul

	♠ 7 4 2	
	♥ 8 2	
	♦ A 7 5	
	♣ J 9 8 5 2	
♠ A K Q 10 9 5 3		♠ --
♥ A 7		♥ Q 9 4 3
♦ K Q 9		♦ J 10 3 2
♣ K		♣ A 10 6 4 3
	♠ J 8 6	
	♥ K J 10 6 5	
	♦ 8 6 4	
	♣ Q 7	

West	North	East	South
--	NicholasG		JudithG
dbl	pass	pass	2♥*
6♠	3♥*	4♣	pass
	All pass		

* Hope partner (and team-mates) have a sense of humour if we get doubled for -1400

After a heart lead declarer had two inescapable losers. Since our partners played in 4♠ making 11 tricks, we won 13 IMPs and the match by 23-7. At the end of day two, our total was 185 VPs, which left us tied for 1st place with Milner and 12 VPs ahead of 9th. The team had been playing well and with good luck. We had a reasonable, though somewhat unexpected, chance to qualify for the KOs.

Lille - Day 3 (From France With Love)

Losing participants from the round of eight in the Open, Women's and Senior's events were allowed to enter the last day of the TMT. They were given a "carryover" of 170 VPs (placing those teams in 12th place) and would be matched up against the leaders. Four teams entered under these rules.

Our first match was against a drop-in team (Djarum1) consisting of Indonesian players. Both of our pairs had a dream set. We got off to a good start when the opponents doubled us in 5♣ (our 5-3 fit where we had three inescapable losers), chasing us into 5♦x (our 5-2 fit). Judith timed the hand perfectly and a small misstep by one of the opponents allowed her to rack up +550 for a 12-IMP gain. We outscored the opponents by 76 IMPs which translated in a 25-0 VP win. The second match was against a French team. It finished as a 19-11 win for us with few IMPs being exchanged.

At this juncture our team stood alone in 1st place, 23 VPs ahead of the team in 9th. We began to contemplate the possibility of not just qualifying, but finishing high enough to have some choice of opponents in the KOs. The WBF rules specified that 1st place could choose its quarter-final opponent from among the 5th to 8th place finishers; 2nd place could choose from among the remaining 5th to 8th place finishers and so forth.

By virtue of our round robin success to this point, we "earned" the right to play Zia's team which, having dropped in at the start of the day, had posted a big win to jump into 3rd. Zia Mahmood and Ralph Katz were playing with two members of the Swedish Women's team.

On the third board Judith brought home a 3NT contract that was defeated in the other room. Then Judith held: ♠ K Q 8 5 3 ♥ Q 10 9 5 ♦ K 10 5 2 ♣ -. Zia (her LHO) opened 1♦. The auction proceeded as follows:

LHO	RHO
1♦	1♠
2♦	2♥
3♥	4♠

On their side of the screen, Zia passed before Judith could double, but that didn't stop her. She applied the red card, he shrugged and she led the ♦10. Pity poor declarer who

played the ♦A and ran the ♦Q pitching a heart, a play which maximized the tricks for the defense. Hazel/Darren played in 3NT and with careful play scored nine tricks. +800 combined with +600 put another 16 IMPs on our side of the scorecard. The four hands were:

DLR: N E/W Vul

♠ --	♠ 6 4	♠ A J 10 9 7 2
♥ J 8 3 2	♥ 7 4	♥ A K 6
♦ A Q J 9 8 3	♦ 7 6	♦ 4
♣ Q 8 4	♣ K J 10 7 6 5 3	♣ A 9 2
	♠ K Q 8 5 3	
	♥ Q 10 9 5	
	♦ K 10 5 2	
	♣ --	

On Board 5 Judith found the only lead to beat an aggressive game bid by Zia's side. With five boards remaining most of the kibitzers abandoned our table. We won the match by 25 IMPs, giving us a 22-8 win and seriously jeopardizing Zia's prospects for making the KOs.

Still sitting in 1st place, our fourth match of the day was against Rossard (in 3rd place), an American French-Polish combination. Our main gain was an aggressive vulnerable game bid and made by Hazel/Darren while Linda/Daniel outmuscled their opponents and scored a small minus. This win clinched a playoff berth for us, leaving us in the happy position of working to hold on to 1st place.

The teams in 3rd through 8th were in a mad scramble to retain their playoff berths. There were 20 teams within 16 VPs of the last qualifying spot. We had a small loss in our last match (14-16); however, we remained in 1st place because Milner could only muster a tie against Birman. There were a number of surprises including the Sprung team which leapt (or should we say, "had sprung") from 17th into a tie for 6th place by blitzing Croatia in its last match. Amazingly this was the first time in three days that the Sprung team had been in a qualifying position - talk about good timing.

The final leader board looked as follows:

1	Canada	282
2	Milner	273
3	Ventin	262
4	Rossard	258
5	SAIC Red	257
6	Yeh Bros	256
	Shapour	256
	Sprung	256
9	Birman	254
	Djarum1	254
11	Monafriends	253
	Zia	253
	Austria	253
	Latvia	253

Both Djarum1 and Zia had suffered big losses to Canada and just barely failed to qualify. By virtue of our 1st place finish we could choose our quarter-final opponent from among SAIC Red, Yeh Bros, Shapour and Sprung. We opted to play Shapour, a French team. Milner picked Sprung and Ventin chose Yeh Bros, leaving SAIC Red to face Rossard the next day

Quarter-Finals (Close Encounters of the French Kind)

The quarter-final schedule was easy by Canadian standards - just three segments of 16 boards each. Our opponents were an unknown quantity of "locals".

In the first segment we won 11 IMPs on Board 17 (1st hand of the set) when, against 4♠, the opponents failed to find a ruff negotiated by Linda/Daniel. Then, we lost 9 IMPs when Judith took a non-vulnerable 4♠ sacrifice against a vulnerable heart game. Four spades was defeated two tricks for -300. At the other table Linda mistimed the play of a side suit (AQ107 opposite 86432) and went off one for -100, turning an 8-IMP gain into a 9-IMP loss. The segment finished 22-14 in favour of Canada. It was still early in the match, but the team felt that we had made a good choice of opponent.

The second segment started with an 11-IMP gain when Judith/Nicholas played in 3NT with a 4-4 fit in spades, dodging the four inescapable losers in 4♠. On Board 2 we entered another 13 IMPs into the plus column when Hazel/Darren punished the opponents for an injudicious overcall and collected +800. Board 4 saw Hazel, with some assistance from the opponents, scoop a 4♠ contract.

When her counterpart failed in 5♣, it was another 12 IMPs for Canada. The match was threatening to become a runaway. However, Shapour gained back 10 IMPs for playing in an iron clad 3NT when Hazel/Darren were in 4♠ down one. IMPs were traded back and forth over the last 11 boards. The segment finished 52-18 in favour of Canada which now led by 42 IMPs. In the third segment the final curtain call for Shapour was an 800 penalty yielded when the opponents overcalled a Gartaganis weak NT.

The match finished with Canada winning 119-44. We were in semi-finals! The quarter-final results for all the matches were SAIC Red over Rossard 110-85; Yeh Bros over Ventin 147-43 and Milner over Sprung 94-82.

The bracket sheet had been established according to the quarter-final matchups, 1st versus 4th and 2nd versus 3rd. That meant we would oppose SAIC Red while Milner faced Yeh Bros.

Semi-Finals (Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon)

The rules of the competition stipulated that, at any of the KO stages, if all teams playing one another had previously met in the round robin, there would be a carryover. Consequently, having met SAIC Red in Round 10 and since Yeh Bros and Milner had played in Round 14, we started the 48-board semi-finals with a carryover of 12 IMPs (one half of the winning margin to a maximum of 12).

SAIC Red was bound to be a tough opponent despite Canada's round robin win. As in the match against Shapour, Canada struck on the first board with a 12-IMP gain.

Board 1

DLR: N VUL None

♠	A 8 6 4 3	♠	K 10 9
♥	9 7 6 4 2	♥	K 3
♦	Q	♦	K 7 5
♣	Q 8	♣	A K 6 5 2
♠	--	♠	Q J 7 5 2
♥	A Q J 8 5	♥	10
♦	9 8 6	♦	A J 10 4 3 2
♣	J 10 9 7 3	♣	4

West	North	East	South
--	NicholasG		JudithG
3♥	pass	1NT ¹	2♦ ²
	4♠	dbl	All pass

- ¹ 15-17
² Spades + another suit

West	North	East	South
DanielK		LindaW	
--	pass	1NT ¹	2♠
3♥	4♠	dbl	All pass

Against Nicholas, East laid down the ♥K, cashed the ♣A and then continued hearts. Declarer ruffed in dummy and played a small spade to his Ace. He continued with the ♦Q, running it when East contributed the ♦5. Next he played a small spade towards the ♠Q East won the ♠K and played the ♣K, ruffed in dummy. Nicholas cashed the ♦A, ruffed a diamond and led to dummy's ♠Q, drawing the last trump in the process. +590.

Wenfei Wang, playing 4♠x from the other side after essentially the same beginning (♣J lead, followed by two rounds of hearts), led the ♠J (instead of small) at trick three. She misanalyzed the subsequent sequence of plays and didn't rise with the ♠A when Daniel showed out. As a result she couldn't both establish diamonds and draw the outstanding trumps.

Canada scored 4 IMPs on Board 2 when Daniel brought home a 1NT contract that failed by a trick at the other table. On the next seven boards SAIC Red shut out

Canada with a 14-0 run that included 8 IMPs for staying low in a NT partscore. Then on Board 10 when Nicholas' counterpart mistimed a 3NT contract, Canada gained 12 IMPs.

SAIC Red recovered 6 IMPs for bidding a cold non-vulnerable game. Then, with everyone vulnerable, Daniel held: ♠ K 10 9 6 ♥ K J 10 6 4 ♦ A 5 ♣ K 3 and heard the following auction

West	North	East	South
--	DanielK		LindaW
	1♠	2♠ ¹	Double
4♥	dbl	pass	4♠
5♥	pass	pass	dbl
?			

¹ Hearts and a minor

Daniel did what any red-blooded Canadian would do -- he put out the blue card (xx). His opponents squirmed for a bit, but decided to sit it out. Linda's hand was a major disappointment (♠ 3 ♥ Q 8 7 5 3 2 ♦ 10 ♣ Q J 8 5 4) so Daniel had to concede -400 for his efforts. At the other table there was no redouble and SAIC Red picked up 5 IMPs.

On the penultimate board Canada gained 5 IMPs for defeating a partscore that was one level too high. The segment finished 33-29 in favour of Canada. Including the carryover, Canada led by 16 IMPs. We would have been in big trouble had it been Board-A-Match (the opponents had outscored us eight boards to four), but as it was, we were well aware that we had just begun a close contest.

The second segment followed the pattern of the first. SAIC Red nibbled away at our lead, outscoring Canada six boards to three. But we recorded the biggest gain (12 IMPs) when Hazel/Darren played in 3NT making while their counterparts landed in an inferior 5♣. That contract, though makeable, was tricky and the defense was letter-perfect, leading to one down.

Judith/Nicholas uncharacteristically missed a cold non-vulnerable game (lose 6) and botched the defense to a partscore collecting 100 instead of 300 (lose 5).

The segment finished 23-18 in favour of SAIC Red. Canada's lead was down to 11 IMPs with 16 boards remaining.

In the final segment Canada had seating rights (the opponents had to submit their line-up first and then Canada could decide how to position its pairs). Although SAIC Red had three pairs, their NPC had been playing only the top two, one of which played a strong club system (Precision). For the first two segments Judith/Nicholas (also playing Precision) had played in the same direction as their Precision counterparts. For the final segment, Canada decided to change things up and sent Judith/Nicholas in against the SAIC Red Precision pair. This would seem to be a controversial choice by the leading team (and one that several outsiders cautioned against), but our gut feeling was that a switch would be beneficial.

On Board 1, the first board of the last segment, SAIC Red scored an overtrick IMP in 3NT.

Then came this wild board, loaded with excitement. RHO opened a strong 1♣ and, at favourable vulnerability, Nicholas held ♠ A Q J 9 6 4 2 ♥ - ♦ 10 5 4 3 2 ♣ 10. The Achilles heel of most strong club systems is coping with high-level preempts after the wide-range artificial club opening. Nicholas chose to preempt only 3♠ for several reasons:

- it looked like suits were not breaking normally
- bidding 4♠ might propel the opponents into a slam they would not usually bid
- the ♠A represented a reasonable prospect for a defensive trick
- if partner had a spade fit, she would act given the favourable vulnerability

The auction proceeded thusly:

West	North	East	South
NicholasG		JudithG	
--	--	pass	1♣ ¹
3♠	4♥	pass	5♥
pass	5NT	pass	6NT
All pass			

¹ Strong, forcing, artificial

North's 5NT showed possession of the ♠K and South carried on to the small slam. After an initial spade lead, declarer ended up two down.

The four hands were:

Board 2

DLR: E VUL: N/S

♠ A Q J 9 6 4 2	♠ K 8	♠ 10 5
♥ --	♥ 10 9 8 6 3 2	♥ Q J 5 4
♦ 10 5 4 3 2	♦ K Q 9 8	♦ 7 6
♣ 10	♣ 8	♣ J 9 6 5 4
	♠ 7 3	
	♥ A K 7	
	♦ A J	
	♣ A K Q 7 3 2	

At the other table, Hazel started with 2♣ strong. West preempted to 4♠ and when N/S were about to settle in 6♥, he unilaterally “saved” in 6♠. Hazel/Darren extracted the maximum possible when, after the club lead, declarer lazily ruffed the next round of the suit with the ♠6. Darren was able to overruff cheaply. Each time Hazel was put on lead with a diamond, she led back trumps, Darren scoring his ♠K when declarer ducked the first time. That prevented any diamond ruffs in dummy and the defense collected one club, four diamonds and two spades for +1400. Canada picked up a massive 17 IMPs. It is noteworthy that in the other semi-final match this board was a push when both Wests competed to 5♠ and went four down doubled for -800. In the Open, Women’s and Seniors’ Finals and Playoffs, all but one of 12 N/S pairs went minus on the board when left to struggle in their own high-level contract. The other, too, collected 800 for 5♠x.

On the next two boards, Canada picked up 3 IMPs when Hazel/Darren defeated a vulnerable game two tricks and a further 5 IMPs when Judith/Nicholas played in 2♥ making four on a hand that was passed out at the other table. Canada had outscored SAIC Red 26-2 on the first eight boards and were threatening to close out the match, leading by 35. SAIC Red showed that it still had some fight by picking up 14 IMPs when they were pushed into a making slam and got doubled for their efforts.

Canada’s lead was down to 21 with seven boards remaining. Board 10 was another distributional minefield:

Board 10

DLR: E VUL: All

♠ --	♠ 7 5 4	♠ Q 10 6
♥ 8 5 3	♥ 10 4	♥ K Q 9
♦ 10 9 8 7 3 2	♦ A J 4	♦ K Q 6 5
♣ A 10 6 4	♣ Q J 8 7 3	♣ K 9 2
	♠ A K J 9 8 3 2	
	♥ A J 7 6 2	
	♦ --	
	♣ 5	

At our table Judith (East) started with a catchall 1♦ (potentially a void) and Wenfei Wang leapt to 4♠, ending the auction. At the other table:

West	North	East	South
--	Darren W		Hazel W
5♦	5♠	1NT1	4♠
		dbl	All pass

¹ 15-17

Darren made a great bid of 5♠ despite good prospects for two trump tricks. The lead was the ♦10 and Hazel pitched her club loser. She then proceeded to wrap up 12 tricks for +1050 and 9 IMPs back to Canada.

Hazel/Darren put the match out of reach when they bid to 6♠ with ♠ A K Q 10 6 ♥ 6 ♦ Q 7 6 3 ♣ 8 6 3 opposite ♠ J 9 5 3 ♥ A 10 7 4 ♦ - ♣ A K J 9 2, a slam missed at the other table.

Canada had outscored SAIC Red 47-17 in the third segment to move on to the finals. The closing tally, 110-69, appears far more comfortable than it actually was.

In the other semi-final Milner entered the final segment leading by 9 IMPs and held off the Yeh Bros to win 77-66. It would be an 80 board match between Canada and Milner for the gold medal.

Finals (Casino Royale)

Milner (Reese Milner, Gabriella Olivieri, Jacek Pszczola, Meike Wortel, Hemant Lall, Petra Hamman) began the match with a 5.33 IMP carryover from the round robin (since Canada had finished higher in the round robin,

Milner was entitled to only one-third of the IMP spread). The fractional bit guaranteed that overtime play would be unnecessary.

Throughout the match, both teams demonstrated a ready willingness to make high-stake bets in order to secure a victory. This time, Milner jump started on the first board, adding 11 IMPs to its lead when 3NT was declared from opposite sides and the lead determined the outcome.

Those IMPs came right back when Linda/Daniel arrived in a superior 3NT contract while Hamman/Lall played 5♣ down one. On Board 19 (third board of the segment) Milner bought the contract at both tables, scoring 2 IMPs for their efforts.

Board 20 saw aggressive bidding by Lall to reach a vulnerable game. Now he had to make it. At the other table, Linda/Daniel had rested in 3♠, just making.

Board 20
DLR: W VUL: All

		♠ 10 5	
		♥ A 9 6	
		♦ A Q 9 8	
		♣ A J 10 5	
♠ A K 6 3 2			♠ Q J 4
♥ K 10 7 2			♥ Q J 4
♦ --			♦ J 10 6 3
♣ K Q 4 2			♣ 7 6 3
	♠ 9 8 7		
	♥ 8 5 3		
	♦ K 7 5 4 2		
	♣ 9 8		

West	North	East	South
Lall	NicholasG	Hamman	JudithG
1♠	dbl	2♥ ¹	pass
4♠	All pass		

¹ Raise to 2♠

Nicholas led a trump. Lall won in dummy to play a club to his ♣K. Had Nicholas ducked, the defense could prevail. Declarer has to take care of his fourth club somehow. If he plays a heart to dummy's ♥Q for another club play, South can discard a heart on the third round of clubs and score a heart ruff for one down. If declarer exits a low club, South

can win and play hearts herself, setting up the ruff when North gets in on the third round of clubs.

In practice, Nicholas won the ♣A and continued spades. Lall won in hand and played ♣Q and another club to North's ♣10 (South pitching an encouraging diamond). Nicholas led the ♦8, hoping to get his partner in for a third round of trumps, but it was not to be. Declarer ruffed, ruffed his losing club with dummy's ♠J and played a heart to his ♥10. There was no way to defeat the contract at that point, and Milner chalked up another gain of 10 to lead by 17.3 IMPs.

Then Nicholas held ♠A Q 8 7 5 ♥10 7 ♦Q 2 ♣J 6 5 4. LHO opened 1♥, partner overcalled 1♠ and RHO leaped to 6♥. At favourable vulnerability he chose to bid 6♠ which was doubled to end the auction. Incredibly the contract failed by only one trick. Partner's hand was ♠K J 6 4 3 2 ♥6 ♦K 10 8 7 4 3 ♣-. The opponents can make 13 tricks in hearts on any lead. This turned out to be a push as well. In the playoff match for the bronze medal there was also a push, but in 7♠x.

On Board 23 Hamman/Lall overstretched and went two down in a vulnerable game. Linda/Daniel played a quiet partscore for +140 and 8 IMPs to Canada. Then on two consecutive hands Hamman/Lall put up a soft defense, beating a game contract only one trick and allowing a partscore to make. Canada gained 8 IMPs. Milner's lead was down to 1.3 IMPs.

On Board 28, E/W were cold for game on a mere 17 HCP. Judith/Nicholas decided to teach Hamman/Lall a sharp lesson with a power double and were -690 for their efforts. Fortunately Linda/Daniel also bid the game (and made the same 11 tricks) holding the loss to 6 IMPs.

On Board 29, Nicholas bought the contract with his 11-13 1NT opening. Although the opponents had 24 HCP, they neither bid nor maximized their tricks on defense, allowing declarer to escape for down one. At the other table, Linda/Daniel arrived in the heart game on the following layout:

Board 29
DLR: N VUL: All

	♠ K Q 7 3	
	♥ A J 6	
	♦ 10 5 4	
	♣ J 10 8	
♠ A J 5		♠ 10 6
♥ Q 10 9 8 5		♥ 7 4 2
♦ A K J 3		♦ Q 8 2
♣ 6		♣ A K 9 4 3
	♠ 9 8 4 2	
	♥ K 3	
	♦ 9 7 6	
	♣ Q 7 5 2	

North (Pszczola) led the ♠K. In theory, on that lead, the limit of the hand for E/W is nine tricks, but Daniel managed to take ten. He won the ♠A, crossed to dummy with a club and led a trump to the ♥10 and ♥J. Not seeing any rush to cash his spade winner, Pszczola exited a diamond. Declarer won the ♦Q, shed a spade on the other top club and played two more rounds of diamonds. This was the situation when he led his last diamond.

	♠ Q 7 3	
	♥ A 6	
	♦ --	
	♣ J	
♠ J		♠ 10
♥ Q 9 8 5		♥ 7 4
♦ J		♦ --
♣ --		♣ 9 4 3
	♠ 9 8 4	
	♥ K	
	♦ --	
	♣ Q 7	

Daniel discarded dummy's last spade on ♦J. No matter which defender trumped, there would be only one more trick to lose, as declarer could ruff his last spade in dummy. If North ruffed low, the top trumps would collide; if South ruffed with the ♥K, only the ♥A would score. Making 4♥ gave Canada 11 IMPs and the lead.

Over the last three boards, Milner finished strongly,

securing an extra undertrick defending 3♥ and then generating a double partscore swing. They retook the lead with their well-earned 7 IMP pickup. The segment had finished 38-36 in favour of Canada and Milner's lead stood at 3.3 IMPs.

Segment 2 began with an exchange of IMPs that favoured Milner. By Board 7 Milner had outscored Canada 27-15 and had upped its lead to 15.3 IMPs. On Board 8 Linda/Daniel played a sedate 1NT, making eight tricks. In the other room Olivieri/Milner had Judith/Nicholas on the ropes after their weak 1NT opening, but failed to capitalize.

Milner slammed Canada for another 10 IMPs when Judith/Nicholas had a systemic miscue and played a game contract in a partscore. Milner's lead had increased to 19.3 IMPs, but the rest of the segment was all Canada. The first of three major swings occurred when Linda/Daniel bid and made 6NT (cold without a spade lead) while Olivieri/Milner rested in 5♣. The second occurred when Linda/Daniel bid aggressively to a cold, vulnerable 5♦, forcing Wortel/Pszczola to yield 500 in a 5♠ sacrifice. Meanwhile Judith/Nicholas were allowed to play in 2♠, comfortably making nine tricks. The final major swing showcased aggressive bidding yet again and well-timed declarer play by Judith.

Board 16
DLR: N VUL: All

	♠ 4 3	
	♥ A Q J 3 2	
	♦ Q 9 7 6 4	
	♣ Q	
♠ A Q J 9		♠ K 10 7 6
♥ 10 8		♥ K 9 4
♦ 10 8 5 3		♦ J
♣ K 9 8		♣ A 7 6 4 2
	♠ 8 5 2	
	♥ 7 6 5	
	♦ A K 2	
	♣ J 10 5 3	

West	North	East	South
NicholasG	Milner	JudithG	Olivieri
pass	1♥	pass	2♥
dbl	pass	4♠	All pass

In the closed room, Wortel/Pszczola played in 2♠, making nine tricks. At this table the stakes were considerably higher. Olivieri started proceedings with the ♦A and switched to hearts. Milner won the ♥A and returned a

low diamond, ruffed by declarer. Judith played a club to the ♣K and a low club on which Milner discarded a heart. Declarer won the ♣A and played a third round. Olivieri switched to spades after winning the ♣10. At this point Judith was in control, able to score 10 tricks on the ensuing high crossruff. +620 put another 10 IMPs on Canada's side of the scorecard. Canada had outscored Milner 39-0 on the last six boards and led 122-104.3.

In the third segment Lall engineered a 12-IMP pickup for Milner when he overcalled 1♠ on ♠K Q 10 6 ♥Q J 7 ♦10 8 4 ♣J 9 6 steering Judith/Nicholas to a doomed 5♦ contract. With spades splitting 4-4, 3NT was the spot to be.

Another 5 IMPs went to Milner when Hazel/Darren let 2♥ slip through. Canada's lead had been whittled down to 2.7 IMPs. On Board 23 Canada bought the contract at both tables.

Board 23
DLR: S VUL: All

		♠ Q J 10 8 6 2		
		♥ K 6 4		
		♦ Q		
		♣ K 6 5		
♠ 7			♠ A K 9	
♥ A J 8 3			♥ 10 9 7 5	
♦ A 6 2			♦ J 5 4 3	
♣ J 10 9 3 2			♣ A 7	
		♠ 5 4 3		
		♥ Q 2		
		♦ K 10 9 8 7		
		♣ Q 8 4		

West	North	East	South
NicholasG	Lall	JudithG	Hamman
pass	1♠	pass	2♠
dbl	redbl!	4♥	All pass

In the Closed Room Darren played in 3♠, one off. In the Open Room, Judith blew aside Lall's psychic redouble and jumped to game. Hamman led a spade, which Judith won to lead the ♥9 to Lall's ♥K. Lall returned the ♦Q. Declarer won the ♦A, led a club to her ♣A, cashed the ♠A pitching a diamond from dummy and exited a club. Lall won the ♣K and played a high spade, ruffed in the dummy. Judith ruffed a club and led a trump up. When Hamman's ♥Q popped, it was a simple matter to draw the last trump and claim 10 tricks for +620 for a much-needed 11 IMPs to Canada.

On Board 24 Milner gained 5 IMPs when Hamman/Lall had a lucky accident and stayed out of game. Over the next seven boards Milner outscored Canada 2-1. Canada's lead was down to 7.7 IMPs. On the last board of the segment a systemic 1NT bid by Judith/Nicholas and two incredible penalty passes by Lall set the stage for what looked like a major gain for Milner.

Board 32
DLR: W VUL: E/W

		♠ 10 8 5 3		
		♥ J 8 7		
		♦ Q 10 5 3		
		♣ 4 3		
♠ K J 9			♠ 6 4 2	
♥ 10 9 4 3 2			♥ K 6 5	
♦ A 4			♦ J 8 2	
♣ A J 8			♣ 10 7 5 2	
		♠ A Q 7		
		♥ A Q		
		♦ K 9 7 6		
		♣ K Q 9 6		

West	North	East	South
NicholasG	Lall	JudithG	Hamman
1NT ¹	pass	pass	dbl
pass	pass!	redble ²	pass
2♣	pass	pass	dbl
pass	pass!!	pass	

¹ 11-13
² Two suits, not ♥ + ♠

Only Lall can explain his passes, but he was right in both cases. It looked like Judith/Nicholas were in deep trouble. Lall started with the ♣4 to the ♣Q and declarer's ♣A. Nicholas ran the ♥9 to Hamman's ♥Q. Hamman cashed the ♠A, and seeing Lall's encouraging ♠8, she cashed the ♥A and continued with a low spade. Declarer was still in damage-control mode, but felt fairly confident that Hamman's sequence of plays was inconsistent with holding only the ♠A. Therefore, he stuck in the ♠J on the low spade continuation. When that held, declarer continued with the ♣8 to dummy's ♣10 and Hamman's ♣K (much to declarer's surprise). Hamman returned her last spade to declarer's ♠K. At that point, since declarer's ♦A was still intact, the contract could no longer be defeated. When declarer cashed the ♣J and played a heart to the ♥K, Hamman chose to ruff and suddenly 2♣x had made for +180! If she had declined to ruff, declarer would have exited a club (pitching his losing diamond)

and Hamman, with only diamonds left, would have to yield the rest of the tricks. Meanwhile, Hazel/Darren had played a quiet spade partial for +140. That was 8 IMPs for Canada when it could easily have been 12 IMPs to Milner. The day finished with Canada leading Milner 122-104.3. The next day two 16-board segments would conclude the final.

Segment 4 started well for Canada when Nicholas made 3NT that failed at the other table. After a few more IMPs in Canada's column its lead reached 38.3 IMPs. Alas this turned out to be the high point of the match for Canada. The rest of the segment was all Milner.

Milner recovered the 8 IMPs for a double partscore swing. After winning an overtrick IMP, Milner picked 11 IMPs when 3NT was played from different sides and Nicholas failed to find the killing defense.

After a few quiet boards Milner scored 10 IMPs when Nicholas found the best lead... for declarer. The segment finished up with an overtrick IMP for Milner, who had made an incredible 33-0 run over the final ten boards of the segment.

At the end of four segments Canada led by 143-137.3 with 16 boards left to play.

Board 17, the first board of segment 6, was a potential slam hand that merely required declarer to bring the trump suit of 108653 opposite AQJ94 for no losers. The King was offside (singleton, of course), but neither team ventured slam - 1 IMP to Milner when one of the Canadian defenders ducked an Ace. The next few boards had the potential for significant swings, but ended up as pushes.

On the next board both Norths opened a vulnerable 2♠. Partner held ♠KQJ4 ♥AK103 ♦AK87 ♣5. Hazel bid 4NT and signed off in 6♠. Hamman bid 4♣ (Key Card Blackwood) which was doubled. Over partner's 4♥ response, Hamman thought a long time and decided correctly to sign off in 6♠ -- no swing. Partner held ♠A98753 ♥62 ♦-- ♣AQJ1074. Board 22 was an overtrick IMP to Canada.

Then a major swing. Judith and Wortel held ♠Q10 ♥1074 ♦J108764 ♣94 and heard an identical auction. After two passes RHO opened a strong 1NT. LHO used Stayman to which RHO responded 2♦. LHO jumped to 3NT, ending the auction. Wortel chose to lead the ♦J while Judith

led the ♥10. Unfortunately for Canada, a diamond lead gave declarer no chance for his contract (declarer held ♦AQ opposite dummy's ♦Kx) while a heart lead provided the timing to establish nine tricks (declarer could cover in dummy and, in due course, set up clubs and a second heart trick before the defense could get diamonds going) -- 12 IMPs to Milner now leading 150.3-148.

After a few stray IMPs put Canada ahead by a nose, Milner retook the lead on Board 27.

DLR: S VUL: None

♠ K Q J 9 8 5 2
♥ J 3
♦ --
♣ K 10 4 2

♠ 10
♥ 7 5 2
♦ J1096
♣ J8763

♠ 76
♥ Q104
♦ AKQ87
♣ AQ9

♠ A43
♥ AK986
♦ 5432
♣ 5

West	North	East	South
NicholasG	Lall	JudithG	Hamman
--	--	--	1♥ ¹
pass	1♠	2♦	dbl ¹
4♦	4NT	pass	5♥
pass	6♠	all pass	

¹ Three spades

West	North	East	South
Pszczola	DarrenW	Wortel	HazelW
--	--	--	1♥
pass	1♠	dbl	redbl ¹
2♣	4♦ ²	dbl	4♠
all pass			

¹ Three spades
² Splinter

In the Open Room, Lall drove the hand to slam. He ruffed the ♦A lead (preserving the ♠2 just in case) and led the ♥3 to dummy's ♥A. He continued with a club to his ♣K, won by Judith's ♣A. Judith exited a trump to declarer's ♠K. Now he led the ♥J, which Judith quite naturally covered and dummy's ♥K won. Lall cashed the ♠A and led the ♥9 from dummy. After long consideration he ruffed, bringing down Judith's ♥10. It would have been a great play had Judith, without apparent thought, put the ♥10 under the ♥J. We'll never know what might have

happened. The way the play actually went, Lall was able to claim 12 tricks. This was 11 IMPs for Milner when it might have been 11 IMPs to Canada. Milner had taken a 9.3 IMP lead and never relinquished it. The final score was 179.3-159 in favour of Milner.

Canada had to settle for the silver medal. Most bridge players set a minimum goal when they enter a major event. What often happens is that those goal posts move as a tournament progresses, so as success follows success, the goal eventually becomes winning the event. Bronze medalists (and gold medalists, of course) are happy because both finish on a successful note to earn their medals. Not so for silver medalists who, having suffered a loss, can usually imagine changing the outcome by doing a few things differently. We are proud to have won a silver medal for Canada and delighted to have had such good team-mates, but the "what ifs" often haunt our dreams.

EDITORS NOTE: This represents an abridged version of the complete article The French Connection, which can be found on our website at www.cbf.ca

The Yellow Brick Road Runs Through Monaco

BY JUDITH AND NICHOLAS GARTAGANIS

The 14th World Bridge Games took place in Lille, France beginning August 9th. The games (formerly called the World Team Olympiad) were staged at the Lille Grand Palais, a modern convention centre with more than 45,000 square metres of space, several small auditoriums and a huge auditorium with seating for 4,500 people.

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2013

WORLD OPEN YOUTH BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS WOYBC

The 2013 World Open Youth Bridge Championships (WOYBC) will be held in Atlanta, GA
August 4-12, 2013

The 2013 World Open Youth Bridge Championships (WOYBC) will be held in Atlanta, GA August 4-12, 2013 immediately following the Youth North American Bridge Championships. The WOYBC will be played within the Hyatt Regency, which will be the same hotel as the North American Bridge Championships.

This is a transnational event, giving participants the opportunity to form pairs and teams with players outside of their native country, as well as with players from their own country. It is also an open event, meaning there won't be any trials or qualifying rounds (though CBF membership is required). Anyone born in 1988 or later will be eligible to participate.

To help make this event a success, the ACBL will be subsidizing entry fees for eligible Zone 2 ACBL Youth and Junior members in good standing who wish to participate. Zone 2 includes the United States, Canada and Mexico. The ACBL will pay half of a player's pro-rated portion of the entry fee.

If you are interested you must register with the CBF office no later than May 15, 2013.

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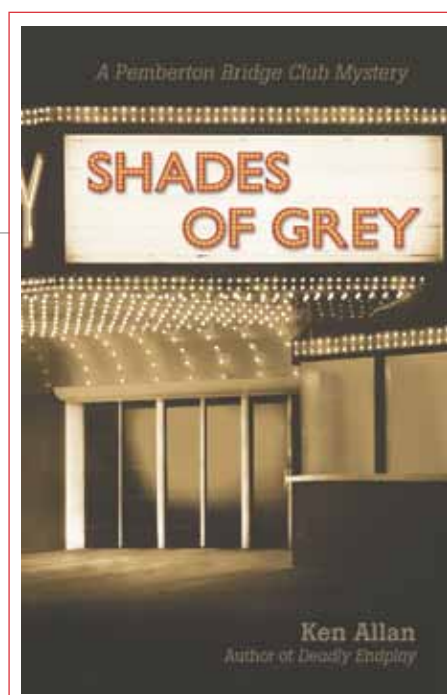
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Ken Allan

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The members of the Pemberton Bridge Club, along with the wickedly funny *Jay's Nest* bridge columns, were first introduced in Ken Allan's debut novel, *Deadly Endplay*. The sequel involves something perhaps worse, for bridge players, than a mysterious death – the growing suspicion that someone in their midst is systematically cheating.

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EVENTS & DEADLINES

CAL A LENDAR

2012

December

Club qualifying games in the COPC (\$4/table) | CNTC (\$4/table)

2013

Jan. 1 - 14

Club Qualifying games in the CNTC (\$4/table)

Jan. 21 - 27

CBF International Fund Regional (see page 11)

Calgary, AB Marlborough Park Community Centre

(Sat. Aft.) ACBL-Wide International Fund Game #1 (\$8.35/table)

Jan. 26

Junior Fund Month

February

Feb. 18 - 24

CBF STaC - open to all clubs in Canada (\$9/table) (see page 9)

March 11

(Mon. Eve.) Canada-Wide Olympiad Fund Game (\$8.35/table)

March 12

(Tues. Eve.) ACBL-Wide Charity Game #1 (\$6.35/table)

April

Charity Fund Month

April 6

Deadline for registering for CNTC-A, CNTC-B, CNTC-C and CWTC National Final

April 23

(Tues. Aft.) Helen Shields RM Game (\$6/table)

April 30

Deadline for changes to team rosters & deadline for submitting pre-alerts

May 8

(Wed. Aft.) ACBL International Fund Game #2 (\$8.35/table)

May 15

Deadline for applying for grants from Erin Berry Memorial Fund

May 15

Deadline for applying for 2013 World Open Youth Bridge Championships

May 22 - 24

CBF Board of Director meetings Toronto, ON

May 25 - June 1

Canadian Bridge Championships (see page 13)

Toronto, ON Delta Toronto East

May 29

(Wed. Morn.) CBF Annual General Membership Meeting - Toronto, ON

July 26

(Fri. Eve.) ACBL-Wide International Fund Game #3 (\$8.35/table)

September

International Fund Month

September

Club qualifying games in the COPC (\$4/table) | CNTC (\$4/table)

October

Club qualifying games in the COPC (\$4/table) | CNTC (\$4/table)

Oct. 3

(Thurs. Eve.) Canada-Wide Olympiad Fund Game (\$8.35/table)

Oct. 24

(Thurs. Eve.) Erin Berry RM Game (\$6 a table)

November

Club qualifying games in the COPC (\$4/table) | CNTC (\$4/table)

November 25

(Mon. Eve.) ACBL-Wide Charity Game #2 (\$6.35/table)

December

Club qualifying games in the COPC (\$4/table) | CNTC (\$4/table)

Dec. 2

(Mon. Eve.) ACBL-Wide Charity Game #2 (\$6.35/table)

Important Dates

2013 CBF INTERNATIONAL FUND REGIONAL : Calgary Alberta : 21-27 January 2013

2013 CANADIAN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS : Toronto ON : 25 May - 01 June 2013

2014 CBF INTERNATIONAL FUND REGIONAL : Toronto ON : 16-22 Sept 2014

2014 CANADIAN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS : Calgary AB : 3-10 May 2014



Canadian Bridge Federation Calendar of Events as of December 2012.

For more information see our website www.cbf.ca