

The Kibitzer



Fall 2022 | Volume 69, Number 3



Tribute to Eddie Kantar



The 7th World Youth Transnational Bridge Championships were held this past August in Salsomaggiore, Italy. Happy to report that three “locals” did extremely well, all winning gold medals in various events. **Jacob Freeman** of Toronto finished first in the Under 26 Pairs, along with partner Sibrand Van

Oosten from the Netherlands. The same pair were part of the silver medalists in the Under 26 Team event.



Winning the Under 26 Teams was another Toronto player (and frequent contributor to this magazine), **Bo Han “Bruce” Zhu**. He played with five Americans to win the gold. The picture above was taken at the award ceremony and shows the silver medalists on the left (that’s Jacob in beige) and the gold medalists on the right. That’s Bruce on the far right. Sorry, bronze medalists, space issues.

And finally, another Toronto player, **Darwin Li**, won two gold medals! Playing with Anshul Bhatt of India, (for only a few months online before the championships), the pair won the Under 16 Teams and Pairs. Their teammates were two Estonians, Albert Pedmanson and Jasper Vahk. The picture here (next column) is of Darwin and Anshul accepting their gold medals on the podium.



Congratulations to Jacob, Bruce, and Darwin! Fabulous results and hopefully a good harbinger of Canadian junior representation in future events.

In another form of celebration, although he deserves his own biography, we take time and space this issue to celebrate the incomparable **Eddie Kantar**, who, sadly, passed earlier this year. See our cover story on p. 11. You probably took a lesson from Eddie either directly or indirectly. He is a gigantic influence on bridge teachers across the world. Even our own legendary bridge teacher, **Barbara Seagram**, credits Eddie for a lot of her material. Thank you to Eddie’s first wife Phyllis, and widow Yvonne, for sending in pictures for us to include. And thanks to Bob Hamman for taking the time to write his memory of playing with and against Eddie. The other contributors to this article all wrote their tributes on the excellent website bridgewinners.com

Also in this issue, **David Ellis** is back with a quiz for responding to your partner’s 1 of a major opener when you are holding 4-card support. The prolific Bobby G (**Robert Griffiths**) continues his series of articles for newer players. **Ray Jotcham** details an old idea by Al Roth on how to pre-empt at the 4-level with a major suit. **David Deaves** returns with some more deals about his wife Maria and her progression as a player. (Hint: her bidding judgment is becoming impeccable.) And **Howard Laufer** returns with another entry in his ongoing development as a duplicate player. The Kib appreciates all our contributors!

Enjoy what’s left of the summer and hope to see you at a Sectional soon!

Andy Stark
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The Kibitzer Information

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Kibitzer Editorial Policy

The Kibitzer is published to promote bridge and to inform members of ACBL Units 166, 238, 246, 249 and 255 about tournaments and special events, as well as to entertain with deals and articles of interest. It is also a forum for the exchange of information and opinion among the members. Opinions expressed in articles or letters to the Editor are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Unit Boards of Directors or the Editor. The Kibitzer reserves the right to edit or exclude submitted material.

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- Fri 7:00 pm Open

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Thea Davis clubmanager@guelpbridgeclub.org

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Exact Reopening Date: TBA

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Jim Wright
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Harvey Fogel

To all of his friends, Harvey's headstone unveiling, with light refreshments afterwards, is scheduled for Sunday, September 18th, at 1:00 pm, at the Pardes Sholom cemetery on Dufferin St., north of Teston Rd.

Please join us if you can; thanks!

Henry Fogel





Eddie Kantar, 1932-2022

When you think about all the bridge books and magazine articles you've read, is there one author whose words you have read more than any other? I'm guessing it's Eddie Kantar. He's everywhere. He's written over three dozen books, and penned thousands of articles for the ACBL Bulletin, the Bridge World, and Bridge Today. He's written about bridge over an astounding eight decades. Eddie's *Thinking Bridge* series in the NABC Bulletins is required reading for every progressing bridge player.

Paul Linxwiler, editor of the ACBL Bulletin, tells me that readers can look forward to reading at least another year's worth of Eddie's Test Your Play articles and that the Chalk Talk series will likely run to the end of the decade—all new material, submitted, and ready for publication.

Eddie was not just prolific, he was outstanding. Unparalleled. His prose was crisp, his explanations clear. And then there was his unmistakable voice. I bet if you were to read an article without knowing who wrote it you could pick out quickly whether it was penned by Eddie or not. He put you in the hot seat and addressed you, quizzed you. He made you laugh. *You read so beautifully.*

I remember the first time I read Eddie. It was 1989. I had just discovered the magic of duplicate bridge and could not stop thinking bridge. I'd look for bridge books in any and every book shop I'd enter. And yes, even the small shops had something on bridge. Try finding a bridge book today. Indigo and the other big bookstores don't really carry bridge books anymore. Oh sure, you can find some, if you're lucky, but it's not like the old days. Now bridge must compete with Sudoku and Chess—ugh. (By the way, if you want to buy a bridge book today, try www.vinceoddy.com or www.masterpointpress.com).

Falling in love with bridge got me back to the library of my childhood, the Mississauga Public Library, and renewing my library card for the first time in a decade. That's where I discovered Eddie. I think it was his book *Bridge Humor* where I stood in the aisle and hung on to every word as he took us through the final of the 1975 world championships. Playing at the table against Belladonna, holding the club king behind Giorgio who had shown length in clubs on his way to bidding 7♣ with Benito Garozzo, clearly a faulty sequence. Eddie, thinking he was about to win his first world championship and of being on a team, *the team*, that would actually beat the vaunted Blue Team, who, in a span of 13 years (1957-1969) had won 12 world championships. The horror and shock of watching dummy coming down with the ♣AQ, sitting over Eddie's ♣K10.





1966 Marcus Cup Winners: Eddie & Phyllis Kantar, Harvey Cohen and Marshall Miles

I remember reading Eddie describe his bridge students, the hijinks, the ineptitude. He told the stories so well, not so much laughing at his students but with them. What a gentleman. What a humorist. What a teacher. Seemingly incongruous, he wrote with a degree of innocence and wonder and expertise. I loved reading about how he and “Broadway” Billy Eisenberg would invent a convention or agreement that catered to every little specific mishap they had in an auction.

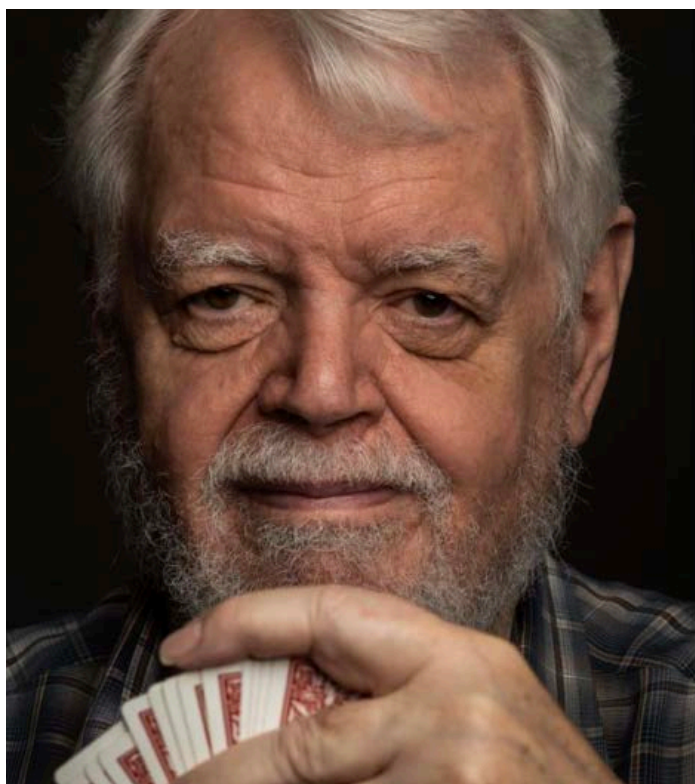
And then there’s Eddie the player. I’ve said it before, and I’ll say it again: What other sport or mindsport allows you to play against your heroes? That is, to even be on the same playing field with them? Maybe if you had a million bucks

to spare you could ring up Roger Federer’s manager and arrange a pick-up tennis match: you and Roger versus your multi-millionaire friend and Rafa Nadal. But to play for a championship? In your dreams. So, with that in mind, there are many thrills to be had when you’re a bridge player and one of them is going head-to-head with the Eddie Kantars of the bridge world. Even better when you play against the man himself.

I drew his team at a Vanderbilt once. We may as well have been playing at the club for all the chitchat at the table. His analysis was as sharp as his wit. Deep down he loved to compete, and he wanted to win, but on the surface, he possessed a childlike wonder of the makings of a bridge

hand and how declarer or defender might unlock the mystery of what to do on any particular hand. It was his attitude and disarming chatter that caused me to not mind getting drilled, absolutely drilled. Nothing we did worked; everything Eddie and his partner did was right. And somehow it was all okay. The only other time I felt this way was when I got dunked on by Hamman and Soloway.

Speaking of the GOAT (greatest of all time), I reached out to Bob to share a few words and thoughts about his good friend and former partner. Bob was happy to oblige.



Bob Hamman: As a player, Eddie was a top gun by any measure, the strongest part of his game was card play. When I defended against Eddie, I was very nervous.

In about 1959, Eddie and his long-time partner, Marshall Miles came to the LA bridge club seeking a set money bridge game. Joe Bechely, one of the greatest declarers that has ever played the game, volunteered to play with me against them as sacrificial lambs. We held considerably better cards and played as well as a first-time partnership could be expected to play and acquired a modest amount of walking around money. In the summer of 1962, Eddie again called me one Saturday morning and offered me a

In his own words...

Eddie loved to tell stories. Here are a few, selected from his website www.kantarbridge.com

Lady (West) leads the K from the KQ102 in one of my classes. Dummy has the 543, her partner the 987 and declarer the AJ6. The idea is for East to play the seven, South the 6, and for West to realize that the 7 is partner's lowest card and discontinue the suit. Of course, this never happens in my classes. But this one lady switched suits. I asked her why she switched. She said: "I've had this lesson before."

Four guys are playing bridge at the golf club and there is one kibitzer. Phone rings and one of the fellows has to leave. They beg the kibitzer to play a few hands even though he doesn't play and only knows from what he has seen these last few hours. They say it's okay. The kibitzer sits in and deals. They all look at him. He bids 4♣! Very strange opening bid even for a beginner. Second hand doubles and it comes back to the kibitzer who bids 4♦! They are beginning to have second thoughts about this guy. Second hand doubles again and when the bidding comes back to the kibitzer he bids 4♥. This is just too much. This will surely be the kibitzer's last bid, but second hand doubles again. When it comes back to the kibitzer, this time he says: "And the jack of spades."

Helen Sobel, when asked how it feels to be playing with an expert (she always played with Charles Goren), said: "Ask Charlie."

Two wives were discussing whose husband plays worse. Wife #1 says it isn't even close, hers does. Wife #2 doesn't agree and says listen to what my husband did last night playing 7NT. He had 11 tricks outside of spades and the dummy had the ♠AQ and the spade finesse was onside and he had plenty of entries to his hand to take the finesse, but instead of taking the spade finesse he went to dummy and led the SQ from the dummy! Wife #1 says, "What's so bad about that? Against my husband, that play works!"

chance to play in a team game. I was to play with Don Krauss on a pretty good team against Eddie and Marshall playing on a somewhat better team, on paper. Krauss and I had never played together. On the first hand we missed a 90%+ slam, but trumps split 5-0 and slam failed by a trick. The luck continued; we won the match and we started playing together. I was able to shame Eddie into playing with Don and myself in the Reisinger in Phoenix that fall. Marshall and Eddie delivered the goods; we tied for 1-2, which led to the International Team Trials for Don and me. Eddie then started playing with Lew Mathe. Kantar, Mathe, Krauss and I won the Vanderbilt in Portland in 1964.

In 1967 Eddie and I started playing; we finished second in the Vanderbilt and subsequently qualified for the international team. Ira Corn offered us a chance to join the Aces in Dallas, but Eddie was having too much fun playing racquetball at the beach, watching the Lakers, and teaching bridge so he declined the invitation.

In 1975 he was counting his money with the doubleton

♣K10 over his RHO's known 6+ card suit, as he pondered his opening lead. I can only imagine the shock when dummy came down with the AQ doubleton. As they say in the trade, that's show business.

In 1977, Eddie and I were teammates on the US Team which won the world championship in Manilla. That was the real "Thrilla in Manilla."

Eddie and I played in the 1983 LM Pairs when Meyer Schliefer and his partner, Gerry Civetta, came to the table. We had a small gallery of 8-10 kibitzers, Meyer played a hand and defended another, and when the round was over, most of the gallery followed them to the next table. We overcame that and won the event. After that I never played another event with Eddie, but we sure quit on a high note.

Arthur J. Fletcher coined the nickname, "J. Edwin Duck," for Eddie, because of his willingness to duck tricks when declarer led a singleton off dummy. He knew when to do it.



Eddie & Yvonne Kantar, Barbara Seagram & Alex Kornel

When Eddie came to Dallas to play a match against the Aces, I almost beat him at table tennis. OK, so he spotted me 15 points, played sitting in a chair, and used a book as a paddle. I knew in my heart that he cheated because the book was about table tennis. If it had been about bridge, I would have owned him.

Eddie, we miss you.

~Bob

.....

Eddie died the morning of April 8 this year. Later that day writer Frank Stewart announced the news on BridgeWinners (www.bridgewinners.com) and the tributes came pouring in. As Michael Rosenberg wrote, "A giant has left us. One of those rare people whom I never heard anybody say a single negative word about."

In death, as in life, nobody had a negative word to say about Edwin Kantar. Here are some of the other tributes to Eddie, all from BridgeWinners:

Tim Bourke: I first met Eddie in Los Angeles in 1981 at the Venice paddle courts on my first trip to the US, thanks to John Swanson. I had a wonderful couple of hours with Eddie, John, and Fred Turner. We did not reacquaint until the mid 1990s when I met him at the same venue. We even played a few deals there as friendly opponents.

In 1997 I began to send him deals and we corresponded from time to time because we shared a love of interesting deals that could be turned into single dummy quizzes. He actually used some of my suggested problems in the Bulletin. Of course, I was chuffed when he did so. On several subsequent trips to the US, I had the great fortune to have dinner with Eddie and Yvonne with mutual LA friends. They were wonderful nights and I cherish the memory of them.

In his own words...

Harold Ogust is chairing a bidding panel taking place after the evening session at a National Championship. It is now running into the wee hours and Harold says he will only take one more question. A lady raises her hand and is recognized. She says she doesn't have a bridge question but was wondering how many people would stay for a membership meeting. They need a quorum. Harold says that is not the kind of question he had in mind, but how many would stay? Three people raise their hands. Harold says: "Okay one more question." A fellow raises his hand and says he heard that if the bidding is opened 2NT and this is passed around to fourth seat, fourth seat should double no matter what he has. Is that true? Jim Jacoby, one of the panelists, says he would like to field this question. He says: "Anyone who would double 2NT in 4th seat no matter what he had, would also vote to attend the membership meeting."

Howard Shenken never made a hand in a Truscott column. They were not on such good terms. Ditto with Stayman and Goren. In the Goren columns, a 2♣ response to 1NT was never referred to as Stayman. It was always 'the 2♣ convention.'

This one fellow loves to psyche, but his partner has his fill and tells him that from now on he is going to fine him 20 dollars every time he psyches. The 'psycher' agrees and everything is going along just fine until the psycher winds up playing against a guy he hates. The psycher is the dealer. He says to his partner: "By the way, here's the 20 dollars I owe you, One Spade!"

David Bruce, Life Master #1, was on lead against a grand slam in a suit contract holding two aces and he knew the dummy had to be void in one of those suits. The dummy was Ozzie Jacoby, who always left the table the moment a card was led. David Bruce decided to lead his gum wrapper. When Jacoby saw something hit the table, he put this dummy down and David Bruce saw which ace would cash.



Bart Bramley: Eddie was incomparable. He befriended me when I was a young up-and-comer more than 50 years ago, and he was always happy to see me after that, as I was to see him. His love of the game knew no bounds. He was one of a kind.

Brian Glubok: Eddie was not only a great player, but he had a great temperament, and he was always in a good mood. I recall seeing his Hall of Fame induction speech on YouTube several years ago, where he advised bridge teachers: “You have to be humorous, you have to make them (the students) laugh. If you don’t make them laugh, you’ve lost them.”

Pamela Granovetter: Eddie used to love to go for morning walks at bridge tournaments, and so do I. I went on morning walks all over the country with him, by ourselves, or with Yvonne, Allan Falk, Rhoda Walsh, and other morning walker friends of his. The last time was at the San Diego nationals. Once I spent some time in LA and Eddie and his friend Norman taught me to play paddle tennis at Eddie’s beloved Venice Beach. I would play on one side of the net against both of them, and they’d hit me soft lobs. Eddie told me a passer-by thought I was their pro.

Matthew and I edited and published a lot of his work, including his articles for *Bridge Today Magazine*, his Bridge Today University Counting and Championship-Hand-Study courses, an update of his Bridge Humor book, and his Roman Keycard Blackwood books. He was an extremely professional writer, and everyone knows what an amazing, effective, and humorous writer he was. His stories about

playing with Marshall Miles were hilarious, and there were the stories of how many points could you have and still go down in 3NT (did it go all the way to 32? I can’t remember).

When I think of Eddie it’s always where we’re laughing about bridge or something else. I was just about to send a “Happy Passover” card to Eddie and Yvonne when she told me the sad news of his passing. Eddie wasn’t much for religious activities, but once he decided to try a Passover Seder (I think with Yvonne). If you’ve ever been to one, you know that the affair begins after sunset, and it takes quite a while before the food is actually served. Nobody warned Eddie about this, so he had to sit there through many “false alarms” (as Matthew’s aunt used to call them) where you think you’re finally going to eat but it’s not to be and you go on with the “Haggadah.” The way Eddie told me the story of himself waiting for something to eat had me in stitches. This Passover, which is coming up Friday night, I will be thinking of Eddie (and Yvonne) at every “false alarm” moment of the Seder, with love.

David Joyce: “When the Great Scorekeeper comes to mark against your name,
He writes not that you won or lost, but how you played the game” ~Grantland Rice



It says a lot about the man when none of 80 crowdsourced comments about Eddie list his Bridge C.V. A severely truncated list includes these wins: 2 Bermuda Bowls, 3 Vanderbilts, 4 Spingolds, 4 Reisingers, 2 GNTs and one LM pairs. Even bridge nuts like us at BridgeWinners rather have dwelt on character and overall achievement at the time of his passing.

Being a Chicagoan, I mostly encountered Eddie at LA Bridge Weeks and Nationals in the early 1970s. I remember him playing 4-card majors, then in vogue on the West Coast. My LA partner, Jim Stein, introduced us, and we adopted the style ourselves after a flirtation with Roth-Stone. I watched Jim and Eddie hit tennis balls, and we enjoyed several group meals amongst Eddie's many friends. I learned that Margaret Court had come to America for some tournaments and was looking for a competent male hitting partner. Eddie was proposed, and he split sets with her. Adding to the net sports tales: Eddie was a California state quarterfinalist in table tennis. At a Nationals I attended (Montreal 1967?) Eddie was scheduled to entertain after an evening session with an exhibition table tennis match. Bridge players 20 deep surrounded the table to witness the enthralling action.

I laid off bridge in 1976 and returned just in time for the 2006 Chicago Summer Nationals. When I spotted Eddie in the Hilton Lobby, he promptly greeted me by first name, and we reminisced warmly.

Let the Great Scorekeeper be the one to update his Wikipedia page. I haven't the heart.



Eddie & Yvonne

In his own words...

I fill in at a table when one lady has to leave. The lesson is on signaling and I emphasize signaling encouragement with the higher or highest of equals. The lady I am playing with has the A10986 and correctly signals me with the ten. I compliment her. She says: "I just read in my Goren book that when you are playing with a weak player that you should make your signals as clear as possible."

In a novice game declarer calls director over to the table and tells him he is playing a slam contract and he has won the opening lead and played the ace and ruffed a diamond, ruffed a heart, and ruffed a diamond. The director, impressed, asks him why he has been called over. The declarer tells him that the contract is 6NT.

Hearts are trump and West, on opening lead, leads a low diamond. East, holding no diamonds, plays a spade thinking spades are trump. Later, when West gets in again, he leads another diamond and this time East trumps with a heart. West says: "No spades, partner?"

Playing in Toronto I wind up playing against the mother of a good friend of mine (Steve Aaron). We wind up defending 3♦ which I might have doubled and we beat it a trick. I tell her I would have doubled her if she wasn't Stevie's mother. Next hand I wind up in 4♠ and as my partner puts down the dummy he says: Forget about Stevie's mother and make this hand."

This lady, Charlotte, plays very slowly. She is asked to speed it up a bit. She says: "I'm sorry, but I can't think and play bridge at the same time."

John Crawford is playing with a beginner for huge stakes. Partner leads the ♠K and Crawford has the ♠1098. He doesn't want partner to continue, but knows if he plays the 8, he will. So, Crawford drops the ♠8 on the floor and is slow about picking it up. His partner asks, "What card is it?" "Oh, just a low spade," says Crawford. Partner shifts suits.



Phyllis Kantar: Eddie came by his sense of humor honestly. His mother, Alice, related that she was fixed up on a blind date with his father, Sigmund. Alice reported that after the date the fixer-upper asked Sigmund if he found Alice attractive. She claimed his answer was, "Well, she was clean."

Edwin also came by his smarts early in life. At the age of three he was interviewed by the local newspaper -- this little Romanian Jew toddler was able to rattle off the capitals of all 48 states.



Barbara Seagram: I got to know this gentle giant of a man in 1996 when we invited him to our bridge club in Toronto to speak at a charity fundraiser. My girlfriend (Ann-Marie Crabbe) and I showed Eddie and Yvonne the city and we got to know him. He called a week later and invited us to play on a team with him at the 1996 San Francisco NABC. I was really a novice at the time. What a thrill. Eddie took a day off to show us San Francisco.

Muir Woods one day and bridge on a blanket in Golden Gate Park. Imagine doing bid-em-ups on a streetcar in San Francisco with Eddie. It is all a glorious memory.

I used to email Eddie sometimes at midnight Eastern time and tell him I was teaching 4th suit forcing the next day and did he have any hands? 15 minutes later, four hands would arrive with analysis.

I would not be 1/16 the teacher I am without Eddie. I use all his hands for teaching. We call these our WOW hands because the hands are so exciting. His Kantar Lesson Manuals are such a give-back to all bridge teachers. They are magical and means we can all dazzle our students. We last saw Eddie in San Francisco 2019 at the Fall NABC where we had dinner with him and Yvonne. He was sharp as a tack. My husband, Alex, spoke some Russian to him and he replied in Russian...many sentences. He spoke French and I think Spanish also.

This was a special man. He touched so many lives and was loved and revered by thousands.

He will be so missed in the bridge world and in life. R.I.P. Eddie, you were the very best.

Much love to Yvonne. He adored you. Together you were a great team.

Frank Stewart: Eddie was blessed with a writer's most valuable attribute: he was a communicator, not a pontificator. He made his readers feel that he could speak on their level. Eddie never set out to show how beautifully he could write; he simply gave his readers the gift of sharing his expertise.

Perhaps Eddie's most remarkable legacy is his longevity. His first article in *The Bridge World* appeared in 1954, his first Bulletin column (I believe) in 1962. Few writers have been productive in any field – certainly not in bridge – in eight decades.

John Swanson: My interaction with Eddie began in the early 60s. I was one of his many ping-pong victims; he was sitting in a chair, using a book as a paddle. Tennis was more competitive when we were playing doubles as opponents or partnered (I couldn't give him a good match in singles). There was also a paddle tennis game or two. One time there was even a touch football game. Before the game began or during a break, Eddie always seemed to have a difficult bridge defensive or declarer problem for everyone to solve.

These times were always fun. He not only had a thousand bridge stories, but he also knew how to tell them well. Eddie started collecting these when he began teaching, taking a city bus to get back and forth. He was not talkative at the table, but he let his wit show on occasion. I was asked after mis-guessing (or misplaying a hand), perhaps more than once, "Have you played this deal before?"

One memory of Eddie that stands out to me is in the Philippines, before we started our matches. We had been playing tennis at an upscale club where there were ball boys. The kids' attire was rather rag-tag; one boy in particular was wearing shoes which looked as if they would fall apart with the next step. Eddie took him into the clubhouse and bought him a new pair of tennis shoes.



Phyllis and Eddie, 1967

Eddie and the ♣K10

Board 92

Dlr: East

Garozzo

♠ Q J 8
♥ A J 9 6 5
♦ K 8 2
♣ A Q

Kantar

♠ 7 6 5 2
♥ K 4 3 2
♦ J 5 3
♣ K 10

Eisenberg

♠ 4 3
♥ Q 10 8 7
♦ Q 10 6 4
♣ 7 5 4

Belladonna

♠ A K 10 9
♥ —
♦ A 9 7
♣ J 9 8 6 3 2

After Billy passed, Belladonna opened 2♣, which in the Italians' super-precision system showed a long club suit, fewer than 17 high-card points and possibly an outside four-card suit. Garozzo responded 2♦, a relay, asking for more information, and Belladonna duly bid 2♠ to show his four-card suit. Garozzo now tried a natural bid of 3♥ and Belladonna retreated to 3NT.

Garozzo was far from through; in fact, he was just beginning. He showed his club support by bidding 4♣ and Belladonna cue-bid 4♦, showing either first or second round diamond control.

Garozzo made a waiting bid of 4NT (Blackwood is for peasants) and Belladonna confirmed first-round diamond control by bidding 5♦.

Garozzo tried another cue bid of 5♥. Billy, who had seen some of my opening leads, doubled to help me out, and Belladonna seized the opportunity to show first-round heart control by redoubling. Garozzo bid 5♠, a bid whose meaning is not 100% clear to me, and Belladonna bid 5NT, another mystery. Whatever it meant, Garozzo leaped to 7♣. Everyone passed in exhaustion.



Phylis and Eddie, 1967

Mukund Thapa: Eddie was a legend and a giant in bridge. A calm, affable, gentle, funny giant. My friendship with Eddie goes back to well over a decade.

This is how it all began. When my daughter Isha showed interest in cards at an early age, my wife Radhika and I thought that she should learn bridge. I had learnt bridge from my parents and played very seriously as an Undergrad but had given up playing and reading articles for over two decades, to focus on a PhD and a career. Consequently, the first order of the day was to buy as many books as possible and start studying, so I could teach my daughter. Eddie was the highest on my list of authors for card play and defense and I ordered 8 of his books and requested he inscribe them to my daughter and me. He painstakingly put in different comments in each book! As Eddie, through email exchanges, learnt of my project, he kindly offered to help and answer questions as we encountered difficult situations in bridge; and that he did promptly and very generously, often with humor.

As our email exchanges carried on, he mentioned he was working on his final book “Take All Your Chances 2” (TAYC2). I, being well-versed in mathematics, offered to help proof, verify the probabilities, and work through it all. He took me up on my offer and after that we exchanged emails daily, sometimes a few times a day for several months. There were many more hands than those that eventually went into the published book and Eddie always seemed to find it painful to substitute one for the other. In an email where he thought he had made a last substitution he said: “Well, Mukund I think I have made my last substitution. As I told Yvonne, giving up one of these hands is like giving up a child for adoption!” He went on to add: “I think this is an interesting % play problem for you #44, the last of the Mohicans!” It was not all work, as personal emails also intermingled, and we became close friends.

We had still not met and at one point he sent me a copy of his bridge humour collection called “Classic Kantar” (if you have not read it, do yourself a favour and buy it immediately; you will not stop laughing once you start reading it.) In that he inscribed: “Mukund, it’s unusual to have a close friend that you’ve never met but that’s the way I feel about you. Eddie Kantar.” I felt the same; it was classic warm-hearted Eddie. After the TAYC2 project we continued to exchange emails on bridge hands and life. Whenever he saw Isha’s name in bridge news, he would

Eddie and the ♣K10 continued...

Seven Clubs! I could hardly believe my ears. Here I was defending a vulnerable grand slam with the king-10 of trumps tucked away safely in back of the original club bidder. God is not an Italian after all. They were certain to go down one. I was going to be a world champion. What a day. I could hardly wait to get home to tell everybody. I would hold court...I would....

I led a heart and then I saw it in the dummy...the ace-queen doubleton of clubs! Could this really be happening to me? Why me? Why couldn’t the ace of trumps be where it should have been? Why couldn’t they have dealt Billy the king of clubs? Or why couldn’t I have been dealt just one more little club? Just one...a very little one. Why, why?

Wait. Maybe I did have one. I searched frantically through my spades. The whole scene reminded me of a story I tell my classes. A little old lady, Alice, is playing with a pro, Morris, and she shows out on the second round of hearts, even though Morris knows from the bidding she must have another heart somewhere.

“No hearts, Alice?” he asks. “No hearts, Morris,” she replies. “Look in with your diamonds, Alice.” “Morris, I have no hearts in with my diamonds.” “One more time, please, Alice.” “No hearts, Morris.” On the last trick Alice rather sheepishly produces a heart. Morris repeats, “I told you to look in with your diamonds.” “I’m sorry, Morris, it was in with my clubs.”

All right, Morris, I’ll look through my hearts and my diamonds, I said to myself. (Later at the “victory banquet” I admitted to my teammates that I had searched despairingly through my hand for just one tiny little club, admitting that I would have killed myself if I actually had one and didn’t know it. “You wouldn’t have had to,” said another of the U.S. players, Bob Hamman.)

Meanwhile, upon first viewing dummy, Belladonna thought the big problem was his. He knew he needed to find me with precisely the doubleton king of clubs

immediately send me an email and he always rooted for her. We, of course, did meet eventually and then continued to do so until the SF Nationals in 2019, which was the last time I met him. At that point in time his health had started to deteriorate; I thought I would visit him in 2020, but then Covid hit.

Now that he is gone, there is an empty space which will never be filled. Fortunately, I have hundreds of emails from him and have started to read through all of them again to reminisce about the times of friendship, bridge discussions, and humour. I will miss him.



Howard Weinstein: A few hours ago, I just saw the very sad news that Eddie passed away and have been reading through the many tributes — they are understated. My heart goes out to Yvonne and those close to him.

Though Eddie mostly left the Minneapolis area in about 1958 (while I was still in kindergarten there), I had the wonderful fortune to get to spend lots of time with Eddie about 5 decades later. Over a few years, we played table tennis together (later often with Norm Schwartz) 100+ times, as well as countless lunches and dinners (Chengdu on Pico being his favourite).

Eddie had endless hilarious stories about his time with students. He always had a bridge problem or two which needed discussion — he never presumed he had correctly analyzed a hand before publication and would run it by others. Eddie would often ask for my thoughts on some

new wrinkle for his latest edition of his Blackwood book. Typically, I would suggest in so many words, while it may indeed make some theoretical sense, it was insane, and he was a lunatic — this coming from someone who at that time had 400+ pages of notes with my then regular partner Steve Garner. I would occasionally further remind him of the time shortly after his first Blackwood book/article was published, facing him and Billy Eisenberg in the LM Pairs, they had major Blackwood accidents on both boards. It would go into the book anyway.

Speaking of books, despite his trove of wonderful bridge books, Eddie related with a bit of wistfulness that he made more money off *Bridge for Dummies* than all others combined.





Typically one avoids speaking ill about those who have passed away — with Eddie not sure it would even be possible to do so. I have never met anyone with the combination of Eddie's positivity, sense of humor, intelligence, energy, generosity of his time, and consideration of others. I do not recall his ever saying anything pejorative about anyone, yet he would be the first to make fun of himself. Despite all of his accomplishments and broad abilities, he seemingly had no visible ego. Just an unmatched niceness.

Bridge has sadly lost a most wonderful man.

Eddie and the ♣K10 continued...

or possibly the singleton king, in which case an unlikely trump coup was at least feasible. Roughly a 13% chance. He could see the world championship flying out the window. But I knew better; I could see myself flying home with the runner-up trophy.

He ruffed my low heart lead and led a club to the queen, shaking his head. Next, he cashed the ace of clubs, and when my king dropped two huge sighs filled the room. One from Belladonna, the other from Billy. We both knew it was all over after that, and so it was.

The last few hands were relatively flat (no swings), and Italy went on to defeat us by 26 IMPs. Had the grand slam been defeated we would have won the match by 3 IMPs. In the closed room, our other pair, Hamman and Bob Wolff, had bid to 6NT, played by North, making seven with a club lead. Admittedly 6♣ is the best contract, but 6NT is a far better contract than 7♣, particularly after North had bid hearts initially, thus inhibiting that most damaging lead.

As soon as the last hand was finished, we were told that Italy had won. The door to the room burst open and a hundred thousand Italians surged in to hug and congratulate the winners.

Billy and I trudged back to our team's rest and recovery room to compare scores and suffer with Hamman-Wolff and Paul Soloway and John Swanson, our other teammates, who must have watched the last 16 boards in horror. After the comparison there was a long silence. Finally, it was broken by Hamman. "This calls for a human sacrifice," he said. I flipped the king of clubs out the terrace window.

At the victory banquet, Belladonna was asked, "What would have happened had West played the club king on the first round of trumps?" He answered, "the Americans would be World Champions today!"

~Eddie Kantar



Maria has the Last Word

By David Deaves

We recently moved to Chatham and quite enjoy playing bridge at our new local Chatham Bridge Club. The people are very friendly, the standard of play is good, and there are three games per week. During one of our escapades last week, Maria had her bidding shoes on and went slamming at every opportunity. The following deals show her slam bidding in action.

All in

South Deals
NS Vul

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

West	North (Maria)	East	South (DD)
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♣	Pass	7♠
All Pass			

2♥ shows a big hand and immediately suggests a slam

(Soloway style). 5NT forces to 6♠ and suggests a grand slam and asks for specific kings or an opinion on whether a grand slam is biddable. Obviously 6♣, which shows the ♣K, (excellent bid by Maria) makes 7♠ automatic. There was no difficulty to the play, but I put my foot in my mouth by commenting that I thought we had agreed that the jump shift required a minimum of 16 HCPs. Maria promptly put me in my place when she said, "I valued the hand at 16 HCPs. I have 2 tens, both majors, and you said I'm allowed to reevaluate my points as I see fit!" Ouch, touché.

No problem

In the past, on occasion, we have fouled up our invitational bids. For example over partner's INT opening, if you bid 4NT with 17 HCPs, partner should pass with 15 HCPs, and may pass with 16 HCPs, and yet slam might be cold opposite 15 HCPs. I've told Maria, "If you think slam is there, don't invite, just bid it." On this deal you can see Maria just bid it!

North Deals
Vul: None

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

West	North (Maria)	East	South (DD)
Pass	Pass 6NT	Pass All Pass	2NT

After the ace of clubs lead, I claimed. A diamond lead would not have been welcome, but I would be forced to play low from dummy and survive. Our 2NT opening shows 20-22 HCPs, so I suggested 4NT invitational might be a better bid. When will I learn to keep quiet? I was promptly told. "According to you, if slam is there, bid it, don't invite. Your 20 HCPs minimum and my 13 HCPs adds to 33 HCPs. Of course, you see I added 2 HCPs to my eleven because of my excellent club suit, the 10 of hearts, and 2 aces opposite a 2NT bid." "Yes, you're right, excellent bid," said I.

Go for broke

East Deals
NS Vul

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

West	North (Maria)	East	South (DD)
2♠	3♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	4♦
Pass	5NT	Pass	5♥
All Pass			7♦

Maria won the spade lead discarding a club from dummy, played the ace and king of diamonds, and claimed. Yes, I know, 7♥ and 7NT are cold, but to tell Maria that would be suicidal, and a grand slam is a grand slam. I was in a quandary of what to bid over 5NT. Yes, my spade void was gold, but she must need more than that. Finally, I decided that Maria had to have the ♥K to bid 5NT; accordingly I bid 7♦. As I've said before, knowing your partner's bidding style is more important than conventions.

However, I decided to point out that we didn't hold the queen of diamonds and I might have had only 3 trumps, and that would not have been a good grand slam. She countered with, "I knew you had at least 4 diamonds. You don't raise me immediately without 4 trumps. You would have rebid your hearts or bid another suit, or bid NT. You don't give up being declarer that easily." I guess she knows my style better than me. On this deal, she definitely had the last word.

Woe is me!

Book Review

Bridge With Another Perfect Partner by John Carruthers, Master Point Press.

The best bridge book I've ever read! I would recommend John's book to all advanced and expert bridge players. This is required reading for anyone who wants to improve their declarer play; it rivals Watson's *Play of the Hand* and Love's treatise on squeezes. Expert and deceptive defence is also illustrated. Intermediate players should also read this book, as they will certainly garner some benefit. Finally, the tongue and cheek writing style adds the right amount of humour to the escapades with "Selby" (the perfect partner) and John.

~David Deaves



For Newer Players

By Robert Griffiths

AN OLDIE FOR ZAFFAR

Zaffar tells me that he especially likes the old hands, so we are turning back the hands of time to the US National Team Of Four Championships of 1946.

South dealt and opened 4♠ which was passed out.

West was Helen Sobel, playing with Charles Goren. You might have heard of them. West led the ♥Q which was covered by dummy's king and East's ace. A second heart went to West's 10.

Board 12
South Deals
EW Vul

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

West got off lead with the ♣J, won in dummy. Then a spade was led to declarer's king and West's ace. She came back with another club, again won in dummy.

All that declarer had to do to make his game now was to get back to his hand and draw trumps. He played dummy's ♦A, probably intending to ruff a second diamond to his hand.

But West wasn't sleeping. When declarer led dummy's ♦A, she dropped her king.

South thought long and hard before he got it wrong. Afraid of a diamond overruff, he led a club, ruffed it, and was overruffed by West to go down 1.

How did Helen come up with the falsecard of the king? She had learned on the first spade lead that South started with 8 spades. When he cashed the ♦A, he had 7 cards left in his hand, having played just one spade. Clearly all he had left was spades. The card she played on the first diamond lead could not possibly make a difference except to lure South into leading the wrong suit. In this capacity the king proved to be very useful.

WHITE LIE

East dealt and opened 1♥; South overcalled 1♠ and North jumped to 4♠ after West's pass.

4♠ was passed out and West dutifully led the ♥8. Before she plays to trick one, East should consider the whole hand.

If West can win a trick, likely a spade, East can see that only a diamond shift will defeat the contract.

The 'correct' heart for East to play at trick one is the jack, the lowest of touching honours. But if East plays the jack, losing to declarer's ace, then West, should he get in, might lead another heart, fearing that declarer's heart losers will be swallowed up by dummy's clubs.

But this is a good time for a deceptive play---to deceive her partner, East should play the ♥K on trick one, denying possession of the queen.

Board 12
East Deals
EW Vul

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

If East's carding denies the ♥Q then West ought to look elsewhere for tricks and the only reasonable hope would be diamonds.

If West, on winning his spade trick, shifts to a diamond, then the defenders will win their 4 tricks. Any other shift allows the contract to be made. East's ploy is a standard defensive deceptive play that 'steers' partner into doing the right thing--certainly an acceptable time to tell partner a white lie.

Sure enough, my LHO immediately overcalled 1♠. This was passed back to me and I doubled. I didn't know where this was going, but I was going to start by twisting partner's arm to hear about a suit.

My partner, with the mother of all great defensive spade suits, passed. "Oh dear," I thought, "if partner has good spades, we have surely missed a vulnerable game." Perhaps my thoughts included spicier language.

To make up for our missed game, we need to hold declarer to 3 tricks. If he makes 4 tricks, the penalty will be only 500, less than the value of our game which is at least 600.

Board 6
East Deals
EW Vul

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

West led a club and South was up against a whirlwind. He was only able to win 2 spades and 1 diamond. 1♠ doubled went down 4 for -800--a tie for top.

In a small club game, the auction was repeated 4 times, 3 went for -800 and one pair slipped on defence to let declarer off for down 3 giving that pair -500 and a good score for NS.

Half of the field opened the East hand with 2♣, mostly ending in 3NT after repeated spade bids from West. One determined West player insisted on his suit, bidding 4♠ which gave EW their only minus score.

ONE-LEVEL OVERCALL: WHAT CAN GO WRONG?

In a club pair game, I was East, admiring my 21 HCPs and spade void. It was certainly strong enough to open 2♣ but I was reluctant to do so. After my partner's expected 2♦ waiting response, I would never show all of my suits, especially if partner was bidding spades.

I tried a 1♣ opening, confident that it would not be passed out. There was an entire spade suit out there. People like to bid their spades.

MORE MATCHPOINT MADNESS

Suppose, in a matchpoint pair game, you are playing in 4♠ from the South hand, with no bidding from EW on the way.

West leads the ♥K and you think the play over. You are in a normal contract and it looks like you will quickly lose 2 hearts and if there is a heart ruff, then you need to find the club Queen onside to make your game.

At trick 2, West leads the ♥7 to his partner's ace then ruffs the heart return. Playing matchpoints, are you happy?

Board 12
South Deals
EW Vul

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

No, you are very *unhappy*. If West had cashed the top two hearts, then given East a ruff, you would have lost the same 3 tricks that you lost here but it would have been a normal beginning, repeated at many tables.

But West made an exotic lead that won't happen at most tables. He made an extra trick because of it. If your red ace had been the ♥A instead of the ♦A, his lead would have gained you a trick instead of costing one. So, you are behind the field now. Any 'normal' lead from West would have allowed you to draw trumps then take the club finesse for an overtrick.

Even if the club finesse wins, you will score poorly—you will make your game but fall behind all of the declarers who did not have to put up with the nasty lead of the ♥K from K7. This is a time for drastic action.

The normal play of the clubs is to finesse West for the queen. But we know that if the club finesse wins you get a poor score—you will still be 1 trick behind.

You have a chance to even out the score if you play the clubs 'backwards'. Lead the ♣J off the dummy, planning to play low unless East covers with the queen. When East covers, you win the ♣K, then lead the ♣9, playing low unless West covers, setting up your 8. You can gain a trick if the ♣Q is with East and West has the ♣10.

In a vacuum the backwards finesse is a poor percentage play. A normal finesse requires 1 card to be in the right position; this play requires 2, so the odds are against you. If all of this anti-percentage play works out for you, you will score average instead of the near zero that was coming your way.

If the same situation were to arise in a team game, you should play the clubs normally, finessing the queen. When there is no matchpoint result to consider, you play for the best chance of making your contract, not an anti-percentage play that is more likely to cost a trick than to gain one.

RULE OF 11 TRIUMPH

West	North	East	South
			INT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	3NT	All pass	

A simple auction landed NS in 3NT.

West, on opening lead, didn't like his options. The auction had led him to believe that North held 4 spades. But he decided to try the ♠4, his fourth best. Declarer played the 8 from dummy, hoping that East would play the queen or king, promoting dummy's jack to the role of a stopper.

Now East is on the spot. By the rule of 11, if West's lead had been fourth best, then there were 7 spades greater than the 4 in the North, East and South hands. East can see 6 of them between his hand and the dummy. If West had led fourth best, then declarer had

just 1 card greater than the 4.

East believed that South's one spade greater than the 4 was likely the ace or king and if that were so then playing his ♠9 on trick 1 would force declarer to play his ace or king if he wanted to win the trick. East could also see that playing his queen would set up dummy's ♠J as a second spade stopper.

So, East played the ♠9 on the first trick. He was willing to put up with the embarrassment of letting declarer have a cheap trick with the 10 if that card was South's one card greater than the 4. EWV would be able to win the rest of the spade suit when they regained the lead.

Board 12
South Deals
EW Vul

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

South won his ♠A and with only 7 tricks available so far, tried leading his ♥7 and ducking this trick around to East (the hand that can't successfully attack spades). East won the heart with his jack and knew that the second spade lead was needed from West so he got off lead with a diamond.

This was ducked to West's queen and West did as his partner hoped and led a second spade. Declarer played low on this from the dummy and East confidently played the ♠6. As long as West had led his fourth best spade at trick one, East knew that Declarer could not top the 6. This is the Rule of 11 in action for the second time in the hand.

The ♠6, of course, did win the trick; East cashed the ♠Q and led another diamond. Ducking the heart may have set up another trick for South, but it was only his eighth trick. When East led another diamond, South had the unhappy choice of winning his ♦A and cashing out his 8 tricks for down 1 or trying to make his contract by letting the diamond ride around to dummy's jack. Ducking would lead to down 2 as the defence would win 3 spades, 1 heart and 2 diamonds.

But ducking was his only hope of making the contract. West won the diamond and cashed another spade. Down 2 and a fabulous result!



Andy Risman presents the Audrey Grant Award for excellence in teaching to Viktoria Renaud at the Toronto summer regional in July.



What is your style of bidding?

By David Ellis

QUIZ 1:

You, South, hold:

♠ Q J 8 6 2
♥ 5
♦ 5 3
♣ A Q 10 9 7

Q: How do you respond to a 1♠ opening bid from North, your partner?

Assessment: You hold 9 HCPs, you have two 5-card suits, a singleton heart, and one and a half quick tricks, so slam might easily be on.

What and why do you bid? Your options include:

- 2♣ Natural, 2/1 game force, planning to show spade support at your next bid
- 2NT Jacoby showing a game forcing hand with 4+ card trump support for partner's major
- 3♦ Bergen, a limit raise showing 10+ HCPs with 4+ card trump support
- 3♠ Old fashioned limit raise (not playing Bergen Raises)
- 4♥ Splinter bid showing a singleton heart, 4+ trumps, and game forcing values
- 4♠ A preemptive raise showing 5+ trumps, less than 10 HCPs, a Weak Freak

QUIZ 2:

You, South, hold:

♠ Q 7 6 5
♥ 8
♦ A K 9 8 4
♣ A J 5

Q: How do you respond to a 1♠ opening bid from North, your partner?

Assessment: You hold 14 HCPs, a good 5-card side suit, a singleton heart, and three and a half quick tricks, so slam looks more than reasonable.

What and why do you bid? Your options include:

- 2♦ Natural, 2/1 game force, planning to show spade support at your next bid
- 2NT Jacoby showing a game forcing hand with 4+ card trump support for partner's major
- 4♥ Splinter bid showing a singleton heart, 4+ trumps, and game forcing values

ANSWERS

Quiz 1 further assessment:

South's hand is worth about 14 HCPs with spade support, it has lots of distribution (a doubleton and a singleton), and your side has a total of 10 trumps.

The options:

2♣ Not a thoughtless bid but you won't be able to show such fine spades later, plus you leave room for the opponents to get into the bidding

2NT Also a thoughtful bid but wrong because your partner will expect a balanced hand

3♠/3♦ You have 9 HCPs and lots of support points. Given that you have five trumps you really have close to four or five more support points. Your hand is worth forcing to game

4♥ The scientific splinter bid shows this hand fairly accurately. Your partner learns immediately of your super fit and they know one important feature of your hand

4♠ You would bid 4♠ without the ace of clubs. This hand is too strong for a jump to 4♠. If North has the ace and king of spades, the ace of diamonds, and the king of clubs, slam will be worth bidding. Partner would pass with this hand, and you would miss a slam.

You should bid 4♥. Your partner will bid 4♠ and that is a sign off. Even with more trumps and more shape, South has a minimum HCP count.

The full deal:

♠ A K 8 6 2
♥ K J 7 3
♦ K Q
♣ 8 4

♠ Q J 7 5 4
♥ 5
♦ 6 3
♣ A Q 10 9 7

Quiz 2 further assessment:**The options:**

2♦ What a thinking and calculating player might bid as it allows you to go slowly and learn more about partner's hand. The flaw is that partner will not play you for four-card spade support.

2NT Would be a popular choice as it immediately informs partner that you are going to game and that you have four-card spade support.

4♥ Aggressive and exact players might bid 4♥ to show the singleton heart AND the four-card spade support. One flaw is that it limits your bidding space. The other flaw *with this hand* is that you are too strong. Imagine partner holding 12 HCPS including the ♠AK, ♦Q and ♣K. Partner might think, "Hmm, only 12 points, I don't have enough for slam." When partner signs off in 4♠ you would miss a very good slam.

Therefore, start with 2NT, see if partner can show any interest in a slam by bidding 3♣ (shortness in clubs), or 3♠ (balanced with extra strength). Even a 3♦ bid (shortness in diamonds) won't slow you down. You can try a 3♠ control bid next.

Advice from the pros: Generally, 2/1 GF is not used with 4-card support. It is better to let partner know about the good trump fit. So, this is either a Jacoby 2NT or a splinter bid. Although either 2NT or 4♥ would work out on this day, best is to bid 2NT.





Sound Major Suit Preempts

By Ray Jotcham

For those of you who like crowded convention cards, here is another gem from the fertile mind of Al Roth with some additions from my not-quite-as-fertile mind.

Some people play Namyats in order to show good major suit preempts, but what constitutes a good major suit preempt? In an article in *Bridge Today*, Al Roth gave examples of what might be considered strong preempts:

♠ A Q 10 x x x x x	or	♠ K J 9 8 7 6 5
♥ K Q x		♥ A K x x
♦ x		♦ x
♣ x		♣ x

They satisfy the accepted criterion of no two fast losers in any outside suit, but the spade suit is suspect in both these examples. Also, with the second hand, hearts may be the best spot in which to play the hand, but you've preempted your partnership out of an investigative auction. How does partner know whether to try for slam or not?

Roth suggested the following: the major must be solid, at least seven cards in length, **plus** an outside ace or king. Now, with a solid suit opposite, the responder can try for slam with poor support but will have outside controls.

To facilitate slam investigation, Roth suggested all strong major preempts be opened **4♣**. Then responder has the following options:

4♦ - Bid your major, partner; I have no slam interest.

4♥ - I hold 3 aces or 2 aces and a K Q of a third suit. Opposite an eight-card suit, we have a slam. Opposite a 9-card suit, we may have a grand slam. Bid accordingly.

4♠ - Partner, we are going to slam. I can't make the decision as to the final contract, but you can when you use Blackwood. Bid **4NT** (note that old-fashioned Blackwood works here), and I will answer aces and kings.

If the opponents intervene, a double is for penalty. If responder bids a major suit, opener must correct if that is not his suit. A mild drawback is that if the opponents overcall at the 5-level, responder doesn't know which major his partner has.

Examples

♠ x	♥ A K Q J xxx	♦ K J x x	♣ x	♠ K Q J x	♥ x	♦ A 10 x	♣ A J x x x	4♣	4NT	6♥	4♥	5♥	Pass	
♠ x	♥ A K Q x x x x x	♦ K x x	♣ x	♠ A x x x	♥ x x	♦ A x x	♣ A K x x	4♣	4NT	5NT	7NT	4♠	5♠ (3 aces!)	6♦ (1 king)
														Pass

What if responder has a very good hand with aces and kings with four or five fast winners, but has a suit in which he has no control? If the unguarded suit is clubs, he can bid $5\diamond$, implying he has the aces of diamonds and a major. If the unguarded suit is diamonds, he can bid $5\clubsuit$. If the unguarded suit is a major, he can bid $5\heartsuit$, implying he doesn't know which major opener has, but he has 4 or 5 tricks in the minors. In this case, if the opener has the ace of the other major, he may be able to bid 7NT. If opener has the king of the other major or a singleton, he can bid the slam in his own suit or NT.

Examples

\spadesuit x x	\spadesuit A K x x	4 \clubsuit	5 \clubsuit
\heartsuit A K Q J x x x x	\heartsuit x x	7NT	Pass
\diamondsuit A x	\diamondsuit x x x		
\diamondsuit x	\clubsuit A K Q x		

\spadesuit x x	\spadesuit A K x x	4 \clubsuit	5 \clubsuit
\heartsuit A K Q J x x x x	\heartsuit x x	5 \diamond !	7NT
\diamondsuit A x x	\diamondsuit x x x	Pass	
\clubsuit x	\clubsuit A K Q x		

Opener's bid of $5\diamond$ says "I only have eight tricks including the diamond ace. Do you have four winners or five?"

\spadesuit K x	\spadesuit x x x	4 \clubsuit	5 \heartsuit
\heartsuit A K Q J x x x x	\heartsuit x x	6NT	Pass
\diamondsuit x x	\diamondsuit A K Q J		
\clubsuit x x	\clubsuit A x x x		

\spadesuit x x	\spadesuit x x x	4 \clubsuit	5 \heartsuit
\heartsuit A K Q x x x x x	\heartsuit x x	Pass	
\diamondsuit x	\diamondsuit A K Q J		
\clubsuit K x	\clubsuit A Q x x		

\spadesuit A x	\spadesuit x x x	4 \clubsuit	5 \heartsuit
\heartsuit A K Q J x x x x	\heartsuit x x	5NT?	6NT
\diamondsuit x x x	\diamondsuit A K x x	Pass	
\clubsuit x	\clubsuit A K x x		

Opener's 5NT bid says, "I only have eight tricks including the ace of the outside major. If you have 5 tricks, bid 7NT, otherwise bid 6NT.

So far, responder has had little to do except answer to opener's queries. What if he has a semi-solid suit of his own on the side and suitable controls to respond $4\heartsuit$ or $4\spadesuit$? Can he find out if opener's side card is the right one to guarantee thirteen tricks even if opener only has a seven-card suit? The answer is YES! He can use a special form of Blackwood. In response to 4NT, opener bids $5\clubsuit$ to show a side king, and $5\diamond$ to show a side ace. Opener doesn't need to show his keycards in the trump suit since those have already been shown by the opening $4\clubsuit$ bid.

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| \spadesuit x x | If opener has the diamond ace, |
| \heartsuit A x x x | thirteen tricks are available. |
| \diamondsuit K Q J x | Otherwise, we may have only eleven |
| \clubsuit A x x | (or twelve tricks if they lead the |

wrong suit). We bid 4NT. If partner shows the missing ace, we bid 7NT. If partner denies the ace, go for it and bid $6\spadesuit$.

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| \spadesuit x x | We know partner has no ace, but he |
| \heartsuit A x x x | could have the right king. We can find |
| \diamondsuit A Q J x | out by bidding 4NT. When partner |
| \clubsuit A x x | bids $5\clubsuit$ showing no ace, we can bid |

$5\diamond$, which asks for the location of the side king.

$5\heartsuit$ = club king

$5\spadesuit$ = diamond king

5NT = major suit king

If partner shows the right king, you bid the grand slam in notrump. If not, you bid the slam in partner's major. At worst, slam is on a finesse. Also, partner, knowing you were trying for a grand slam, may still be able to bid the grand himself if he holds a nine-card suit.

3. ♠ x x This time we hold an extra king. Again,
 ♥ A K x x if opener has the right king, we want
 ♦ A Q J x to be in a grand slam. As before, we
 ♣ A x x bid 4NT followed by 5♦. If partner
 shows the right king, oh happy day!
 If not, we bid 6NT, sending the
 message we know of twelve winners:
 do you have an 8-card suit? If so,
 bid the grand. Notice with twelve
 winners, bid 6NT. If slam is on a
 finesse, bid 6♥ or 6♠, according to
 partner's major.

The opening bid of 4♣ will not come up often but having an integrated system of responses will pay dividends. It will keep partner from guessing what to do with lots of points, but not the right structure to make a slam try.

As an example:

♠ x
 ♥ K Q J x
 ♦ K Q J x
 ♣ K Q J x

Responder knows immediately that two aces are missing, and can bid 4♦ serene in the knowledge that no slam is being missed, as might be the case had partner opened 1♠ and rebid 3♠ or 4♥. Let's hear it for no stress!

What happens if opener has a void as well as a side ace or king? If responder bids 4♦, opener bids his major and all is well. If responder bids 4♥ or 4♠, the answer is not so clear-cut. If your side card is an ace, you know partner has the missing aces, so your void is not a deterrent. If your side card is a king, your void may be opposite an ace, which isn't so good. Therefore, if responder bids 4♥, unless you have lots of trumps (at least eight), you should probably sign off. With eight or more trumps, you can show partner the suit in which you are void:

5♣ = club void
 5♦ = diamond void
 5♥ = spade void (you bid your suit!)
 5♠ = heart void

Partner should be able to figure out what to do.

If responder bids 4♠, again the void is no deterrent if you have an ace. If you have a side king, you can show your void even if you hold only seven trumps.

As an example:

♠ ---	♠ K Q x x	4♣	4♠
♥ A K Q J x x x	♥ x	5♥	7♥
♦ K x	♦ A Q x x	Pass	
♣ x x x x	♣ A K Q x		

Knowing about the spade void and the diamond king makes life easy.

The aceless wonder given above may actually produce a slam if opener has a void. What can responder do? A response of 5NT over 4♣ would say, "I have no ace, and I know you have one. I have all suits guaranteed double stopped (at least KQ10). If you have a void, bid slam in your major. With no void, pass 5NT and we are in the maximal spot."

What if responder has a void? If it's in a major, that's likely opener's suit (but not necessarily). If it's in a minor, then you may be able to score a lot of tricks with minimal values. A prerequisite to taking any further action is having two side aces. The reason for this is that only opener knows how many ruffs can be scored in your hand. If he has only a singleton opposite your void, even a five-level contract might be difficult to make without the two aces.

How do you show the void? Bid 4♦, and after partner sets the suit, show the void. To show the major suit void, raise partner's suit.

For example:

♠ A x x x x Bid 5♦ over 4♥
 ♥ x x x
 ♦ ---
 ♣ A x x x x

or

♠ --- Bid 5♥ over 4♥
 ♥ x x x
 ♦ A x x x x
 ♣ A x x x x

If opener has the king opposite one of your side suits, and a singleton in the other, you may have a grand slam if you can ruff your losers. However, the opponents are also at the table, and they will lead a trump, cutting down one ruff. How can opener determine how high to bid? He can ask responder to show his trump length, by making a bid in the next higher denomination. Responder bids one step with two trumps, two steps with three trumps, etc.

Example:

♠ A K Q J x x x x	♠ x x x	4♣	4♦
♥ x x	♥ - -	4♠	5♠
♦ K x	♦ A x x x x	5NT	6♦
♣ x	♣ A x x x x	7♠	Pass

Opener can count eight trumps, two ruffs, and three minor suit tricks. Ta da!

Roth was a truly great player and innovator, but absolutely hated high level preempts, believing they took up too much of **his** bidding room. It was said of Roth that he let everybody else bid until he decided what to do. I watched him play in a rubber bridge game with Howard Schenken, Ira Rubin, Sam Stayman, and Peter Leventritt. If these names are unfamiliar, they are all in the Bridge Hall of Fame. Roth absolutely dominated the game, winning a large amount of money.

However, I don't think he realized the true beauty of this convention. In his book *Picture Bidding*, he devoted less than one page to the opening 4♣ bid, restricting it to a solid major **and** at least eleven cards in two suits. In his *Bridge Today* article, the requirements had changed to include a side ace or king with the eleven-card requirement gone. It was left to the readers to figure out if the convention could be improved. I think I have covered all the bases to improve the convention to show voids and good suits in responder's hand, but I am willing to hear any suggestions.

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Correspondence

To Sectional tournament directors,

I'm not an anti-vaxer; actually, I've been vaccinated 4 times and I never miss the annual flu shot, or any other available vaccines like shingles, etc. And I'm not an anti-masker; I religiously wore a mask as required by the Premier over the past few years of covid. However, Ford has declared masks as optional in public events, i.e. baseball games. This includes club bridge and tournament bridge. ACBL protocol for tournaments, effective March 1 of this year puts masks as optional in our situation in Ontario.

Your tournament requires me to wear a mask if a player at the tables requests it. Accordingly, Maria and I will not be playing in the tournament. Others have told me they feel the same way. When you allow one person at a table to require all others to wear a mask, you violate my rights, especially when Ford says: it's my choice. You are allowing those who don't want to play against unmasked players to control the situation. This is unfair to those who choose not to wear a mask. What if wearing a mask makes my breathing difficult? Your procedure implies — tough luck! — don't play! I urge you to reconsider your unfair and unreasonable policy.

David Deaves



Director, Please

By Howard Laufer

When my wife and I started playing duplicate bridge in 2010, the worst thing that could happen at the table was the dreaded director call. To us, our opponents were not calling for a ruling; but rather, to discipline us for breaking the rules. They were calling the director “on” us. You know, like when you were a kid and someone threatened to call the teacher “on” you or worse yet, call the police “on” you because you had done something seriously wrong like breaking a window or stealing an apple from a vendor’s pushcart. When you first start playing in an organized game, it is quite intimidating, and you are going to break a rule or two. It happens to everyone.

In our very first game, after we had nicely settled down to play; there came a shout from across the room. “Director, Director!”

“What’s up?” I thought; the game had hardly begun. The voice was loud and demanding with just enough urgency in tone that you knew that it was some kind of distress signal; not exactly, “Man Overboard” but you know what I mean. From the adjacent tables, I could see the raised heads and furled brows. Almost in unison, other players put their hands in the air and together echoed the correct phrase, “Director, PLEASE”. That was our introductory lesson to bridge etiquette--be courteous. Our second lesson was-- don’t antagonize the tournament director. After all, if you want a favorable ruling, you better be on the good side of the director. The last thing that you should do is make an enemy of the one person who acts as your judge and jury.

When I retired, some bridge buddies convinced us to give up rubber bridge and to dive into the competitive world of duplicate bridge. At the time, I really didn’t have a clue of what we were getting into. We started playing in limited 299er games, never in open games. We played at the club

in Clearwater, Florida and occasionally in St. Petersburg as well. If you weren’t aware, that’s “Meckwell” territory. One rainy Thursday, when playing golf was out of the question, we found ourselves at the club in the “big” game. Back then, it wasn’t just Jeff Meckstroth and Eric Rodwell but also a lot of other 10,000-point players who were lying in wait for prey like us. The director, a sweet gal named Laverne, tried to warn us off by comparing us to “cannon fodder” and “lambs to the slaughter”. She used the strongest metaphors possible to dissuade us from playing there that day. Here’s another good example of where you should always heed the director’s advice. Undeterred, we sat down to play. In all honesty, we didn’t discriminate; we treated every team equally by giving them each a top board. We learned two things that day. One, the “alert” card is blue and two, if you dive into a pool of carnivorous sharks, expect to be eaten alive.

A common director call happens when the wrong opponent makes the opening lead. I hated it when the opponents led out of turn because now the director would come to the table and present the infamous five options. I dreaded the five options because by the time the director got to option five, I had already forgotten option number one. My wife really had the simple solution to that problem. She always picked option number two: “Let him play the hand,” she said, gleefully pointing at me. No problem for her. She had a knack for throwing me under the bus in any crisis.

Another problem that comes up often enough is the insufficient bid. One insufficient bid at our table immediately turned our opponents into tournament directors. “Just make it sufficient,” was their judgement. I instinctively knew that was wrong. We, of course, called the director. I could hardly wait to hear how many options I would have this

time. The obvious lesson here is don't let your opposition make decisions for you. Even if they mean well, don't listen to them. The ACBL is our sanctioning body and they have set out the rules and regulations that we all must follow. So, let the director make those decisions not the opposition.

One of the strangest calls happened to me at my home club. After some confusion about a situation at our table, I called Doug, the TD, for some clarification. I was sure our opponents had misled us in some way. When Doug arrived, he immediately asked me to step away from the table so that we could talk privately out of the earshot of my partner or my opponents. "Have you been damaged?" he asked in a very serious tone. "No, I'm fine" was my reply. "Never felt better but thanks for asking". I thought to myself, now there's a director who really cares. I guess it takes any "newbie" some time to learn the nuances of the game; especially, all the rules of play. For now, I was just happy to learn bridge etiquette.

Back in Florida, Ron was our director on Monday evenings for the 299er game. He never responded quickly to a director call. He meandered slowly to our table and when he got there, he started the conversation with the expression, "What's your problem?" I think, for him, directing was a real chore. It seemed that no reason was good enough to bring him all the way from the front desk to the most distant table in the room. Clearly, he would rather spend his time with his feet up on the desk reading the comics section of the newspaper. Once he dealt with the problem, he left the table and never looked back. Marge, on the other hand, always arrived promptly at our table and greeted us with a friendly, "How can I help? Now that's what I call a winning personality. When she left the table, she always glanced back over shoulder with a smile on her face or a wink in her eye.

Without a doubt, the toughest TD in the world was a gal named Sally. She was your archetypal, stern schoolteacher; just like the one who scared the hell out of you in grade five. She was tall and lean with granny glasses perched on the bridge of her nose and she loomed over your table with an ominous presence. I'm pretty sure she intimidated everyone in the room. Whenever Sally appeared at my table, I felt as if I were in grade school again being scolded

for breaking a rule---like chewing gum in class. On one occasion, we were playing too slowly, and I knew for sure that we would never finish the round. I expected the worse penalty for slow play, and I got it. Sally suddenly appeared out of nowhere and whisked the last board away. "No late play for you!" she barked as she moved the boards swiftly to the next table. After she spoke those words, I was reminded of the time Miss Crone, my grade five teacher, disciplined me by saying, "No recess for you!" The situations were strangely similar.

After some months of playing at the club, I learned that each TD has his or her own peculiar style. We learned to adapt to each personality, but I must admit there was a bit of a learning curve there too.

On any given day, someone breaks the rules of bridge. When that happens, you have a single recourse---call the director. Breaking the rules is not the same as cheating. If someone inadvertently mis-bids or misplays or does something unintentional then that's simply on oversight that can be corrected with a straightforward ruling by the director. A poker face at the table would be the ideal for everyone---stone faced and expressionless is the ultimate goal. Does it really happen? In open games, pretty much but in limited games not so much. How many times have you seen a heavy sigh, a deep frown, a raised eyebrow or a look of complete surprise on someone's face? Is that a signal? In a way, I guess, but in fact, it's a natural expression of anger or frustration directed at your partner. It's probably more of a statement letting your partner know that you think he is a complete moron. Sorry, but we've already used the word "dummy" for another purpose.

Make no mistake, directing is not an easy task and sometimes even a thankless one but as we all know, a necessary part of the game. Remember, calling the director is not like calling the police. Directors act more like referees or umpires in sports. The only difference is that they don't call the play as it happens but rather collect the facts from the players and make a ruling after the infraction has occurred. In the end, all disputes lead to the director's desk. The TD is the glue that keeps the game together. So, when you need a ruling at your table, be polite. Remember, "Director, PLEASE" is the proper call.



Junior Bridge

By Olivia Laufer

THE OLD COLLEGETRY

Picture a room full of eager, precocious, college kids sitting around folding tables, half of whom are wearing face masks, making idle chit chat about their majors (mostly math and computer science) and playing bridge. This was the scene at the Collegiate Bowl in Providence, Rhode Island this past summer. I had the privilege to attend, and stay in the Graduate hotel on an all-expenses paid trip that I had won. I went with a fellow University of Waterloo student, Martin Zhao. Since Martin and I weren't able to muster up another two people from our school to come with us, we played only in the pairs event and sat out the teams. I had an amazing experience, and it rekindled my passion for the game which had waned during the years of the pandemic where I hadn't been able to go to tournaments or actually see other people sitting across the table from me. I greatly enjoyed going to lunches and dinners with the other juniors between and after games and discussing the post-mortem analyses.

The teams event was won by the University of Chicago and the pairs event, which boasted 44 pairs, was won by Bo Han Zhu and Richard Jeng. The collegiate bowl saw some players completely fresh to the game, having been roped in and taught by others at their school as well as more experienced players such as members of Canadian and US junior teams.

On the final night after the College Bowl the Youth NABC hosted a game for collegiate players, youth, and pros where beginner and more experienced players were encouraged to pair up. Lemonade and pizza were served throughout.

Here is one notable hand that was played in the last session of the collegiate pairs:

Dir: North
Vul: None

♠ 10 9 4 2
♥ A 7 3 2
♦ K Q 6 5
♣ K

♠ A K 6 5
♥ J 10 6
♦ A 2
♣ A J 8 3

West	North	East	South
		INT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♠	All pass		

Consider the lead of the ♣2 where your opponents are playing 3rd and 5th leads against suits. A quick count of the hand shows no diamond losers, no club losers, 0-3 spade losers and 1-2 heart losers. You have to somehow only lose fewer than two tricks between the major suits. If you can pick up spades with no losers (which is a big if), there are a lot of plausible chances to make the hand, so it's a matter of maximizing your odds. To play spades for no losers, you require either QJ doubleton or QJ3 onside exactly. There are many options... what would you have done?

Let's say that you win the first trick on the board with the king of clubs and then play the 10 of spades, North will cover with the J or Q which you can win in hand, then leaving you the option of whether to play East for QJ3 or QJ tight. Although it's probably the wrong play, let's assume that you play them for QJ3, ruffing a club to get back to dummy and then finessing again, successfully picking up trumps. Then, you can float the J of hearts to rectify the count, planning to duck even if South covers. South can't lead back a club, because of the AJ position, so they'll lead back a red suit. If they play a heart, you can win this with the A, get back to your hand with the $\diamond A$ and then play the last trump to squeeze South in clubs and diamonds— if they started with 4+ diamonds and Q-fifth of clubs. This line of play will also pick up Qxx of clubs.

Here is the whole hand:

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

In reality, none of the pairs were in 6♠. At all tables but one, the contract was 4♠ and only one pair actually took 12 tricks. At our table our opponents (EW) were in 4♥ down 1. But that's a story for another day. When playing junior bridge, one should never fail to account for chaos theory.

Born and raised in Toronto, Olivia is in her third year at U. of Waterloo, studying Computer Science. She started learning bridge at age 7 from her parents Anu Goodman and John Laufer. She has been a member of the Canadian Youth team and besides Rhode Island, Olivia has represented Canada in Salsomaggiore, Italy and Suzhou, China. Her current bridge goal is to earn 9+ black points to become a Life Master!



Martin Zhao and Bo Han Zhu reviewing hands from the Collegiate Pairs

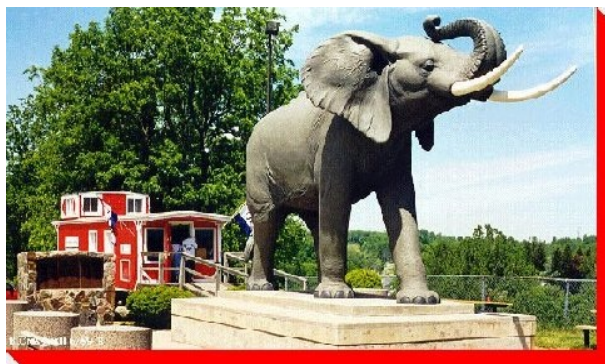


Students playing in the Collegiate Pairs



Bo Han Zhu, Olivia Laufer, Jeff Xiao and Harrison Luba at the Collegiate Youth Game

70th Annual St. Thomas Jumbo Tournament



Sept 10th – 11th 2022

Sessions both days 11:00 am and 3:00pm. Hot meal between sessions

Entry Fees \$12.50 per session

To participate in this tournament, players must have an ACBL Player Number. Non-ACBL members are welcome and will receive a complimentary temporary ACBL membership.

(In consideration of those who are sensitive to fragrance, this is a scent-free tournament)

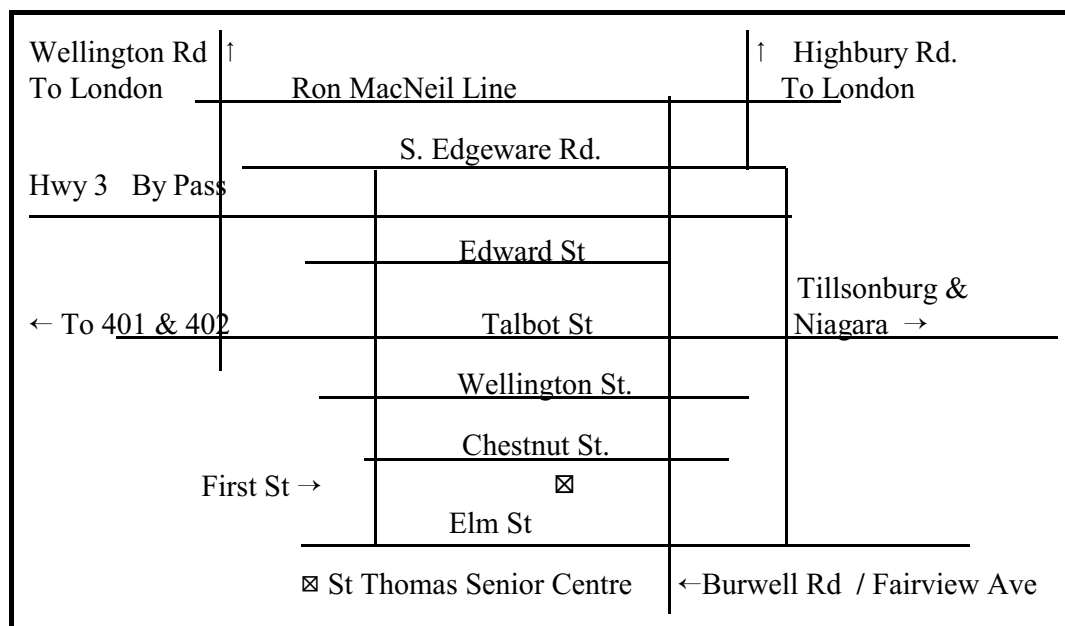
Saturday Sept 10th

2-Session Stratified Pairs Playthrough (single sessions welcome)

299er Pairs Playthrough (single sessions welcome)

Sunday Sept 11th

Bracketed Swiss Teams bracketed by team total points



Location:
St. Thomas Senior Centre,
225 Chestnut St.,
St. Thomas

Tournament Chair:
Jim Wright
(519) 631-5531
manager@stthomasbridgeclub.
org

Partnerships:
Jim Wright
(519) 631-5531
manager@stthomasbridgeclub.
org

STRATIFICATION:

Based on player with highest number of masterpoints

Pairs
Strats:: A=1500+, B=500-1500, C=0-500
299ers: A=100-300, B=20-100, C=0-20

COVID Protocols for National,
Regional and Sectional Tournaments
in effect until further notice

89th Western Ontario Sectional Bridge Tournament London, Ontario October 22 & 23, 2022



London Bridge Centre
1106 Dearness Drive, Unit 9
London, On N6E 1N9

Saturday October 22 at 10:30 am

Strati-flighted Pairs (play-through)

A/X: 2500+, 0-2500

B/C/D: 1000-2000, 500-1000, 0-500

Novice Pairs: 0-300 (1 session)

**Lunch at nearby local restaurants*

Saturday October 22 at 2:45 pm

Strati-flighted Pairs (2nd session)

Novice Pairs: 0-300 (1 session)

Note: Flight eligibility is based on the player with the highest masterpoints. Stratification within the flight is based on average masterpoints. Silver masterpoints awarded.

Pairs: \$12.50 per person, per session

(Note: \$5.00 per person for those with 0-5 masterpoints and those 21 years old and under. 1 session only.)

Tournament Chair:

Janine Higgins

janine@janinehiggins.ca

(519-439-5136)

Partnership:

Gayle George

Gaylergeorge@gmail.com

(519-851-0316)

Sunday October 23 at 10:30 am

Swiss Teams: (play through)

A/X Teams: A: 2500+, X: 0-2500

B/C/D Bracketed Teams: 0-2000

Note: Teams are bracketed by total team points. Silver masterpoints awarded.

Teams: \$100.00 per team

**A light lunch will be available on Sunday only. Cost is \$10.00.*

**Free coffee and snacks available both days.*

Covid-19 Protocols

**All participants must be fully vaccinated according to Health Canada guidelines.*

**Proof of vaccination is required. Please arrive early to comply with this requirement.*

**All participants must be both covid and symptom free for 7 days with no contact with someone know to have covid for 7 days.*

**Masks are highly recommended. Be prepared to wear a mask if necessary.*

**Hand sanitizers will be available.*

Note: These protocols are subject to change in order to comply with provincial guidelines.

www.londonbridgecentre.ca

Niagara Regional



November 8-13, 2022



Niagara Falls



Welland Canal



Niagara on the Lake - Clock Tower

Booking Your Hotel

Playing Site:

Holiday Inn

327 Ontario St.,
St Catharines, ON. L2R 5L3
Reservations 1-877-688-2324 ext 2
use Code NAB

Reserve before October 3, 2022 and request the ACBL rate at the following hotels:

Holiday Inn

\$119
Single or Double

Holiday Inn

\$159
Full Kitchenette Suites

GREAT NIAGARA FEATURES

♥ Warm Welcome Greetings

♥ FREE I/N Lecture @ 9:00am

♥ FANTASTIC Niagara Hospitality
(after the 2nd session)

♥ Section Top Prizes

♥ FREE Parking

♥ GOLD RUSH games

♥ KO Teams games

♥ Swiss games

Tournament Chair:

Kathy Morrison

(289) 968-9889

kmorrison37@icloud.com

Partnership Chair:

Elaine Gill

(905) 386-6193

gillelaine1943@gmail.com

Event Schedule

Tuesday November 8

Niagara Bracketed KO Teams (1 st & 2 nd of 4 sessions)	10:00 & 2:30
St Catharines Open Pairs	10:00 & 2:30
99 ^{er} Pairs Single Session	10:00 & 2:30
Gold Rush Pairs	10:00 & 2:30
Niagara on the Lake Swiss	2:30

Wednesday November 9

Free I/N Lecture	9:00
Niagara Bracketed KO Teams (3 rd & 4 th of 4 sessions)	10:00 & 2:30
Whirlpool Bracketed KO Teams (1 st & 2 nd of 4 sessions)	10:00 & 2:30
St Catharines Open Pairs	10:00 & 2:30
99 ^{er} Pairs Single Session	10:00 & 2:30
Gold Rush Pairs	10:00 & 2:30
Niagara on the Lake Swiss	2:30
Mentoring	7:30

Thursday November 10

Free I/N Lecture	9:00
Whirlpool Bracketed KO Teams (3 rd & 4 th of 4 sessions)	10:00 & 2:30
Hornblower Bracketed KO Teams (1 st & 2 nd of 4 sessions)	10:00 & 2:30
St Catharines Open Pairs	10:00 & 2:30
99 ^{er} Pairs Single Session	10:00 & 2:30
Gold Rush Pairs	10:00 & 2:30
Niagara on the Lake Swiss	2:30

Friday November 11

Free I/N Lecture	9:00
Hornblower Bracketed KO Teams (3 rd & 4 th of 4 sessions)	10:00 & 2:30
Fort Erie Compact Bracketed KO Teams (1 st & 2 nd of 2 sessions)	10:00 & 2:30
St Catharines Open Pairs	10:00 & 2:30
99 ^{er} Pairs Single Session	10:00 & 2:30
Gold Rush Pairs	10:00 & 2:30
Niagara on the Lake Swiss	2:30

Saturday November 12

Grimsby Compact Bracketed KO Teams (1 st & 2 nd of 2 sessions)	10:00 & 2:30
St Catharines Open Pairs	10:00 & 2:30
99 ^{er} Pairs Single Session	10:00 & 2:30
Gold Rush Pairs	10:00 & 2:30
Niagara on the Lake Swiss	2:30

Sunday November 13

Bracketed Swiss Teams	10:00 & 2:30
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Regional Tournament Sponsored by

Jaclyn Morrison of



(905) 937-0962

jac.morrison@iaprivatewealth.ca

Stratification

(subject to Director's discretion)

Stratified events are based on average MP holding of pair or team

Gold Rush

0 to 750 masterpoints

Each player less than 750MP

99er

0 to 100 masterpoints

Open Pairs

0 to ∞ masterpoints

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Olivia Laufer
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Deadline for the Fall 2022 Kibitzer: October 15, 2022

The Kibitzer

Andy Stark

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