



The Kibitzer

Winter 2017

Volume 64, Number 4





Editor's Note

The Kibitzer this issue is borrowing a timeworn idea from the Bridge World where you, dear reader, will get to see how you perform in a Swiss match. For best viewing pleasure try reading along and making each decision as presented. Then, imp your scores using the table towards the end of the article, just like you would in a real Swiss match.

Good news! If you miss the printed version of the Kibitzer and would like to see it in your mailbox, it is available again. For a yearly subscription of \$7 per issue (\$6 if you subscribe for two years) you can have the Kibitzer printed and mailed to your home just like the good ol' days. Thanks to the Unit 166 Board of Directors and Vladimir Kondratsky for teaming up and making this happen. Please see the flyer on page 39 for more details.

Vladimir has also created a Kibitzer page on Facebook. If you are on Facebook please visit us and give our page a "Like." Care to submit an article to the Kibitzer and help others like us, too?

Here is a theme to get you started: The

Spring 2018 Kibitzer will be dedicated to the Sectional Tournament. Do you have any interesting or exciting or educational hands you played at a sectional tourney? What is your all-time favourite sectional tournament and why? We're truly lucky in southern Ontario to have so many quality sectionals to play in. The hospitality is often excellent, the tournament directors are friendly and knowledgeable, and the quality of bridge is high. So let's celebrate the Sectional! Stay tuned for the February Kibitzer.

Andy Stark
andy.kibitzer@gmail.com
ph. 647 530 1360

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Fall Bridge at the Briars 2018: Oct 26-28. Prices the same.

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The Kibitzer Information

A printed version of The Kibitzer is now available. Please see details on page 39 for how you can subscribe. The Kibitzer is available online at www.unit166.ca, every three months: February, May, August, and November. Readers are invited to share their email addresses with the ACBL so that they may receive notification
The Kibitzer is ready for viewing.

Advertisers: Please proofread your ad to ensure all the dates, times, prices, and other important details are to your liking. We will print what you send us and only edit for typos and grammar.

KIBITZER ADVERTISING RATES:

Full Page \$180; 1/2 Page \$110; 1/4 Page \$70; 1/8 Page \$40
(All plus HST)

Please send to Andy Stark, andy.kibitzer@gmail.com

KIBITZER ONLINE: <http://unit166.ca>

IMPORTANT KIBITZER DATES:

Issue:	Deadline:	Online Posting:
Spring 2018	Feb. 1	Feb. 15
Summer 2018	May 1	May 15
Fall	Aug. 1	Aug. 15
Winter	Nov. 1	Nov. 15

Kibitzer Editorial Policy

The Kibitzer is published to promote bridge and to inform members of ACBL Units 166, 238, 246 and 249 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.

**PRESIDENT:** [CAROL BONGARD](#)

328 Manor Rd. E, Toronto M4S 1S2 416-489-9450

VICE PRESIDENT: [DAVID HALASI](#) **+TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE CHAIR**

59 Donald Ave, Toronto M6M 1K2 647-924-6939

TREASURER: **ANDREW RISMAN** **+AWARDS CHAIR**

714-1121 Steeles Ave W, Toronto M2R 3W7 416-736-9245

RECORDER: [PAUL CRONIN](#)

3401 Weinbrenner Rd, Apt.503, Niagara Falls L2G 7K6 905-295-2822

CO-PUBLICITY: [DAVID McCRADY](#) **+KIBITZER LIAISON**

65 Spring Garden Rd, #202, Toronto M2N 6H9 416-293-1837

CO-PUBLICITY: **JOHN O'HARA** 647-401-3629**I/N CO-ORDINATOR:** [STEVE OVERHOLT](#)

25 Broadfield Dr, Etobicoke M9C 1L4 416-621-0315

EDUCATION & SCHOOL BRIDGE LIASON: [FLO BELFORD](#)

550 Laurier Ave, Milton L3T 4G8 905-876-0267

CO-ELECTIONS: [MICHAEL YANG](#) **+NOMINATIONS**

11 Zambri Walk Scarborough M1P 1H9 647-818-1516

CO-ELECTIONS: **CHANDI JAYAWARDENA**

39 On the Henley, 88 Lakeport Road, St. Catharines L2N 4P8 1-905-397-3434

CVBA: **DENISE DONOVAN**

52 Ridge Point Cres, North York, M6M 2Z8 416-614-6754

COBA: **DARLENE SCOTT** 905-257-0304**NDBA:** [CHRIS LOAT](#)

3 Queen Mary Dr, St. Catharines L2R 2J3 905-685-6939

At-Large Board Members:**SHARON BERGHAUS**

77 St. Clair Ave E, APT 1410, Toronto M4T 1M5 416-861-8366

WIEBE HOOGLAND

36 Carmine Cres, St. Catharines L2S 3M5 905-688-0734

OTHER OFFICIALS**SECRETARY:** [DEBRA KESTENBERG](#) **+ELECTRONIC CONTACT** 416-782-4911**WEBMASTER:** [MARTIN HUNTER](#) **+MEMBERSHIP CHAIR, TOURNAMENT****COORDINATOR** 12 Merrydrew Ct, Mississauga L5M 1W7 905-858-7683**DISCIPLINARY CHAIR:** [DALE WHITMORE](#)**INVENTORY CONTROL:** [JOHN McWHINNIE](#)

63 Leader Ct, Hillsburgh 519-308-0088 647-639-3935

KIBITZER EDITOR: [ANDY STARK](#) 647-530-1360**DISTRICT DIRECTOR (ACBL):** [PAUL JANICKI](#)

74 Fincham Ave, Markham L3P 4E1 905-471-5461

ZONE DIRECTOR (CBF): [NADER HANNA](#)

53 York Rd, Toronto M2L 1H7 416-756-9065

AUDITOR: [GARY WESTFALL](#)

38 Mallard Cres, Bramalea L6S 2T6 905-791-4239

Nominations Please!!

For Unit 166 members only

Kate Buckman Award

Do you know someone who contributes to others' enjoyment of the game of bridge? Do you know someone who should be honoured by the Board of Unit 166? We're looking for nominations for the Kate Buckman Award for 2017. If you don't nominate someone, then we can't honour them and we really want to celebrate this kind of person and the contributions they make to the game of bridge.

Audrey Grant Award

Do you know a bridge teacher who exemplifies the best of the profession? Do you know someone who should be feted by the Board? Submit the nominations for the Audrey Grant Award for 2017. Again, if you don't nominate then we can't celebrate the excellence of this teacher's skill and dedication.

The Unit 166 Board of Directors should consider

for the Kate Buckman/Audrey Grant (circle one or both) Award.
The reason that this person deserves your consideration is:

Please submit to Andy Risman
714-1121 Steeles Avenue W, Toronto, Ontario M2R 3W7

arismanca@rogers.com

Deadline: December 31, 2017



The Unit 166 Financial Statements can be found on the Unit's website at: www.unit166.ca



Zero Tolerance Issues

Any Unit 166 tournament Zero Tolerance concerns, or Zero Tolerance tournament situations which were not satisfactorily resolved, should be reported to ZT@execulink.com

Ontario Unit No. 166 Nominations For Board Of Directors

Five Directors are to be elected to the Board for a term of office of two years and nominations are invited for these positions. Nominees must be members of Unit 166. The election will be held Thursday through Saturday at the Toronto Regional and at advance polls to be held in the period between the close of nominations and the beginning of the Toronto Regional. Nomination forms must be signed by two members and accepted by the nominee, and must be received by the Unit 166 Election Coordinator by March 5, 2018.

The Spring issue of the Kibitzer will publish a picture and short resume (50 words or less) for candidates who submit this information, together with their nomination form, to the Unit Election Coordinator by January 20, 2018. The schedule and locations of the advance polls will be published in the Spring Kibitzer. The voting booth will be open at the Toronto Regional for one hour and will close 15 minutes prior to game time of each afternoon and evening session on the election days.

Unit 166 Nomination Form

NAME: _____

ACBL #: _____

ADDRESS: _____

POSTAL CODE: _____ PHONE: _____

Is hereby nominated as a candidate for the Board of Directors of ACBL Unit 166.

SIGNATURE OF NOMINATOR: _____

ACBL #: _____

SIGNATURE OF SECONDER: _____

ACBL #: _____

SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE: _____

ACBL #: _____

**Please send nominations and resume
to Nominations Coordinator:**

Michael Yang

11 Zambri Walk

Scarborough, ON M1P 1H9

or e-mail to torontoyouthbridge@gmail.com

For information phone (416) 818-1516



MINUTES of a meeting of Unit 166 Board of Directors

MINUTES of a meeting of Unit 166 Board of Directors held on Sunday April 30, 2017 at 12:30 am. at MO Bridge, 3105 Winston Churchill Blvd., Mississauga, ON

Present: Sharon Berghaus Chandi Jayawardena
Carol Bongard Chris Loat
David Halasi Steve Norris
Andy Risman Chuck Renaud
Paul Cronin Debra Kestenberg (Secretary)
David McCrady

Regrets: Flo Belford, Wiebe Hoogland, Michael (Li Zhang) Yang

Carol Bongard assumed the Chair and welcomed Chandi Jayawardena as a new Director.

Minutes – January 7, 2017

Motion by Chris Loat, seconded by Andy Risman *that the minutes of the January 7, 2017 meeting of Unit 166 Board of Directors be approved.* **Carried**

Election of Officers

Debra Kestenberg assumed the Chair. *Andy Risman nominated Carol Bongard for the position of President, seconded by David Halasi. There being no further nominations, Carol Bongard was declared President and assumed the Chair.*

Sharon Berghaus nominated David Halasi and Chuck Renaud nominated Paul Cronin for the Position of **Vice-President**. *By a vote of five to three, David Halasi was elected Vice-President.*

David McCrady nominated Andy Risman for the Position of **Treasurer**, seconded by Sharon Berghaus. *There being no further nominations, Andy Risman was declared Treasurer.*

The following members were declared members of the **Executive Committee** – Carol Bongard, Paul Cronin, Andy Risman, David Halasi and Sharon Berghaus.

David Halasi was declared **Tournament Chair**.

Other appointments were declared as follows:

Awards Chair	Andy Risman	Membership Chair	Martin Hunter
Disciplinary Chair	Dale Whitmore	Nominations	Michael Yang
Education Liaison	Flo Belford	Publicity Chairs	David McCrady & John O'Hara
Elections	Michael Yang & Chandi Jayawardena	Recorder	Paul Cronin
IN Coordinator	Steve Overholt	Tournament Coordinator	Martin Hunter
Inventory Control	John McWhinnie	Webmaster	Martin Hunter
Kibitzer Liaison	David McCrady		

Limited MP Club Games

The issue was discussed and it was decided that no action is to be taken by the Unit.

Search for New Tournament Chairs (January Sectional & Easter Regional)

David Halasi provided an update. A search continues, with a focus on the January Sectional.

COBA

The COBA September 2016 Constitution & By Laws were discussed. Guest: Joe Blatnick.

Motion by Sharon Berghaus, seconded by Steve Norris *to reopen the discussion since there appears to be some misunderstanding regarding representation on the COBA Board.* **Carried**

Motion by David Halasi, seconded by Chuck Renaud and Sharon Berghaus *to defer the issue to the next meeting when Chuck Renaud will report on the representation model.* **Carried**

Discussion on the merger of Oakville ACBL-sanctioned clubs into COBA was deferred to the next meeting.

Award Policy

The Awards Policy was discussed.

Motion by Chris Loat, seconded by Steve Norris, Andy Risman, and Paul Cronin *to rescind all of section 8.2.* **Carried**

Treasurer's Report

The Report to March 31, 2017, circulated by Andy Risman, was presented.

Motion by Chris Loat, seconded by David McCrady *that the Treasurer's Report be accepted, as presented. Carried*

An update on the HST credits back to 2011 was presented.

NABC 2017

The Budget, circulated by Andy Risman, was presented.

Motion by Chris Loat, seconded by David McCrady *that the NABC 2017 Budget with the \$3,500 modification be accepted, as presented. Carried*

Andy Risman reported on the progress of the event planning and a discussion ensued.

A grant request by ABTA was presented and discussed. It was agreed that the NABC budget would fund a \$1,000 grant.

Youth NABC

Carol Bongard reported on and solicited support for a search for volunteers.

Tournament Budgets:

The budgets for Hamilton, St. Catharines I/N, Toronto I/N, and Caledon East were received.

Motion by Steve Norris, seconded by Chandi Jayawardena *that tournament budgets for Hamilton, St. Catharines I/N, Toronto I/N, and Caledon East be accepted, as presented. Carried*

The budget for the Niagara Regional was received.

Motion by Chris Loat, seconded by David McCrady and Andy Risman *that the tournament budget for the Niagara Regional, subject to the elimination of expenses related to the Caddy Master and Bridge Bulletin and an increase in hospitality expenses up to \$4,000 be accepted, as presented. Carried*

Tournament Reports:

The 2016 Reports from the Toronto Sectional, St. Catharines, Burlington I/N, Toronto Regional, Labour Day with HST were received.

Motion by David Halasi, seconded by Chris Loat and Andy Risman *that the Toronto Sectional, St. Catharines, Burlington I/N, Toronto Regional, and Labour Day with HST, be accepted, as presented. Carried*

The 2016 Report for the D2 STaC will be presented via email.

The 2017 to 2021 tournament schedule was received.

Timing of Buffalo & Niagara Regionals was discussed.

The Policy related to caddy pay was discussed.

Motion by David Halasi, seconded by Chandi Jayawardena *to amend caddy pay policy to a minimum of \$55 per session.* **Carried**

Strategy for pricing relating to US/CAN exchange rate changes was discussed and deferred to the next meeting.

Awards Committee Update

Andy Risman provided an update on awards presented.

Honorariums:

Motion by Chris Loat, seconded by Andy Risman *to award David Halasi an honorarium of \$750 for chairing the Toronto Sectional.* **Carried**

Motion by Andy Risman, seconded by Chris Loat *to award David Halasi an honorarium of \$2000 for chairing the Toronto Regional.* **Carried**

Kibitzer Committee Report

Advertising rates, print access, and staffing options were discussed.

Motion by David Halasi, seconded by Steve Norris *to reduce advertising rates by 1/3rd.* **Carried**

It was agreed to a job posting on the Unit website for hard copy management.

Association Reports

Reports for CVBA, COBA, and NDBA were presented by Steve Norris, Chuck Renaud, and Chris Loat, respectively.

It was agreed that minutes from each Association's Annual General Meeting, once held, will be forwarded to the Unit Secretary for distribution to the Unit Board.

Next Meeting

Saturday September 9 at 9:30am at MO Bridge, 3105 Winston Churchill Blvd., Mississauga.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:50 pm.



President & Director: Alan Young, 906255 Highland Road, RR1, New Liskeard, ON, POJ 1P0; 705-563-2996;

Young_A@xplornet.com

Vice-President, Disciplinary Chair & Director: Millie Wood Colton, 165 McNaughton Street, Sudbury, ON, P3E 1V4; 705-674-3677;

milliewoodcolton@gmail.com

Treasurer, Tournament Coordinator & Director: Marc Langevin, 133 Sable Crescent, North Bay, ON, P1A 3X6; 705-493-2490; marc.langevin@fibreop.ca

Secretary: Russell Walker, PO Box 965 Haileybury ON, P0J 1K0; 705-672-5960;

haileybury.walkers@hotmail.com

Recorder & Director: John Biondi, 533 Lakeshore Drive, Unit 204, North Bay, Ontario, P1A 2E5; 705-478-7781; dymondace1@yahoo.com

Webmaster: Marc Langevin, 133 Sable Crescent, North Bay, ON, P1A 3X6; 705-493-2490

I/N Coordinator & Director: Jean Harris, 1350 Gorman St. North Bay, ON; P1B 2Y4; jean.harris@bell.net

I/N Coordinator & Director: Cheryl Mahaffy, 2349 Madison Ave., Sudbury ON P3A2P7; jcmahaffy@fibreop.ca 705 560.6742

Director: Claire Page, 277 Balsam Street N, Timmins, ON, P4N 6H2; 705-264-6346; clpage@persona.ca

Director: Michael N Wiebe, 1303 Cardinal Crt Sudbury ON P3A 3C2; 705-566-6686; Spidey111@hotmail.com

Director: Susan Hemmerling, 186 Walford Rd Sudbury ON P3E 2G9 705-522-6734; hestia@eastlink.ca

District 2 Website

(Visit www.acbldistrict2.org for details)

- All District 2 tournaments & results
- District 2 business
- NAP/GNT tournament information
- District 2 Director's page for ACBL news & info
- Graham Warren is the District tournament coordinator - gwarren@rogers.com
- Martin Hunter the NAP/GNT coordinator - martinhunter@rogers.com



President: Linda Lord, 5930 17th Sideroad RR 1, Schomberg ON L0G 1T0;
905-939-8409; linda@unit246.com

Treasurer: Graham Warren, 760 Lowell Ave., Newmarket ON
L3Y 1T5; 905-898-2185; graham@unit246.com

Secretary: Dale MacKenzie, 18 Tomlin Court, Barrie ON L4N 6H1;
705-739-3293; dale@unit246.com

Communications Liaison: Evelyn Caroline, 705-725-1389,
evelyn@unit246.com

Education Coordinator: Marilyn Maher, 5274 Whipoorwill Lane, RR1
Washago ON L0K 2B0; 705-242-4059; marilyn@unit246.com

Regional Chair/Judiciary: Linda Lord, 5930 17th Sideroad RR 1, Schomberg
ON L0G 1T0; 905-939-8409; linda@unit246.com

Tournament Coordinator: Graham Warren, 760 Lowell Ave., Newmarket ON
L3Y 1T5; 905-898-2185; graham@unit246.com

Special Events: Paul Campbell, 27 Sylvia St., Barrie ON L4M 5J2;
705-734-0287, paul@unit246.com

Members-at-Large:

Ron Haney, Bobcaygeon; 705-738-3100; ron@unit246.com

Irfan Ashraf, irfan@unit246.com

Doug Darnley, 1525 Sandhurst Cres., Pickering ON L1V 6Y5; 416-258-1331;
doug@unit246.com

Medhat Fawzy, 18 Price St., Richmond Hill On L4S 1C8; 416-428-9034;
medhat@unit246.com

Recorder: Paul Thurston, 18 Mount Grove Crescent, Wellington ON K0K 3L0;
tweedguy@gmail.com

Other Officials:

Webmaster/Supplies: Greg Coles, RR#1 Box 276, Victoria Harbour ON L0K
2A0; 705-534-1871; greg@unit246.com

Unit 246 Items of Interest

(Visit www.unit246.com for details)

- 1st time members of the ACBL can apply to the Unit 246 Board for a \$20 rebate for their 2nd year of ACBL membership
- Bridge teachers can list their services on the Unit 246 website free



President: Tom Ramsay, 65 Bayberry Drive Unit C408, Guelph, Ont, N1G 5K8, 519-265-1767, tandramsay@yahoo.com

Vice-President: Susan Edwards, 50 Camberdale Pl., London, ON, N6K 4A1, 519-657-7449, 1979edwards@gmail.com

Secretary: Jennifer Verdam-Woodward, 35536b Huron Road, Goderich, ON N7A 4X8, 226-927-4176, jenvw@hurontel.on.ca

Treasurer: Jed Drew, 55 Fairs Cres., Tillsonburg, On., N4G 5W2, 519-842-8786, jed.drew@gmail.com

Webmaster & Membership Chair: Tom Jolliffe; 18 Cadeau Terrace, Unit 10, London, ON N6K 4Z1, 519 639-2206, tom.jolliffe@rogers.com

IN Coordinator + Education Liaison: Hazel Hewitt, Box 2461, 84 Church St. South, St. Marys ON., N4X 1A3, 519-284-3482, hazeljhewitt@hotmail.com

Disciplinary Chair: Pat Simpson, 1852 Lakeland Ave, Sarnia, ON N7X 1G3, 519-542-9469, ptsimpson@cogeco.ca

Tournament Chair: Ted Boyd, 58 St. Andrews St., Cambridge, ON N1S 1M4, 519-740-9614, boydst1945@gmail.com

Other Officials:

Recorder: Dwight Bender, 112-25 Becher St., London, On., N6C 1A4, 519-645-1894, dwrightbender@execulink.com

Auditor: Gary Westfall, 38 Mallard Crescent, Bramalea, ON, L6S 2T6, 905-791-4239, gwestfall@rogers.com

Notice to All Clubs & Tournament Managers in Units 166, 246 & 249

If you plan to run a tournament, please check with your Unit Coordinator to see if the date is free. There is an agreement among the three Units in southern Ontario that their tournaments will not compete with one another. This does not apply to those clubs which have an historic tournament weekend - they are set aside for you.

Graham Warren, District 2 Tournament Coordinator

Unit 249 Honours Jim Brimner

For over 43 years Jim Brimner has served the members of the South Western Ontario Bridge Association (Unit 249). This year, he decided it was time to retire from active service and did not run for re-election. During the course of his career Jim has served as President of our Association on three different occasions, once for as long as ten consecutive years.

To honour Jim, the Unit held a special Unit Championship Game on Sept. 15, hosted by Jim's home club, the Tillsonburg Duplicate Bridge Club. Seventy-two players showed up as Jim was welcomed with a huge cake and many kind words and best wishes. Several current and past directors of Unit 249 attended to thank Jim for his service.

Jim started playing bridge in the early 1970s. He soon became involved in the governance of the game at the Unit level, joining the Board of Directors of the Ontario West Bridge Association in 197—representing the players in the Ridgetown and Chatham areas. At that time, south western Ontario was included within Unit 166. During the 1980s Jim was one of the key individuals who negotiated the establishment of a separate unit and formed the South Western Ontario Bridge Association as Unit 249, splitting from Unit 166 in 1990. In speaking to the group after the presentation, Jim recalled many of

the growing pains of the growth and transition of the unit, and spoke highly of those who had worked with him over the years. Their names are too numerous to list in full, but he did make special mention of Mary Howe, John Easterbrook, Pat Simpson, and Bill Woodcock.

Over all these years Jim successfully juggled the demands of raising a family with his wife Jeanette, pursuing a professional career in both education and business (he holds a PhD in chemistry), and the administration of the Unit.

Jim, from your friends throughout Unit 249, thanks for a job well done! Your dedication, wisdom and sense of humour have been greatly appreciated by all us who have dealt with you.





Catching up with Shan Huang

According to the updated masterpoint list released by the ACBL a few days ago Shan Huang is leading the 2017 Richmond Trophy Race with just over 2,050 points. David Grainger is second with just over 1,760. Shan won the Richmond in 2013 and 2014 and finished second overall in 2015 and 2016. Most astonishing is Shan's career masterpoint accumulation. After only seven years of tournament play Shan ranks 31st overall on the list of Canadian top masterpoint holders with just under 10,700 points.

Resurrecting an old Kibitzer tradition of conducting interviews, here is one the Kib did with Shan a few months ago.

Kib: Shan, you're having another monster year! Congratulations on achieving your Grand Life Master status. When did you first start playing?

Shan: I started playing online a bit during 2006-2008. I became a member of the ACBL in 2009. I started going to bridge tournaments in 2010.

Kib: Who were your early partners and mentors?

Shan: When I started playing tournaments, I played with a few different partners from Dreamland Bridge Club (Bill Xu, Yan Wang, Peter Wang, Jeff Luo, etc.) and Hao Ge, a professional player from Cleveland. They all have been helping me with my game. In 2012, I started playing with Tom Walsh from Saskatoon. We worked hard on our partnership and took some online bridge lessons from Eric Kokish. We stopped playing in 2013 when Tom decided to go back to school. Since then I've been playing with David Sabourin. All my partners had been my mentors. I feel bridge is all about playing, discussing, thinking, and then improving. I'm also grateful that a few world-class players like Justin Lall, Kevin Bathurst, and Daniel Korbelt have been talking about bridge with me, and giving me advice on how to follow suit.

Kib: When did you turn pro, but perhaps more tellingly, when did you feel that you had arrived?

Shan: I turned pro around the end of 2012. The second part is harder to answer. Nowadays I feel the more I play, the more stupid I am. I used to

think I could never, or would never, go down in any makeable contacts when I started playing bridge.

Kib: Please share a favourite hand that you recently declared or defended.

Shan: I don't remember hands as well as before. Maybe I'm getting old. Here is one hand I screwed up recently.

Playing against good opposition at unfavourable vul., you, South, hold:

♠ 5 4 ♥ Q 10 8 4 ♦ Q 8 ♣ A J 10 7 5

The auction goes:

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
1♠	Db1	2♠	3♥
Db1*	Rdbl.	Pass	4♥
All pass			

The opening lead is the diamond ace and this is what you see:

♠ A 6 2
♥ A K 7 3
♦ 9 7 3
♣ K 8 4

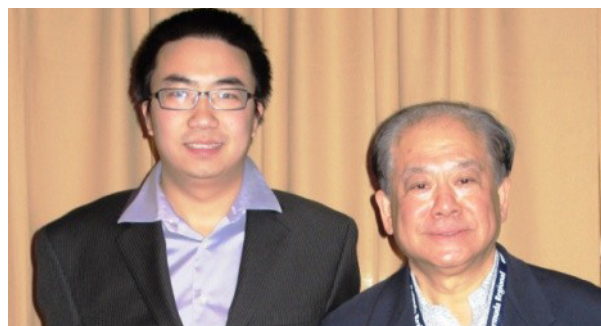
♠ 5 4
♥ Q 10 8 4
♦ Q 8
♣ A J 10 7 5

At trick one it goes diamond ace, three, four, eight. LHO cashes the diamond king and it goes seven, jack and queen. The opponents play standard carding. LHO switches to the spade two. Now let's think about what

the opponents have.

LHO cashed the diamond ace-king not afraid of setting up your queen if you held an original queen third of diamonds. So he's likely to hold the ♦AKxxx. Our side has the majority of high card points, and yet both opponents showed some life: LHO made a game try double* and RHO passed the redouble instead of bidding 3♠ directly. It's hard to construct a hand where RHO doesn't have the queen of clubs and has his pass over the redouble.

So I won the spade ace at trick three and played ace-king of hearts from dummy to guard against ♥Jxxx on my right. But I forgot the clubs could be 5-0, especially given the fact that LHO made a game try double with nothing much. Also with ♥Jxxx of on my right they can always play three rounds of diamonds to tap me and I probably won't pick up hearts. As it turns out, LHO was 5=3=5=0 and I needed to play three rounds of hearts ending in dummy to play a club to the jack. It was really kind of an open book if I think about the auction and go through all the inferences.



*Shan Huang and Richard Chan at the 2016 Bermuda Regional
Photo courtesy of Janet Evans*

Another recent hand featured a funny bidding sequence. I held

♠ Q J 9 5 3 ♥ A Q 2 ♦ 8 6 4 2 ♣ 3

All white; first seat you pass and the auction goes:

West	North	East	South
			Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♦	Pass	Pass	?

Now what's going on in this auction? And what do we bid, if anything?

They are not in game so partner has something. And he's definitely short in diamonds. The question is how many clubs does he have? Well if RHO has club shortness and not enough to bid over 4♦, and the action has gone Pass-3♣-Pass to him, there's no way he's going to bid anything. So he definitely has some sort of club fit. That probably gives partner both majors and short diamonds but not enough to act over 3♣. So I decided to balance by bidding 4♠.

RHO competed to 5♦ which I passed, and partner went on to 5♠. Partner held:

♠ A K 8 6 ♥ K J 9 5 4 ♦ 3 ♣ J 4 2

+450 easy game.

Kib: Let's go for the trifecta; how about a lead problem?

Shan: Yes, actually I do have a good lead problem. You hold:

♠ A 6 5 3 ♥ 9 6 5 ♦ 8 7 4 ♣ A 8 5

At unfavourable vulnerability you find yourself sitting against reasonably good opponents. Partner in first seat passes, and it goes a weak 2♦ on your right, pass by you, 6♦ on your left, all pass. What do you lead?

The opponents are good enough to trot out Blackwood or RKC so chances are your two aces are not cashing—at best one of them is. Dummy definitely has a void. A heart could be right if dummy has the ace of hearts and a black suit missing the ace. But more likely dummy has running hearts and a void in a black suit so your only chance is to cash two quick tricks. That rules out two of your “obvious” choices, black suit aces. Because whenever you need two tricks in a suit, leading an ace can't be better than leading a small one, just in case declarer has a king-jack guess.

For example, imagine the dummy hitting with the ♠ K 10 and declarer holding the ♠ J x. If you bang down the space ace you will have just solved declarer's problem. Therefore, you have to decide which ace you should underlead. Are there any clues?

RHO opened 2♦ weak, so he's unlikely to have more than three spades. If partner has six or more spades, there's a good chance he would have opened a weak 2♠. It's not 100% because you are unfavourable, but partner definitely

needs less to open 2♠ than 3♣. So, because partner did not open 2♠, dummy is more likely to have a club void than a spade void.

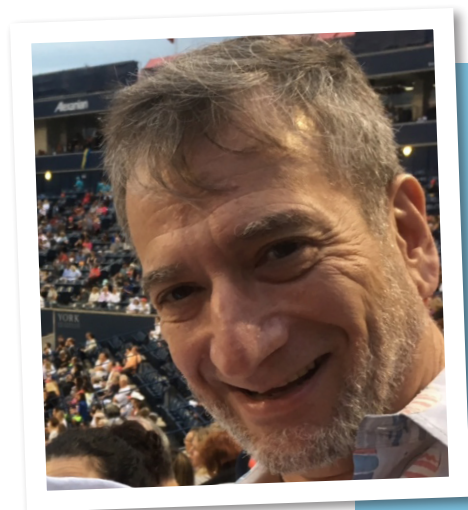
Holding two aces against a slam one might think it is best to lead one of them, but ironically it is a low spade that is actually the right lead. On this deal, partner had the king of spades, so ace of spades would work as well. I heard about this hand from a very good bridge player, and he led the ace of clubs and scored up minus 940.

Everyone makes mistakes.

Kib: Super interesting analysis. Am sure you have lots of interesting stories from the tournament trail. Care to share?

Shan: Not many epic stories. Mostly people missing flights...

Kib: Thanks, Shan. Best of luck the rest of the year and in the future. And no, you're not getting old. We are, but you're not..



A Cross-Border Partnership: Gifts & Grimaces at the Summer NABC

by Joe Yassi

My eight-year partnership with Jim Breihan of Houston, Texas was spawned on BBO. Jim and Jennifer are owners of the Westside Bridge Academy in Houston. BBO has made it super easy to get my bridge fix while dealing with career and family. Jim too has a young family. He would text me from a McDonald's: "Cailin is in the ballroom, u free?" And so we would get a couple of hours in. As for F2F

bridge I've been down to Texas for a couple of Regionals and the Dallas NABC. Jim has been to Toronto for an Easter Regional. I was delighted when Jim, Jennifer, and the two kids planned a summer vacation in Toronto, staying with us, site-seeing and playing some bridge (of course!).

We played in the Bruce 0-6000 LM Pairs and led the event each of the first two days. Here are some of the gifts & grimaces:

Friday, 2nd session, Board 11

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

A “Systemic” gift: it went a weak NT by South, my RHO. This floated to Jim (East) who doubled. LHO ran to 2♦ which I doubled. Jim led the spade ace and switched to the queen of hearts. Declarer lost a club hook. We untangled all our tricks for plus 800 and 100% of the MPs.

Sunday, 2nd session, Board 26

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

A “Second life in a difficult auction” gift: the auction started:

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
1♦	Dbl	1♥	Pass
?			

Now you have a tough bid opposite a passed hand and a doubler on your left...do you reluctantly “settle” for 4♥? I did and LHO now bid 4♠. Pard, thinking reasonably that P is strong and flat for the 4h bid, hit it, showing some cards. Back to you...unafraid (somewhat) of wasted spade values in partner’s hand, you try 5♣. Pard cooperates with 5♦ and you bid the heart slam. Nothing to the play and 92% of the MPs.

The grimaces started early in the fifth session: in the category of “It might not be your day after all”...

Sunday, 1st session, Board 14

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

Our opponents were the only E-W pair to bid the apparently cold heart game. Pick a lead...try a low trump from ♡Q93...cold bottom! Sigh.

(Ed. note. Sounds like North led a spade or diamond giving declarer a trick and a tempo. 4♡ can be beat on a low heart lead and passive defense thereafter; i.e. don't break spades.)

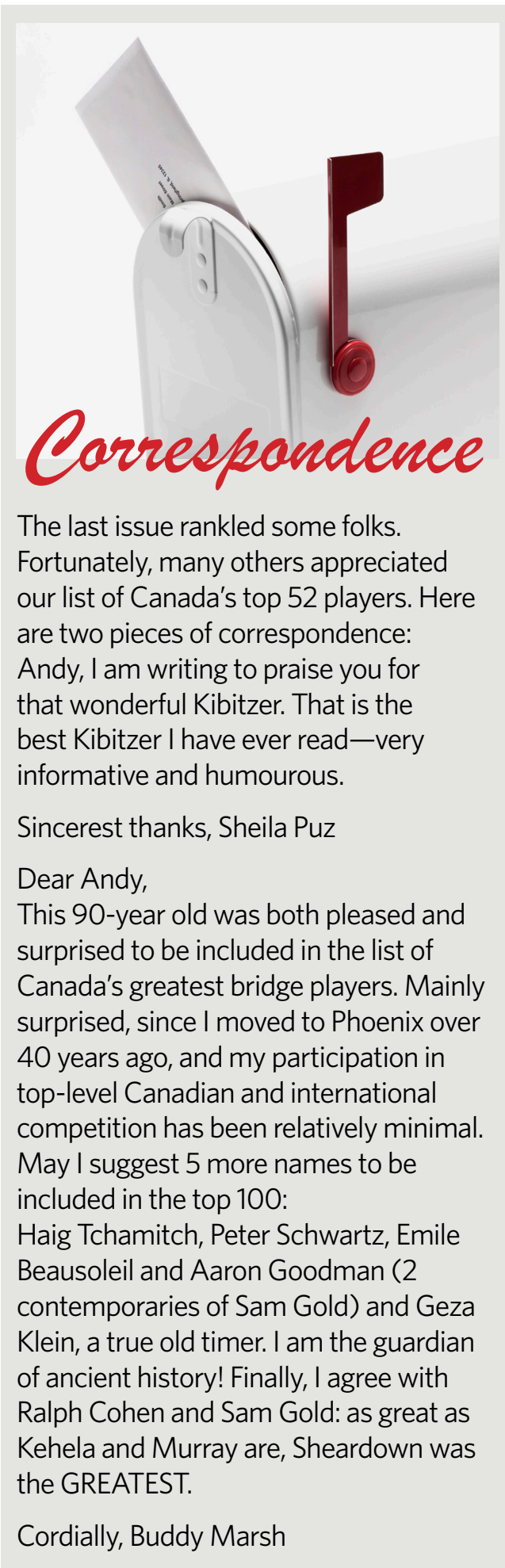
And, in the grimace category of "You're on lead":

Sunday, 2nd session, Board 10

♠ 8 5 2	♠ A J 10 9 6 3	♠ K Q
♡ 10 8 3	♡ 9	♡ Q 5 4
◇ A J 10	◇ Q 8 4	◇ K 9 6 3 2
♣ A Q 3 2	♣ K 7 4	♣ J 9 5
	♠ 7 4	
	♡ A K J 7 6 2	
	◇ 7 5	
	♣ 10 8 6	

South opens 2♡ in second seat and you have to lead...the ♠8 did not work well. Declarer won, picked up trumps in three rounds and set up spades before we could take our second club trick. Good for 5% of the MPs.

So we finished 21st overall. A 3-day, 6-session NABC event was gruelling. Jim played consistently well throughout. His partner had stamina issues. You can find Jim and me on BBO (mojoe and devilscoop), always looking for tough set games.



Correspondence

The last issue rankled some folks. Fortunately, many others appreciated our list of Canada's top 52 players. Here are two pieces of correspondence: Andy, I am writing to praise you for that wonderful Kibitzer. That is the best Kibitzer I have ever read—very informative and humorous.

Sincerest thanks, Sheila Puz

Dear Andy,
This 90-year old was both pleased and surprised to be included in the list of Canada's greatest bridge players. Mainly surprised, since I moved to Phoenix over 40 years ago, and my participation in top-level Canadian and international competition has been relatively minimal. May I suggest 5 more names to be included in the top 100: Haig Tchamitch, Peter Schwartz, Emile Beausoleil and Aaron Goodman (2 contemporaries of Sam Gold) and Geza Klein, a true old timer. I am the guardian of ancient history! Finally, I agree with Ralph Cohen and Sam Gold: as great as Kehela and Murray are, Sheardown was the GREATEST.

Cordially, Buddy Marsh



Canada's Most Accomplished Bridge Players

To compile a list of Canada's 52 top bridge players in time for the ACBL summer nationals held in Toronto in July this year I sent out a survey to about 40 Canadian bridge players to get their opinion. I asked each of them to compile their own personal list. The list that appeared in the previous issue of the Kibitzer benefited from even more vetting and was an amalgamation of the input I received from those inclined to participate. So you could say that list of top players was purely subjective as it was based on other players' opinions. What can and did happen was that certain names from the past ranked quite highly. How do we compare their legacy with some of the players today who have represented Canada at world championships or who have won multiple ACBL national championships?

So here is another look. With lots of help from Nader Hanna, (current CBF

president and better spreadsheet designer than I'll ever be), we put together a list based on accomplishments. This list measures greatness by assigning points for wins and high finishes in both national and international events. For example, a value of 20 points is given for winning a world championship while a value of 3 points is given for coming second in a Canadian Seniors Team Championships. The more prestigious the event the more points assigned.

While still not perfect (no list ever will be) it does provide another perspective; many would argue that this list is more reflective of greatness than the previous issue's list, hence the title, "Most Accomplished." Of note, Geoff Hampson takes over the number one spot and some players like Les Amoils and Gloria Bart move into the top 40. Some of the most accomplished Canadians now live in the US so you won't see them at the club anytime soon.

Rank	Player	Points	Rank	Player	Points
1.	Geoff Hampson	486	39.	Drew Cannell	73
2.	Hugh Ross	449	40.	Gordon Campbell	72
3.	Eric Murray	396	41.	Michael Roche	68
4.	Sami Kehela	322	42.	Bruce Gowdy	66
5.	Fred Gitelman	321	43.	Sharyn Reus	64
6.	George Mittelman	222	44.	Bruce Ferguson	59
7.	Allan Graves	221	45.	David Lindop	58
8.	Mark Molson	218	46.	Mary Paul	54
9.	Boris Baran	192	47.	Jurek Czyzowicz	53
10.	Peter Nagy	188	48.	David Grainger	52
11.	Joey Silver	187	49.	Arno Hobart	51
12.	Billy Cohen	180	50.	Ralph Cohen	47
13.	Eric Kokish	179	51.	Keith Balcombe	46
14.	Agnes Gordon	133	52.	Piotr Klimowicz	42
15.	Diana Gordon	132	53.	Gord McOrmond	40
16.	John Carruthers	129	54.	Sylvia Caley	39
17.	Neil Chambers	129	55.	Marty Kirr	38
18.	Nick L'Ecuyer	119	56.	Karen Cumpstone	36
19.	Robert Lebi	112	57.	Michael Hargreaves	36
20.	Percy Sheardown	112	58.	Duncan Philips	35
21.	Bruce Elliott	112	59.	Michael Schoenborn	31
22.	Gavin Wolpert	109	60.	Kismet Fung	30
23.	Darren Wolpert	109	61.	Fredrick Pollack	30
24.	Nick Gartaganis	97	62.	Bill Crissey	28
25.	Dan Korbel	96	63.	Pamela Nisbet	25
26.	Bryan Maksymetz	94	64.	Danny Miles	24
27.	Francine Cimon	92	65.	Jeff Smith	24
28.	Nader Hanna	89	66.	Susan Culham	21
29.	Kamel Fergani	89	67.	Lynda Winston	21
30.	Dan Jacob	87	68.	John Guoba	20
31.	Leslie Amoils	87	69.	John Gowdy	18
32.	Vincent Demuy	85	70.	Hazel Wolpert	18
33.	Doug Fraser	82	71.	Jim McAvoy	16
34.	Sandra Fraser	82	72.	Ziggy Marcinski	16
35.	Judith Gartaganis	81	73.	David Sabourin	16
36.	Joan Eaton	75	74.	Paul Thurston	16
37.	Katie Thorpe	74	75.	John Rayner	15
38.	Gloria Bart	74	76.	Ted Horning	14



The Perfect Ending

By Michael Schoenborn

August 2017 brought us to Lyon for the Senior teams world championship, with a very nice team: John Gowdy and David Turner; Marty Kirr and Andy Altay; and Fred Lerner trying to carry the Shoe on his smiling shoulders; plus Nader Hanna as our exemplary and hard-working non-playing captain. These are all guys I have known and liked for more than 40 years: Marty and David were with Harmon Edgar and me for the 1987 Bermuda Bowl.

The organizers of the recently held Oshawa tournament invited the whole team as guests of honour where we had to tell the players our tale of woe from the world championship— one that had the opponents outguessing us on the slam hands and nobody particularly playing their best. It ended on a must-win match against Sweden on the final day, where my tiny fumble added up to a slam swing. I held, vulnerable against not:

♠ Q 10 3 ♥ 10 7 5 3 ♦ Q J ♣ A 9 8 2

My LHO opened 1♥ and Fred doubled. RHO raised to a pre-emptive 3♥, I passed, LHO went on smoothly to 4♥

and Fred bid 4♠ in the hot seat, which we play as showing a huge overcall. After RHO passed, I was alert enough to figure out that I held three or four tricks in support of spades, and bid the not-so-lazy 4NT, rather than jumping to slam. Fred, after some consideration, bid 6♠. He held:

♠ A K J 9 6 5 4 ♥ - - ♦ A K 9 6 5 ♣ 4

True, Fred might have hit me over the head by bidding 6♥, (to show 3 keycards plus a heart void), but could he really have a heart loser for this auction? Anyway, you're in the world championship so you can't stand the prospect that they cash the first heart trick, and pusillanimously pass in the small slam. Sweden, of course, was one of three pairs out of 66(!) that reached the grand slam.

So Oshawa provided not only the chance to complain of my luck and to thank my teammates, but also to work on my table presence at tables of live participants. The perfect hand did not come up until the second last board. We were mired in a dogfight for third through twelfth in the Sunday Swiss,

when I picked up:

♠A J 9 5 3 ♥Q 8 7 6 5 ♦6 4 ♣10

Fred opened 1♦ and over my 1♠ response bid a game forcing 3♣. Never one to be shy about notrump, I bid 3NT, perhaps not the best bid if a diamond preference or a 3♥ bid might have gotten useful spade preference from Fred. LHO led a middling club spot, which looked most likely to be from a five-card suit. Now I had to justify my bad bidding with great play, just like in the bridge books.

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

The first step was to realize that if I ducked and lost, the automatic heart shift might actually lock me out of this mighty dummy, so I won in dummy and nailed the king of diamonds to the table, all duck. Now came the queen of diamonds, hoping for doubleton jack or another duck. No such luck, as RHO won and returned the queen of clubs, all but confirming the 5 clubs with LHO.

I won in dummy and drove out the jack of diamonds, also with RHO. Diamonds are 3-3. RHO thought rather deeply and led back a low spade that looked a lot like fourth highest. Does no one have hearts here? I ran two good diamonds and everyone kept all their spades, with LHO pitching a club and a heart. RHO parted with two hearts. I was a little suspicious

that LHO could not afford a small spade.

I now cashed the ♥A, coming down to this ending:

♠4		
♥--		
♦--		
♣9 6 2		
♠?		♠???
♥?		♥?
♦--		♦--
♣J 8		♣--
♠A J 7		
♥Q		
♦--		
♣--		

This is the point when the little light bulb is supposed to come on over my head as I realize this is the perfect double endplay that I never realized I'd been waiting for ... oh... all my bridge playing life! I don't care what LHO's spade is, nor who holds the ♥K. All I have to do is play a spade to the ace and if no queen drops, exit with my remaining heart. If LHO wins, he is end-played with the ♣J8. He gets his ♣J but dummy gets the ♣9 at trick thirteen. If RHO wins the ♥K, he has the ♠Qx remaining, into my ♠J7. Drum roll, please!

At the table, I led the spade from dummy after cashing the heart ace, took the spade finesse and lost to the (now) stiff queen. Down one. Ugh. We finished fifth. More practice continues to be required.



Playing Up at the Local Swiss

What follows is a virtual Swiss Match. If you feel like testing yourself, be sure to stop at the point you are asked a question and try not to peek ahead.

You've been looking forward to this event for months. A good player from your local club has asked you to join her team for the Sunday Swiss at your favourite Sectional tournament—and while you gladly accepted the invitation you do not wish to disappoint.

You have time in the car on the way to go over your system. Your new partner surprises you by saying, "Let's not play anything fancy today. Let's just focus on playing good solid bridge and take all our tricks."

"O-kay," you respond, "so ... does that mean we are not playing any gadgets? What about splinter bids?"

"Sure, splinters and Stayman and Roman Keycard Blackwood. Two over One and upside down carding—how's that?"

Stunned, you respond, "Wow, we haven't even left my driveway."

For the first match you realize you have not shaken the butterflies from your stomach. You're playing up, so to speak. But your teammates are good players and your partner is the best of the lot. You realize they have faith in your play so you tell yourself just to enjoy the moment and not get caught up in the reality that you'll be playing against good players.

You and your partner sit East-West because you know that sitting is the new smoking. You prefer to get up after a round and walk for a bit before comparing scores with your teammates. Your first opponents are good players who seem to always have your number. But instead of feeling even more nervous you say to yourself, "Today's the day. Just focus. Enjoy, enjoy, enjoy."



Ann Shaw & Maria Deaves

Board 1

Vul: None

Dir: N

You, West, hold:

♠K J 3 ♥9 7 6 3 ♦Q 8 ♣Q 10 9 7

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	INT	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All pass			

Your partner leads the ♠5. You agreed on 4th best leads during the fastest system talk ever. The dummy comes down with a nice 15-count:

(Rotated for convenience)

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

Wow, what a partner! Declarer tries the spade ten and you win the jack. Clearly it must be right to switch to a club, so you try the club ten. It goes two-jack-four. Partner reverts to spades with the ♠2. Declarer wins the ace as you follow with the ♠3.

Declarer plays a heart to his ace and another heart to the dummy. On the run of the next three hearts from dummy you follow suit twice and then discard the ♣7. Meanwhile partner has

had to find three discards. In order, she pitches the ♠4, the ♦7 and the ♣8. Declarer discards the ♠9 and two small clubs. Here is the position with declarer needing three more tricks:

♠ Q	
♥ --	
♦ K 10 9 6	
♣ --	
	♠ K
	♥
	♦ Q 8
	♣ Q 9

Declarer calls for the diamond ten from dummy. **Quick--do you play the queen or eight?**



Dwight Bender and the best bridge shirt ever

While there are many inferences from the play so far one way to get this problem right is to recall what partner pitched on the run of the hearts.

After pitching a small spade, partner discarded the seven of diamonds—a discouraging signal playing upside down count and attitude. There are four other diamond spots under the 7 missing so partner is effectively denying the diamond ace.

Therefore you have to hope partner holds the $\diamond J$, or, if declarer holds that card, that declarer does not find the $\diamond Q$. So don't offer it up! Play the $\diamond 8$ and as smoothly as possible.

When you do, declarer wins his ace and plays another diamond to the king in dummy. When he tries the $\diamond 10$ you pitch a club, partner wins her $\diamond J$, and cashes the $\clubsuit A$ and then plays a spade to your king. The full deal:

\spadesuit 8 5 4 2	\spadesuit A Q 10	\spadesuit K J 3
\heartsuit 8 4	\heartsuit K Q J 10 2	\heartsuit 9 7 6 3
\diamond J 7 5 4	\diamond K 10 9 6	\diamond Q 8
\clubsuit A J 8	\clubsuit 4	\clubsuit Q 10 9 7
	\spadesuit 9 7 6	
	\heartsuit A 5	
	\diamond A 3 2	
	\clubsuit K 6 5 3 2	

Result: If you played the $\diamond Q$ in the diagrammed position, minus 430. (Declarer would finesse your partner out of her jack and score an overtrick.) If you played the $\diamond 8$, plus 50.

Board 2

Vul: NS

Dlr: E

You hold a lovely hand:

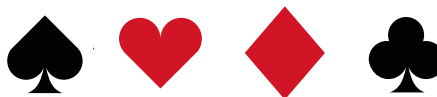
\spadesuit A K 4 \heartsuit A K Q J 9 7 \diamond J 6 2 \clubsuit 9

West	North	East	South
		1 \clubsuit	Pass
1 \heartsuit	Pass	3 \clubsuit	Pass
3 \heartsuit	Pass	4 \heartsuit	Pass
4 \spadesuit	Pass	5 \diamond	Pass
?			

Partner surprises you by opening the bidding. You think about jumping to 2 \heartsuit but decide instead to respond 1 \heartsuit as this bid is 100% forcing. You are even further shocked at partner's jump to 3 \clubsuit which shows a decent club suit and a hand of about 15 to 18 points. You know you are in the slam range but you still do not have a fit. You remember that 3 \heartsuit is forcing so you bid it to show a six-card suit.

Partner raises you to game in hearts. You would like to bid RKC 4NT but you have three quick losers in diamonds, so you need to cuebid in order to see if partner can cuebid diamonds. You try 4 \spadesuit and partner bids 5 \diamond to show a diamond control, most likely the ace.

What is your call?



If you bid 6♥ partner will pass and you will make an overtrick. But if you cuebid again, ideally 5♠, then partner will drive to the grand slam. Any cuebid by you is a grand slam try at this point. If you were to sign off with 5♥ partner would pass. Any bid by you above 5♥ can only be an attempt to reach a grand slam or else you would simply sign off at the 6-level.

Result: If you bid 5♠ or 6♣, plus 1510. If you bid 6♥, plus 1010. If you bid 5♥, plus 710. The East-West hands:

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

Board 3

Vul: EW

Dir: S

You hold:

♠ 8 5 ♥ 6 5 3 ♦ 8 5 4 ♣ A K J 6 2

The auction goes:

West	North	East	South
			2♦*
Pass	4♥	4NT	5♥
?			

* = Flannery, 11-15 HCPs, with 4 spades and 5 hearts.

What is your call?

Partner has something over there besides 5-5 in the minors as she was willing to play 5 of a minor in the face of the opposition bidding. Clearly your three choices are Pass, Double, or 6♣.

The full deal:

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

Result: If you bid 6♣, the opponents double and you go two down, minus 500. Ouch. If you pass 5♥ you go plus 50; if you double, plus 100. Animal!

The danger with doubling 5♥ is that if they make it they go plus 650. If your partners also make 5♥ but undoubled, they go plus 450 for a net loss of 5 imps. If both 5♥ contracts go down then your enterprising double would win your side 2 imps. The imp scale is not in your favour here unless you plan to set it two or more tricks. Better to stay conservative. Bidding 6♣ in front of partner is just too frisky. Remember if partner has some monster hand in the minors she can bid again over 5♥. As it were, by boldly entering the fray, partner did well to push the opponents to the five-level. A

maxim to remember with these high-level decisions: *Let the opponents make the last guess.*

Board 4

Vul: Both

Dir: W

You hold:

♠ A K Q ♥ 9 7 4 3 ♦ A Q 9 6 ♣ K 7

West	North	East	South
1♦	3♣	Pass	3NT
?			

What the heck? You hold a nice 18-count and were all set to rebid 2NT when your cheeky opponents up and bid game before your next turn to bid. *This may have intimidated you before, but not today.*

When you hold 18 points and the opponents bid 3NT, they're bidding on trick-taking power, not high card strength. Your vulnerable LHO bid 3♣ so you can envision a seven-card suit headed by two of the top three honours; that is, if he is sane. Your RHO has a probable club fit plus some scattered values that he hopes will furnish two tricks to go with seven club tricks. Since you are looking at the king of clubs you can bet declarer will play you for it, so those seven club tricks are coming home and you know it.

So you can pass and defend 3NT or you can double, which should be taken as a good hand and a takeout of clubs.

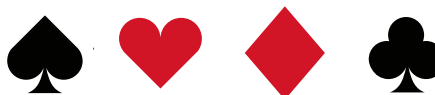
What is your call?

The full deal:

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

If South gets to play 3NT he'll make it on any lead and continuation. But if you double 3NT and partner pulls to 4♥ the opponents will collect 100 for beating 4♥ one trick—if they let your partner play there. In short, it is better to double to show your strong hand and let partner make the decision of whether to defend or not. Oftentimes sneaky players with big minor fits will try to play 3NT, but only un-doubled. Once they are doubled in 3NT they will run to the 4-level of their minor. The 4-of-a-minor contract is a lot harder to double unless a defender has a trump stack.

Result: If you passed 3NT, minus 600. If you doubled 3NT, partner bids 4♥ and plays it there. The opponents lead a club and take the obvious four tricks: one club, one diamond and two hearts: minus 50.



Board 5

Vul: NS

Dlr: N

You've had some good hands this session! You now hold a doozy:

♠A K J ♥A K Q 6 2 ♦J ♣A Q 7 4

Dealer passes and partner opens the bidding with 1♦. Your first instinct is to want to jump to show a good hand but then you settle down and bid one forcing heart. Why do you respond with only 1♥?

Besides showing a game-forcing hand and slam interest, a strong jump shift response (here a bid of 2♥) should say one of three things: a) we're going to play in my suit; or b) we're going to play in partner's suit; or c) we're going to play in notrump. You plan to let partner in on your secret at your next bid. But with this hand you want to take things slowly to elicit information from partner. At this early stage you do not know which strain the contract will be played in. Best to go slow. And keep making forcing bids!

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♠	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♦	Pass
?			

What is your call?

As soon as partner opened the bidding you were thinking grand slam, yes? Equation time: Opening Bid + 24 Point Monster = Grand Slam.

Except, obviously, when a small slam is the limit. Nothing has swayed you to deviate from your desire to bid a grand slam, but what have you learned about partner's holding? Playing Roman Keycard Blackwood, when you bid 4NT you were keying off diamonds. That is, the king of diamonds is now a keycard, along with the four aces. Partner's 5♠ response showed two keycards plus the diamond queen.

Partner should have seven or eight diamonds headed by the A-K-Q. When you bid 5NT you invited a grand slam by saying, "We have all four aces plus the king of trumps plus the queen of trumps—do you have any kings?" Partner is allowed to bid a grand slam if she wishes, or she can sign off at the six-level or she can show a king by bidding the suit in which she holds the king. Some like to show number of kings; some prefer to show specific kings; you are playing the latter. Here, when partner returned to diamonds she denied an outside king. So you know you are off the king of clubs.



Tom Ramsay & David Deaves

Result: If you bid 7NT, minus 50. If you bid 7♦, plus 1440. The whole deal:

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

Bridge can be cruel. Ostensibly you have 14 top tricks, but your singleton diamond means partner needs to overtake the jack if playing a notrump contract. South's ♦10653 spells doom. However in a diamond contract, declarer can unblock the ♦J, then return to hand with a spade ruff (safest), to draw trumps.

Do you agree with partner's bidding? First, how about that 1♦ opener? We like it. It's too good to preempt with an opening of 3♦ because of the eighth diamond. And it's not a 4♦ opening bid because that takes you past 3NT. Speaking of 3NT, there is a convention called Gambling 3NT and partner's hand is a textbook Gambling 3NT opener showing a 7+ minor with three of the top honours. Perfect! Not playing that convention, partner did best by opening 1♦ and repeating her diamonds at each opportunity.

Second, while partner never did quite show the eighth diamond, she

could not count 13 tricks to bid 7♦ herself. So when you asked for kings, she decided to return to 6♦, and not accept your grand slam invitation.

If you're playing imps, you want to be in 7♦. But if you're playing matchpoints, by all means, bid 7NT and hope for the best.

Board 6

Vul: EW

Dir: E

As dealer you hold:

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

Do you pass, or open 1♠, or 2♠s?

Believe it or not but this is not a clear-cut pass for everyone. Some like you would pass while others would be in there with 2♠ or even 3♠! And yet others, those who use the modern losing trick count, might open the bidding with 1♠. Not our cup of tea.

The reason you should pass is because you have a side four-card major. Keep in mind this is a matter of style. Some modern bidders believe in maxims like: "If it looks like a weak two it is a weak two." But the textbooks say you could end up playing in 2♠ when cold for 4♥—maybe even 6♥! Other players refrain from opening weak twos when holding a void. This is definitely an area you want to discuss in a practiced partnership—how bad and how good can your weak two openers be? Can you hold a side major? Can you have a void? Do you need two of the top

three honours? Etc.

After you pass North opens 1♥, partner doubles, and South competes with 2♦ which shows an old fashioned weakish hand, long in diamonds and short in hearts. *What is your call?*

You have quite a few options. You could bid 2♠, 3♠ or 4♠. Or you could cuebid hearts or diamonds. While cuebidding announces to your partner, “This is our hand,” it may lead to a convoluted sequence. Best here is to make the ma and pa bid of 4♠. You are bidding to make it and partner should play you for a hand such as this—maybe not a lot of highcards, but a long spade suit of six or more. Yes, there are hands where you will jump to 4♠ holding five spades.

After a pass by North partner bids 4NT! The boards have been lively. You are about to show your two controls with a bid of 5♥ when it suddenly dawns on you, your hand is bereft of diamonds. Is there a way to indicate a diamond void?

There is! You have to agree to this with your partner but a common agreement is this: when holding an odd number of keycards bid your void at the six-level. Your void must be below the trump suit. If your void is in a suit higher ranking than your trump fit, bid 6 of your trump suit. Another factor: your void has to be “working.” That is, you wouldn’t show a void if it were in partner’s opening bid suit. If you have an even number of keycards, as you do here, bid 5NT.

Luckily you had just read about showing voids in Roman Keycard Blackwood so you trusted your respected partner would know the responses, too. Plus what is the worst that can happen on a day you promised yourself you would enjoy? So you trot out 5NT hoping you survive and you do! Partner closes the auction with a bid of 6♠.

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	Dbl	2♦
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♠	All pass

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

North kicks off with the king of hearts.

A really good habit to get into as declarer is to continually ask yourself: What is the likely distribution? What are the clues? Hearts are probably 7-1, or 6-2. Diamonds are likely 4-6 or 3-7. This leaves North with ten or eleven red cards. So on this hand, missing queen-third of trumps, the odds say you should start trumps by winning the spade ace first to see if North is void, and if so, you can finesse South for the queen if necessary.

If you willy-nilly start with the king of trumps, thinking North must hold the queen of spades for his opening bid, then you’re not thinking deeply enough.

That would be your plan if you think it is best to get the kiddies off the street. Is there a rush to draw trumps? You have three heart losers you want to get rid of—perhaps you need dummy’s trumps to ruff the hearts.

Plan the play; be specific. If ruffing hearts is your plan, whom will you play for the queen of clubs—North or South?



Friendly Director, Exhibit A: Martin Hunter



Friendly Director, Exhibit B: David Eddy

There are many hands where it will be right to ruff hearts in the dummy. This is not one of those hands. There are two reasons you should not get ruff-happy: 1) knowing South is short in hearts from the bidding you will potentially find yourself getting over-ruffed. By ruffing hearts you delay the inevitable which is finding the queen of clubs; 2) the clubs are too juicy. Once the clubs are set up, two of your losing hearts can be pitched. So you only need to ruff one heart, not three. And ruffing that heart can come after you have successfully drawn trumps.

The full deal:

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

Result: If you drew trumps, (style points for starting with the ♠A) and then took a club finesse through North after cashing the ♣A, plus 1430. If you tried to ruff hearts right away without drawing trumps you can still make it after your ♠9 gets over-ruffed. But you needed to find the ♣Q. Who did you finesse for it? If you finessed North, down one; minus 100. If you finessed South, well done; plus 1430.

Board 7

Vul: Both

Dir: S

The bad news is it's the last board of the match. The good news is you get to play with your awesome partner for six more matches. "I could get used to playing up," you think to yourself. You can't wait to compare scores but the last board requires focus.

Your RHO deals and opens a weak 2♠. You pass and LHO raises to 4♠ which becomes the final contract. *What is your opening lead?*

If you were to give this problem to a few bridge players you would get votes for cards in each suit. Anything could be right. A trump lead is the most passive thing you can do. It won't likely blow a trick as the opponents' trumps rate to be solid. If they're missing the king it is always going to be finessed. If they're missing the queen it is always going to get dropped. But if they have a nine-card fit, you might be finessing partner out of her queen.

Better still is to guess where your side might build tricks. Underleading the heart jack could be right but as we saw on Board 1 blindly leading away from jacks often blows a trick on defense. So by process of elimination you are down to leading a club or diamond.

The ♦A could be right and not likely to blow a trick because the ♦K is either in the dummy or with partner. Still, if declarer has the ♦K you will look foolish. The ♦Q might even be right but you don't need your name

in the newspaper to feel secure about your bridge game, do you? Leave the ♦Q lead to Zia. So you settle on a club. *Which club do you lead?*

Since you play fourth best you could lead the ♣3. But perhaps the best message you should send to partner is that you can stand a switch to a different suit, in this case diamonds. So lead a top of nothing ♣7. Partner should be able to figure out that you have length in clubs not shortness. Down comes the dummy.

♠ J 7 3 2
♥ A K 10 3
♦ J 7 6 2
♣ Q

♠ 4
♥ J 8 7 5 2
♦ A Q
♣ 7 6 4 3 2

Declarer calls for the ♣Q and partner wins the ♣K. At trick two partner switches to the ♦4 and declarer follows with the ♦8. **Plan your defense.**



Danielle Gosselin

You can now see three defensive tricks: one club and two diamonds. Where is the fourth coming from?

The full deal:

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

Did you win the ♦Q first and then play the ♦A? If you did you're still waiting to set this contract. You needed to win the ♦A first, then play the ♦Q. Partner will figure out that you were dealt a doubleton and overtake with the ♦K to give you a ruff. Any other sequence and declarer will have time to shed a diamond loser on a top heart.

How do you know to play diamonds this way?

The key is the spot card that partner returned at trick two. If she did not hold a diamond honour she would have played a high spot card—much the same way you played the ♣7, to indicate top of nothing. When defending, remember your favourite city: Boston, or make that B.O.S.T.O.N. which stands for Bottom of Something Top of Nothing. Since the ♦4 is a low card partner is showing an honour in the suit.

Declarer tried to muddy the waters by following with the ♦8—good play. As declarer you always want to try scrambling your plays. If you succeed in distorting the layout of the cards around the table you often make contracts you have no business making. But the play of the ♦8 should not fool you because you should trust partner's carding before trusting declarer's.

Result: If you play the ♦A first then the ♦Q partner overtakes her ♦K and gives you a ruff, plus 100. If you win the ♦Q first then play the ♦A, minus 620.

Post mortem: You return to your teammates' table and compare scores. On the first board, when you had to duck the diamond ten, your teammates bid and made 3NT when East kicked off with a fourth best diamond lead from ♦J754. Underleading jacks might seem like a safe lead but it so often blows tricks like in this case. On the diamond lead declarer played the ten from dummy and partner played the queen. At trick two declarer played a diamond to dummy's nine and soon claimed nine tricks. Your partner's lead of a spade was a much better (and luckier) start. **NS plus 400.** See scoring table on p. 38.

On Board 2 where you had a grand slam decision the opponents bid and made 7NT. Too bad you can't win style points as your cuebidding auction was more informed. Your opponents had a Blackwood auction when the strong heart hand launched into 4NT looking at J62 of diamonds. For shame. **NS minus 1520.**

On Board 3 your teammate opened 1♥. North bid 3♦, a Bergen Raise showing four or more hearts and 10-12 dummy points. The opponent sitting East made a lead-directing double. Your teammates were allowed to play in 4♠ and made it on a diamond lead. (It's cold on any lead.) Bergen: 1, Flannery: 0. **NS plus 420.**

On Board 4 the auction started the same way at the other table: 1♦ (3♣) Pass (3NT) Dbl (Pass) but instead of bidding 4♥ the East player passed hoping to take a bunch of heart tricks. Your teammate sitting South held her ground, so 3NT doubled was the final contract. Just in! **NS plus 750.** *What do you think of South's bidding?*

Yes, as the saying goes, "all's well that ends well," but South could easily have gone for her life. What if North held KQJ10864 of clubs? That's still a vulnerable preemptive overcall. Or what if the king of clubs was offside? South's gambit would have been better if she held a fitting club honour—then she could envision seven ironclad club tricks. Today she was lucky!

On Board 5 your opponent sitting East opened with a Gambling 3NT. This convention shows a hand with a long running minor headed by the AKQ and no outside ace or king. West bid 7♦. Two bids, grand slam, cold. **NS minus 1440.**

On Board 6 your opponents bid up to six spades and made an overtrick when your partner sitting North led her ♣8. **NS minus 1460.**

What do you think of North's singleton lead?

It was better than banging down the ace of diamonds but not as effective as leading a top heart. The famous Italian champion Benito Garozzo once gave this tip: Lead singletons versus slams. It's usually better when you hold two trumps though. Do you see why? If you hold two trumps you win when partner has either the ace in the suit you lead or the ace of trumps. But here, holding singletons in both black suits, it's anti-percentage that your partner has the ace of clubs—based on the bidding. Maybe partner has the king of clubs and declarer will take a first-round finesse. Maybe. Best to let declarer do the work. Try to set up a heart trick and keep your ♦A in reserve. Are there times to lead an ace against a slam? Of course! Especially if you're playing against someone from Toronto.

On Board 7 your teammates played 4♠ and made an overtrick when the player holding your cards led a heart. If you learned one thing this match and one thing only it is this: avoid underleading jacks! Even the ♦Q lead would have worked better than a heart. **NS plus 650.**

Well, did you get off to a good start with your new bridge partner?



How to score using imps. After each hand of a Swiss match you get a score such as plus 50 or minus 420. After playing seven boards it is time to compare your scores with your teammates' scores. So if you are plus 50 on Board 1 and your teammates are plus 110 your net score is plus 160. Look up 160 in the table below to

see how many imps 160 is worth. As you can see plus 160 is worth 4 imps. So you have 4 and the other team 0. Do this for the other six boards to get a final imp score. Add the scores up. If the scores in the plus column are larger than the scores in the minus column, you win!

International Match Points (IMPs) - In international matchpoint scoring, on each board the total point difference between the two scores compared is converted into IMPs according to the following scale:

Difference in points	IMPs
20-40	1
50-80	2
90-120	3
130-160	4
170-210	5
220-260	6
270-310	7
320-360	8
370-420	9
430-490	10
500-590	11
600-740	12
750-890	13
900-1090	14
1100-1290	15
1300-1490	16
1500-1740	17
1750-1990	18
2000-2240	19
2250-2490	20
2500-2990	21
3000-3490	22
3500-3990	23
4000+	24



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0 – 500(non LM), 0-100 Pairs	11:00 am & 4:00 pm
0-100 Lesson	10:15 am & 3:15 pm

Saturday, January 6

(Single Session entries welcome)

Unit 166 Annual General Meeting	3:00 pm
Knockout Teams (Cont. from Friday)	11:00 am & 4:00 pm
Flight A/X Pairs	11:00 am & 4:00 pm
Flight B/C/D Pairs	11:00 am & 4:00 pm
0 – 500(non LM), 0-100 Pairs	11:00 am & 4:00 pm (single sessions)
0-100 Lesson	10:15 am & 4:00 pm

Sunday, January 7

Flight A/X Swiss Teams (2 sessions)	11:00 am & TBA
Flight B/C/D Swiss Teams (2 sessions)	11:00 am & TBA
0 – 500 (non-LM) Swiss Teams (2 sessions)	11:00 am & TBA

Flights: (Flight is determined by highest masterpoint holding; strat within flight by average masterpoint holding.)

Friday: A=2500+, B= 1000-2500, C = 0-1000

Saturday: A=3000+, X= 0-3000, B=1500-2500, C= 750-1500, D=0-750

Sunday: A= 3000+, X= 0-3000; B= 1500-2500, C= 750-1500, D=0-750

Sectional Session Fees: ACBL Members \$14.00; 0-100 events \$10.00;
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Friendly Fred Swiss Teams.....	7:00

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Stratified B/C/D Pairs.....	1:00 & 7:00
(750/1500/2000)	
499 ^{er} Pairs (100/300/500) - 1 session...	7:00
99 ^{er} Pairs (20/50/100) - 1 session.....	7:00

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Tournament Trail

Page numbers (p.) refer to ads in this issue. An asterisk (*) means tournament information was in the previous issue. Information is subject to change - check www.unit166.ca or www.acbl.org for up-to-date information.

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MAY

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Championships, Montreal

JUNE

9-10 Sarnia
19-24 Kingston Regional

JULY

3-8 Kitchener Regional

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