

THE KIBITZER

December/79, January/80

Official publication of the Calgary Bridge League (Unit 390). Send all correspondence, including contest answers, to: Allan Simon
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CALGARIANS WIN NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP

Way to go! David and Paul Chen have just returned from Cincinnati with the Grand National Rookie Pairs trophy. This triumph makes them the first Calgarians ever to win a North American championship. Readers may recall that David and Paul qualified for this event by turning in a 73.5% game at the Martinique in early September. The following article from the Daily Bulletin tells about their triumph:

CALGARY PAIR TOPS ROOKIE GRAND NATIONAL

David and Paul Chen, brothers from Calgary, were forced to revamp their bidding system completely yesterday for the final of the Grand National Rookie Pairs. They usually play a wide variety of conventions, but the competition called for Class A only. That didn't stop them -- not at all. They adjusted admirably, and today they reign as the first-ever Grand National Rookie Pair champions. Their score of 431 gave them an 11-point edge over David Kresge and Walter Bell of Orefield PA.

Both Chens played bridge while they were in college at Taiwan University in Taipei, Taiwan. Then pressure of family life and business compelled them to give up bridge for many years until they resumed the game -- as partners -- last summer. They play "only" once a week -- the "only" is strongly questioned by their wives, neither of whom plays bridge. The wives would prefer the bridge games to be once a month.

David, 36 years old, played with one of the best bridge players in the world while he was in college. He played several times with Patrick Huang, who has represented Taiwan in Bermuda Bowl competition several times and who was on the runnerup team in the 1969 Bermuda Bowl in Rio de Janeiro. David is a structural engineer. Paul, who is 31, never played with his brother while they were in Taiwan -- "He was too young then," said David. Paul is a chemical engineer. They have been in Canada for about six years.

Here's what they had to give up from their system yesterday -- negative doubles, fourth suit forcing, new minor forcing, forcing Stayman, splinter bids, Jacoby 2NT, 2D showing 4-4-4-1, Mathe and Jordan 2NT.

Going into the final yesterday, they each had 16 masterpoints, most of which they have won since the summer in sectional and regional events.

Their parting words: "Thanks to the ACBL for bringing us here. How about having a Grand National for players with 20 - 100 points next year?"

OVERALL LEADERS

1. David Chen-Paul Chen, Calgary AB	431
2. David Kresge-Walter Bell, Orefield PA	420
3. John Lepscier, Oak Forest IL- Ray Ehrig, Orland Park IL	391½
4. Marjorie Cowger-Diane Scoma, Peoria, IL	385½
5. Kay Perfect-Yvonne Zoco, Riverside CA	382½
6. Ann Freeman-Joan Mihay, Fresno CA	378

GRAND NATIONAL PAIRS DISTRICT FINAL

An important reminder to the 11 pairs who qualified for the District Final: this event will be held at the Holiday Inn in Great Falls on January 12/13 1980. Starting time is 1:00 P.M. on Saturday. A block of rooms has been set aside for bridge players, but you must call the hotel directly if you wish to reserve a room.

As we go to press, two clubs have held their qualifying round tournaments, with the following results:

Martinique Bridge Studio (11 teams - 4 qualifiers)

1. Alex Orlandini-Allan Simon-Rick Tewari-Ken Penton
2. Joyce Millward-Elsie Ridout-Tom Webb-Freda Webb
3. Maurice Wheeler-Dorothy Wheeler-Stan Tokarski-Pepita Tokarski
4. Ferne Wroth-Helen Roche-Pat Smolensky-Don Gladman

Red Deer Bridge Club (7 teams - 3 qualifiers)

1. Dr. Gerry Francis-Gerda Brouwer-Rick Cookson-Hills-Heather Cookson-Hills
2. Stan Armstrong-Jean Armstrong-Doug Crowe-Florence Crowe-Al Rix
3. Don McCormick-Christine McCormich-Ron Mitchell-Mary Mitchell

While the game at the Calgary Bridge Centre unfortunately had to be cancelled, more qualifiers are expected from the qualifying round hosted by the Big Diamond Bridge Studio on December 2nd.

The Intermediate round will be held on the weekend on February 16-17th, with the location and other details to be announced in early January.

UNIT GAME OFF TO FAST START

The first monthly unit game drew 28 pairs to the Big Diamond Bridge Club. The net proceeds to the unit amounted to \$60, which will be used to help defray the costs of printing and mailing the Kibitzer. The winners were:

1. Marj Andrukow-Subhash Gupta
2. Anita Carpenter-Steve Bates
3. Alex Orlandini-Charlie Roberts

The next two unit games have been scheduled for Sunday, December 16th and Sunday, January 20th. Both games will be held at the Big Diamond with a 7:30 starting time.

Master points galore are to be won and it is all for a good cause, so please get yourself a partner and plan to attend all unit games. If these games don't make it, the unit will have no choice but to cut back on this newsletter.

CHARITY GAME ROUNDUP

23 tables at the Open Section, held at the spanking new C.B.C. in Valley Ridge, and 12 more tables for the Novice Section at the Martinique - a fine turnout indeed. Special thanks to the Valley Ridge people for their hospitality and for a generous donation of \$100 to the Canadian Mental Health Association. The results follow:

Open Section:

1. Carl and Marg Lawless
2. Lois Dunsmore-Marie Trottier
- 3/4. Clarence Madsen-Alex Orlandini
- 3/4. Bob Padget-Allan Simon

Novice Section:

1. Elaine Sorenson-Letta Mansutti
2. Barbara Bond-D.C. Bowes
3. Ruth Paterson-Annsliad Reid

NEW BRIDGE CLUB-CJC CARD SHARPS

There is a new bridge club in town. The club, known as the "CJC Card Sharps", holds its games in the Calgary Jewish Centre, at 1607 - 90th Ave. S.W. Duplicate games are held every Monday afternoon at 1:00 P.M. and Thursday evenings at 7:30 P.M., and everyone is welcome to attend. There is lots of free parking. For more information, call Ruth Waterman at 243-3623.

NEW NOVICE GAME AT THE MARTINIQUE

Walt Alex is to be praised for an excellent innovation; on the first and third Monday of every month, in addition to his regular Swiss Teams event, there will be a special Novice Pairs for players holding less than 5 master points. These games are an excellent introduction to duplicate, and should elicit an excellent response from students enrolled in the City's bridge classes.

If you are reading this, you like bridge. Yet, you likely have some beefs about some aspects of the game. But has it occurred to you that some of your habits may be detracting from the enjoyment that others get from bridge? Most of us have annoying habits; these annoying habits vary, depending on whether we are relatively new to the game or are in the expert or near-expert class. So before reading on, decide which class you fall in and select the appropriate column.

Dear Novice!

While you may be relatively new to duplicate, the mere fact that you are now playing duplicate bridge indicates that you have mastered the fundamentals of this fascinating game. But while you know how to bid and play a hand, your teacher may have forgotten to tell you about some of the unwritten (and written) laws of bridge. When you violate these laws, you are detracting from my enjoyment of the game. Let's say you are dealt the following hand:
S: Qx H: Jxxxx D: x C: Kxxxx
You are vulnerable, the opponents aren't. Your partner opens 1 heart and your right-hand opponent overcalls 2 diamonds. You bid 2 hearts (a slight underbid) and your left-hand opponent jumps to 5 diamonds! Partner thinks for a while and finally doubles. It now goes pass to you. What do you bid? Many of you would bid 5 hearts, on the theory that "partner thought of bidding it himself". And that, my friend, is against the spirit of the game. A real bridge player asks himself: "What would I have bid if partner had doubled in tempo, i.e., promptly?" And if the answer is at all close - as in this example - he will bend over backwards not to take advantage of partner's hesitation. Yes, an ethical player will pass partner's double, knowing full well that he is settling for a 300-point penalty instead of a likely +650. And what if partner had doubled 5 diamonds promptly and loudly, indicating a desire to defend? That's right, you should bid 5 hearts, again refusing to take advantage of unauthorized information. Oh, yeah?, I can hear the quick thinkers ask, so from now on whenever I want partner to pass my doubles I'll double slowly, and softly, and if I'm unsure I'll double fast and loud! The answer to that is that it would be cheating. If you really want to cheat, there are better ways. So please work on your ethics and you'll be surprised how enjoyable the game can be. Before I leave you, let me tell you a story from a recent National championship. In an important knockout match, Tony Morris, the well-known expert from Great Falls, was in 3NT against Mike Lawrence and Piyush Vakil. Lawrence led a club to Vakil's Ace and after some thought Vakil shifted to a heart. This was an excellent play, since

Dear Expert!

I'm the novice you love to see coming to your table. Two sure tops coming up! And while you may be disappointed after a session in which you have to settle, say, for a section third, I'm pleased if I manage to break average. No wonder you don't think much of me. Yet I am as important to the game as you are. Without a steady stream of newcomers, tournament bridge would soon become extinct. So why do so many of you spoil our pleasure and drive us away? Remember the hand where we bid and made 3 no-trump against you? I held: S: AQxx H: AQL0x D: Qxx C: xx My partner opened 1 club and I jumped to 3NT. You led a heart and I made an otherwise impossible contract. I was really pleased until you took my hand out of the board and laughed. Then your partner told you not to worry, 4 spades was cold all day on a squeeze. You made me feel about 3 feet tall! How would you like it if you played against Hamman-Kantar and they laughed and sneered at you? If it really so hard for you, after a hand like this, to turn to me and say, "Nice bid. And you played the hand well." I would have felt great and I would have played well the rest of the session - taking matchpoints away from your real opponents. And, more importantly, I would have kept coming back to tournaments, hoping for more good results. Instead, I hardly play any more in open events. I don't need the humiliation. And if I misplay a hand, why can't you offer helpful advice? You might say "You had the right idea going after the diamonds. But after your small diamond to dummy's king wins, it would be better to duck on the way back, hoping for a doubleton Ace..." This would teach me something without humiliating me. And while I'm being so bold, here is another beef: Why don't you ask me to play with you sometime? There are many events which probable don't mean that much to you (like Unit games or Charity games), yet you always enter them with a good partner. Of course, I'm scared to ask you, but what a thrill it would be if you asked me. Why, with the boost to my ego and with what I'd learn, I'd be hooked! I'm waiting for your call.

Yours in bridge,

A novice.

Dear Novice! Cont'd:

Tony had a singleton opposite dummy's Jxxx. Tony was taken aback by this play, and hesitated for a few seconds before he played his singleton Ace. He then led his King of Spades to force out Lawrence's Ace. Not Morris would win the rest of the tricks unless Lawrence continued with a heart. Tony said: "I'm sorry about my hesitation. The heart Ace was singleton." Lawrence looked at his hand and returned a diamond, saying, "I wouldn't have found the heart switch." That, my friend, is the way this game was meant to be played.

Yours in bridge,

An expert.

NEW HANDICAP TEAM GAME AT THE BIG DIAMOND

Nancy Stewart's club is the first in town to take advantage of an innovation sanctioned by the ACBL - handicap Swiss Teams. This new event will take place every Thursday at 7:30 P.M. (replacing the restricted pairs event formerly held at that time). This event is open to all players, but reduces the advantage held by strong players by means of a handicap formula, much like in golf or bowling. The formula is too complex to explain in this space, but in the main it is based both on master point holding and performance in previous matches. Like in other handicap sports, you will win whenever you play better than your normal game, even if your opponents are more experienced. Give it a try.

NEWSMAKERS

Congratulations to two new Life Masters: Gord Tokarchuk and Nancy Stewart.

Several unit members scored wins in out-of-town Sectionals: Doug Deschner and Jack Stothart won the Master's Pairs in Banff. At the same tournament, Sharon Inlow and Jackie Ross ("Who says you have to be ugly to be a good bridge player?" said Phil Wood) won the 99'ers, while Subhash Gupta and Ken MacNeal were on the team that won the Swiss. Finally, Rick Tewari, Alex Orlandini, and Allan Simon joined with Great Falls' Tony Morris to win the two-day Swiss Teams in the Montana city.

NO KIBITZER IN JANUARY

There will be no Kibitzer in January, due to the holiday season. As of February 1st, we will resume monthly publication.

UPCOMING SECTIONALS

The big sectional to keep in mind is, of course, the Calgary Winter Sectional, schedlued for the Jubilee Auditorium. The schedule is as follows:

Friday, January 4:		(Master's Pairs
	8:00 P.M.	(Non-Master's Pairs
		(Novice Pairs
Saturday, Jan. 5:	1:00 P.M.	Open Pairs (Qualifying)
		Side Game
	7:30 P.M.	Open Pairs (Finals)
		Consolation Pairs (new entries welcome)
Sunday, Jan. 6:	12 Noon	Swiss Teams
	and T.B.A.	

Other area sectionals you might wish to attend:

February 1 - 3	Saskatoon, Sask.
February 8 - 10	Edmonton, Alta.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
December 3 7:30 Canmar Club Championship	4	5 6th 7:30 PM Martinique Novice Club Ch. 7:30 Big Diamond Handicap Swiss*	6 1 PM Martinique Open Pairs Club Championship 7:30 PM CJC Card Sharps Club Charity	7 1:00 PM Big Diamond Open Pairs Club Championship	8	9
10 1 PM Martinique Open Club Ch. 1 PM Card Sharps Open Club Ch. 7:30 Martinique Swiss Club Ch.	11	12 7:30 PM Big Diamond Membership Game	13 7:30 PM CJC Card Sharps Open Pairs Club Championship	14	15 8:00 Big Diamond Christmas Party 8:00 Martinique Christmas Party	16 7:30 Big Diamond Unit Game*
17	18	19	20	21	22 8:00 PM Martinique Open Pairs Club Championship	23
24	25 Christmas Day All clubs closed	26	27 7:30 PM Canmar Christmas Party	28	29	30 7:30 PM Martinique Open Pairs Club Championship
31			*See announcement elsewhere in this issue			

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	January 1	2	3	4 -- -- CALGARY Tubilee	5 SECTIONAL * -- -- Auditorium	6 -- --
7	8	9	10	11	12 Great Falls, Montana Grand National Pairs District Final*	13
14	15	16	17	18 1 PM Big Diamond Open Club Ch. 8 PM Martinique Membership Game	19 8 PM Big Diamond Membership Game	20 7:30 PM Big Diamond Unit Game*
21	22 7:30 PM Martinique Open Pairs Club Championship	23	24	25	26	27 7:30 PM Martinique Membership Game
28	29	30	31	February 1 ---- SASKATOON SECTIONAL ----	2	3
		*See announcement elsewhere in this issue				

December problems:

A.) IMP's, neither vul., South holds:

S: 93 H: AQJ543 D: K97 C: KQ

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
-	Pass	Pass	1H
Pass	1S	Pass	?

Scoring:	<u>Action</u>	<u>Panel Votes</u>	<u>Points</u>
	2H	6	100
	3H	2	70
	2D	0	50

This hand occurred in a recent Spingold final. When Paul Soloway held the South cards, he rebid 3H. Partner had a magic fit (S: xxxxx H: K10 D: AQx C: xxx) and raised to the laydown game; the other South rebid two hearts and played the hand there. Here's the panel:

Ron BASS: Two hearts. Unless partner can find another call, I don't expect to make game; if partner does pass, and lays down the magic cards, the board should be a push anyway.

Not in the Spingold finals, Ron.

Walt ALEX: Two hearts. Minimum hand, points too scattered.

This is a valid argument, (Editor's note: Walt rarely plays anymore, but with his common-sense answers to this tough set of problems, he proves that the game has certainly not passed him by) but one of our younger stars provides the definitive answer:

Gord SHARP: Three hearts. Asset: Heart suit is up to scratch. Liabilities: horrible point count arrangement. Partner is entitled to expect better. Still, this is IMP's. One thing for sure - a soft rebid will invariably be passed out even if partner has a good ten-ish (3rd seat opening).

An excellent point. At IMP's, a third-hand opener must occasionally overbid his values on his second turn because the range for a single rebid has expanded downward to 10 or 11 points.

B.) Matchpoints, N-S vul., South holds:

S: Q865 H: - D: AQJ6 C: J7542

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	
2H*	2NT	4H	?	*Weak two-bid

Scoring:	<u>Action</u>	<u>Panel Votes</u>	<u>Points</u>
	4NT	5	100
	5C	2	70
	Double	1	50
	Pass	0	30
	5H	0	20

Let's get some of the ground rules straight. Partner's 2NT overcall shows the strength for a normal 1NT opening, but tends to deny four spades. We are therefore slight favorites to make 4NT. We are even more likely to succeed in 5 of the partnership's better minor, but lack the tools to investigate.

Let's start with the spokesmen for the minority:

Dave BOUSHY: Double. I'll take 700 (minimum). There's too much wasted in the heart suit to try for slam.

Dave WHITMORE: Five clubs. Only slightly preferable to 4 spades.

Really? Just sit there quietly, Dave, and have a drink while I get the men in the white coats. Whitmore's regular partner speaks for the majority:

Gord SHARP: Four notrump. To play. Much depends on partnership style. Partner's expected double heart stopper strongly diminishes our trick potential. Double could easily be best but only if we need a board. Surely there's no ambiguity about 4NT at this vulnerability?

C.) Rubber bridge, neither vul., South holds:

- 3 -

S: - H: A874 D: AKJ9754 C: J3

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
<u>1H</u>	<u>1S</u>	<u>2H</u>	<u>?</u>

Scoring:	<u>Action</u>	<u>Panel Votes</u>	<u>Points</u>
	3D	5	100
	5D	2	70
	Double	1	50

This problem was stolen from Terence Reese's book "Develop Your Bidding Judgement". Reese makes the extraordinary suggestion to bid 3NT! Furthermore, should he get doubled, "I shall give West the lash with a redouble". Oh, well, there is obviously quite a thin line between genius and madness. Our panel voted along more prosaic lines:

ALEX: Three diamonds. Come on, E-W, another heart bid before I double.

WHITMORE: Three diamonds. This hand should belong to us in a diamond contract. But at what level? Maybe it should be in 3NT.

BASS: Three diamonds. A grand slam is not out of the question and I want to leave as much room as possible for exploration if partner raises me.

D.) IMP's, both vul., South holds:

S: K62 H: Q9762 D: A2 C: J103

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2S*</u>	<u>Pass</u>
4S	Dbl	Pass	?

*Weak two-bid

Scoring:	<u>Action</u>	<u>Panel Votes</u>	<u>Points</u>
	Pass	8	100
	5H	0	40

The unanimous vote represents the first such result in the brief history of the K.B.C. This comes as a surprise, since a majority of readers voted for 5 hearts, and since the problem bears a family resemblance to problem B, where a clear majority voted to bid on rather than double the opponents. There are two reasons for the apparent inconsistency in expert thinking: a.) the opponents are vulnerable, and more important, b.) the game is IMP's. At IMP's, it is disaster to settle for a +500 instead of +650, but -100 would be a disaster.

Marj ANDRUKOW: Pass - take my plus.

Anita CARPENTER: Pass. Partner has high cards but would take rather specific cards to make slam for us.

BASS: Pass - should yield 500 to 1100; much superior to a shot in the dark at +650 in hearts, although that bid (5H) would look more attractive at matchpoints.

E.) Matchpoints, N-S vul., South holds:

S: AKQ103 H: AQ10764 D: J3 C: -

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
<u>-</u>	<u>1D</u>	<u>Pass</u>	<u>1H</u>
Pass	1S	Pass	?

Scoring:	<u>Action</u>	<u>Panel Votes</u>	<u>Points</u>
	3S	3	100
	2C	2	80
	4C	2	70
	7S	1	50

We can approach this weird problem two ways: scientifically or intuitively. The intuitive player reasons that a grand slam is odds-on if the opponents don't find the killing lead (and also that it would be difficult to determine whether partner holds the key cards we need); so he bids a prompt seven spades. However, the majority voted for scientific investigation. Among the scientists, a stolid plurality decided to first establish the trump suit.

ANDRUKOW: 3 spades (forcing), intending to cue bid clubs if partner bids 4 spades and 5 hearts over expected 5D cue bid, suggesting a grand slam.

BASS: 3 spades (forcing); wish we played splinter bids; if 3S is not forcing in your system (it is - Ed.), change my bid to 7 spades (might as well shoot for all the marbles).

The fact that splinter bids are not listed on our convention card did not deter:

CARPENTER: 4 clubs (splinter??) - 5 clubs would then indicate void over partner's response.

For the benefit of those not familiar with splinters, let it be said that a double jump bid, such as one spade - four clubs, shows a singleton or void and promises support for partner's suit. A fine convention, if we were playing it. Finally, a couple of ultra-modernists essay another oft-abused weapon, fourth-suit forcing.

BOUSHY: Two clubs. This is a good hand for fourth suit forcing to game. Partner's rebid will provide more information.

More information than you've provided? I have to agree.

SHARP: Two clubs. I need three cards: AK of diamonds, and K of hearts (or stiff heart and J9xx of spades). Even if we're not playing fourth suit game force, two clubs must be forcing for one round. Four clubs is crazy. This hand looks familiar.

The hand is from an old issue of The Bridge World.

F.) IMP's, both vul., South holds:

S: J743 H: 5 D: 3 C: AQJ10642

West	North	East	South
-	Pass	1H	4C
4H	5C	Pass	Pass
5H	Dbl	Pass	Pass
Pass			

What should South lead?

Scoring:	Action	Panel Votes	Points
	D3	5	100
	CAce	2	70
	S3	1	50
	H5	0	20

Let's start with the panel on this one:

BOUSHY: 3 of diamonds. Gotcha! Over 4H, partner could have bid 4 spades (on the way to five clubs) to indicate a spade lead. A trump or a club can never be right.

An impressive argument, I agree. But can partner afford to bid four spades on: S: - H: Ax D: Kxxxxxx C: Kxxx? Four spades might get passed out for minus 700.

BASS and ALEX decided that partner was marked with the spade and diamond Ace, and led their stiff diamond.

SHARP: Club ace. Hopefully to look at dummy. Then make a decision.

I feel the panel short-changed the obvious lead, namely a spade. Keep in mind that partner is a passed hand. Yet he sacrificed over four hearts, and now he doubles five. His double just has to be Lightner, for an unusual lead.

In a tough set of problems. Barbara Nelson topped 24 other readers with a score of 500. She will take her place on the expert panel in February. Ron Bass topped all experts with a perfect score of 600.

If you have any good problems, please send them to the Editor. We are running out of good hands. In the meantime, try your luck on the following set:

FEBRUARY PROBLEMS:

A.) Matchpoints, neither vul., South holds:

S: AK53 H: A6 D: 754 C: AJ106
West North East South
 - - 1D ?

B.) IMP's, both vul., South holds:

S: K942 H: Q7 D: J62 C: 8653
West North East South
 - 1H Pass 1S
 Pass 3D Pass 3H
 Pass 3S Pass ?

C.) Mathpoints, N-S vul., South holds:

S: 6 H: 753 D: K1097 C: AK843
West North East South
 - 1S Pass 1NT
 Pass 2H Pass 2NT
 Pass 3S Pass ?

D.) IMP's, E-W vul., South holds:

S: 83 H: 3 D: 104 C: Q8765432
West North East South
 - 1C Pass ?

E.) Rubber bridge, both vul., South holds:

S: AK1083 H: 54 D: KQ5 C: 643
West North East South
 - - - 1S
 Pass 2H Pass 2S
 Pass 5S Pass ?

Name: _____

F.) IMP's, both vul., South holds:

S: A5 H: J9863 D: KJ1074 C: 5
West North East South
 - Pass Pass Pass
 1C Pass 1S Db1
 Redbl Pass Pass 2D
 Pass 2H Pass Pass
 3S Pass 3NT Pass
 Pass Db1 Pass Pass
 Pass

Answers:

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

D. _____

What should South lead?

Send answers to:
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