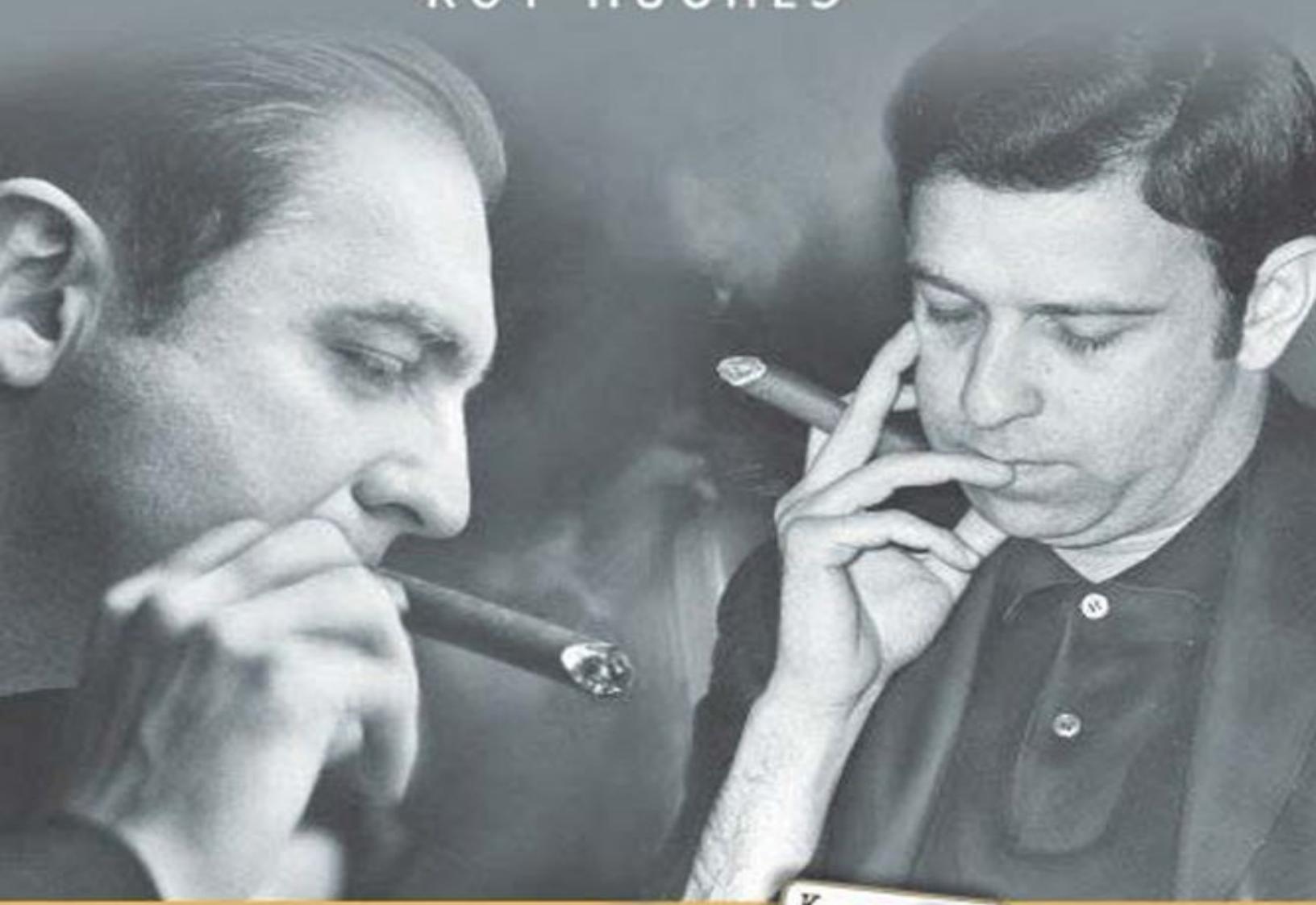


ROY HUGHES



CANADA'S
BRIDGE WARRIORS:
ERIC MURRAY and SAMI KEHELA



FOREWORD BY BOB HAMMAN

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FOREWORD

BY BOB HAMMAN



There is very little about Eric and Sami that has not already been said. At one stage they had played every board that Canada had played in six consecutive World Bridge Olympiads. I was fortunate to have them as teammates in Bermuda Bowls in 1966 and 1974. I was unlucky enough to have them as opponents in many final or semifinal matches in Vanderbilts and Springolds over more years than I wish to admit. Whether they beat you or you were lucky enough to be ahead when the official rules said the match was over, you were certain to have some bruises and wounds (psychological only) that required healing. You never really beat Murray and Kehela; you were just temporarily ahead of them.

Bob Hamman

September, 2006

AUTHOR'S PREFACE



I acknowledge with profound gratitude the two subjects of this book, Mr. Eric Murray and Mr. Sami Kehela, who gave so unstintingly of their time, telling me the most vibrant, fascinating, sometimes hilarious stories about the great bridge players and battles of the 1960s and 1970s. It was a great joy to me; I can only hope to convey a small part of their wit and color to the reader.

I thank Suzanne Hocking and Ray Lee of Master Point Press for their usual excellent support. I am also grateful for the assistance from Tim Bourke, John Carruthers, Tom Dawson, Bruce Gowdy, Eric Kokish, Paul Lavings and Richard Oshlag. The deals presented in this book come from numerous sources; I should mention in particular publications of the American Contract Bridge League and the Canadian Bridge Federation, the *Bridge World*, and the private scrapbooks of Eric Murray and Sami Kehela. Many of the deals feature spectacular card play, and the reader is invited to play along with Murray and Kehela, card by card. Others are just the background for stories and insights into what I found to be a remarkable time in the history of bridge.

Roy Hughes
Toronto
December, 2006

PROLOGUE

THURSDAY, JULY 19, 2001



The Royal York Hotel, as it was known when built by the Canadian Pacific Railway in the 1920s and is still known by Toronto's stubborn citizenry, lies on the north side of Front Street directly across from Union Station. For the better part of a century it has served the needs of well-to-do travelers, from royalty, presidents and prime ministers to the Calgary football fans who tethered their horses in its posh lobby when visiting for the annual Grey Cup. When the Royal York opened in 1929, it was the tallest building in the British Empire. Though now dwarfed by the skyscrapers of Toronto's financial district, its tan stone exterior and graceful lines still make it an impressive building.

For many years, the Royal York Hotel has been associated with excellence in Canadian contract bridge. Every Easter, thousands have competed there for the Canadian Bridge Championships. When the American Contract Bridge League first held a national championships in Canada, it was at the Royal York.

Tonight, bridge players from all over the world are assembled there to pay tribute to the best in the game. For tonight, in the Canadian Room, is the ACBL Hall of Fame dinner. This year's event is a special one for Canadian bridge players. Two of their own, Eric Murray and Sami Kehela, are to receive the von Zedtwitz award for outstanding contributions to bridge and become the first Canadians to be inducted into the ACBL Hall of Fame.

They certainly have the credentials. As partners, Murray and Kehela represented North America in the Bermuda Bowl three times, taking the silver medal each time. In an accomplishment unique among all the world's players, they represented their country as a partnership in every one of the first six World Team Olympiads, from Turin in 1960 to Valkenburg in 1980. Together they won the Life Master Men's Pairs, the Life Master Pairs, the

Vanderbilt, and the Spingold Trophy three times. Other honors, won together and separately, are too numerous to mention.

It is a tradition that inductees to the Hall of Fame be introduced by a presenter. The Master of Ceremonies, as always David Ezekiel of Bermuda, recognized Eric Kokish, who then introduced his long-time friend, colleague and teammate, Sami Kehela. The room burst into applause. Kehela, in his sixties now but still trim, and looking more relaxed than in his playing days, took the podium. After thanking all for attending, Kehela described his early days in bridge, at Berkeley and in London. Then it was time to talk about his co-inductee:

Eric enjoyed a reputation for being a difficult partner. And did he ever enjoy it. At first, when I took his contributions to the auction at face value, our scorecard was littered with penalties. Put plain, any correlation between his bids and his values was purely coincidental. What to do? I came up with a solution: I would put my trust in the opponents' judgment and mentally assign all delinquencies to my partner. This worked reasonably well, but there was the odd mishap.

I well remember a hand from a late round of the 1964 Spingold, here in Toronto. Both sides were vulnerable and Eric opened the bidding in third seat. I should point out that when two initial passes came around to him, Eric considered the situation forcing. The opponents staggered into game and falling from grace, I doubled. What could I have been thinking of with only three aces? Shortly thereafter I was ruefully entering 790 points in the opponents' column. In the replay my hand opened the bidding, and after receiving a response, also doubled the final contract. This time, however, the responder took another look at his Yarborough and ran. He went for 1100. Now most players' reaction to this happy outcome would have been a mixture of relief and embarrassment — not Eric — for whom the word "chutzpah" was invented. He hawked the hand around for days, citing his "splendid judgment".

After the laughter died down, Sami closed on a more serious note:

Over the years, after three Bermuda Bowls and several Olympic events, my greatest regret of course is not having won a world title. In fact I dare say that we probably hold the unenviable record for most defeats at that level of competition. And needless to say, we know the Italian national anthem by heart.

It has been said of some players that they excel when a hundred IMPs in front or a hundred behind. Eric was not like that. He was at his best when the chips were down, bringing to the table any amount of courage, and a fierce will to win.

Thank you, Eric, and thank you all for attending.

The master of ceremonies recognized John Carruthers, who took the podium and began by explaining how he came to be recruited for his current task. “When Eric asked me to introduce him at this presentation, he did so with his usual grace and diplomacy. He said to me, ‘All my friends are dead, so would you do this for me?’” John entertained the audience with stories of Eric’s exploits, in law as well as bridge, and concluded by saying:

Murray also has a third skill, after litigation and bridge. It is his ability as a raconteur and we are about to experience it. With all due respect to the great bridge players I’ve played with and against, I’d like to present to you the best bridge player I’ve ever seen, a true Canadian icon, Eric Rutherford Murray.

Eric Murray, the evening’s last speaker, came up to the podium. Tall, fair with ruddy good looks, still imposing in his early seventies, he shook hands with Carruthers, took the microphone and thanked all for attending. The assembly was then treated to Murray at his outrageous, wittiest best. He lampooned everyone, starting with Larry Cohen, who in his capacity as Hall of Fame chairman had called Eric to tell him about his induction.

“He wrote a book about some kind of law,” noted Murray, Queen’s Counsel. “Somewhere it says to be aggressive at the three-level whenever you have eighteen trumps. Must have been a typographical error. Larry lives in Florida; maybe he had something to do with the election down there.”

Murray went on to poke fun at his partner and co-inductee, opponents, friends, the master of ceremonies, and all with wit and aplomb that had the audience in tears from laughing. When he was done, they applauded for the last time and then set off to return to what they like to do best: play bridge.



One winter day early in 2006, I was sitting with Ray Lee, my publisher, discussing possible projects. Ray has been consistently supportive of my writing endeavors, while wistfully aware that I did not seem naturally inclined to choose topics that held out good prospects for financial success. My first book, an abstruse theoretical look at bidding aimed squarely at a tiny portion of the expert market, was a case in point. So he was pleasantly surprised when, having asked me if I was considering undertaking another book, I proposed a biography of Murray and Kehela. “That’s been number one on my wish list for years. I think it’s a great idea, if we could get them to go along with it.”

It seemed to me that writing the story of Canada’s greatest bridge partnership was an obvious project; I had always wondered why no one had done it. Ray told me he had had some preliminary discussions with John Carruthers, so I called John (J.C.) and asked him first, was he writing such a book, and if not, what did he think about it as a project?

“It’s a book that should be written,” he agreed. “And I’d love to be the one to write it, but I just can’t right now. Why don’t you?”

I could think of several reasons not to: hundreds of hours spent alone at the keyboard, loss of time for family and other pursuits, frustration with the difficulties of writing. But I felt it would be good for bridge, particularly Canadian bridge, for the story of Murray and Kehela to be told, and perhaps I could have some fun telling it. I decided that I would ask the two protagonists

if they would be willing to see a book written, and if they would lend their assistance. If they said yes, I would go ahead with the project.

I knew both of my potential subjects personally, mostly as opponents but also as occasional teammates. It could not be said that I knew either of them well. John gave me some phone numbers for Murray; for Kehela I went to the phone book, where there were two entries. Having dealt with the wrong one, I got Sami on the second try. I described what I had in mind and waited for his reaction. “But who would be interested in such a book?” he wanted to know. “Surely we are yesterday’s men. We haven’t played seriously for almost twenty years.”

Sami was concerned that I, along with everyone else involved in the project, would lose money. I told him about my conversations with Ray, who seemed to be in a good position to judge the risks and act accordingly. I then tried to assure him that my own livelihood was not at stake. “Have you spoken with Eric?” he asked. When I told him no, he said, “If you can get Eric to go along, I will, too.”

J.C. had given me four numbers for Murray. Two were business numbers; Eric maintains an active law practice. A third was for the country property where he spends his weekends. As it was a weeknight, I dialed the last number on the list, a Toronto residence.

“Hello?”

“Hello, Eric, this is Roy Hughes speaking.”

“Who?”

I knew I had found my quarry — Murray’s voice was unmistakable — I just had to speak louder. We established who I was and what I was hoping to do. Eric wanted to know if I had broached the subject with Sami; when I told him I had, he said, “If it’s all right with Sami, it’s all right with me.” I decided to take this as assent. I phoned Sami right back, not wanting to give him any time to develop second thoughts, and told him of my success with Eric. Sami had an offer for me. “I have a few things that might be of use to you,” he said. “Some scrapbooks I’ve been keeping over the years. Would you like to see them?” I said yes, very much, and we set an appointment for a few days later.

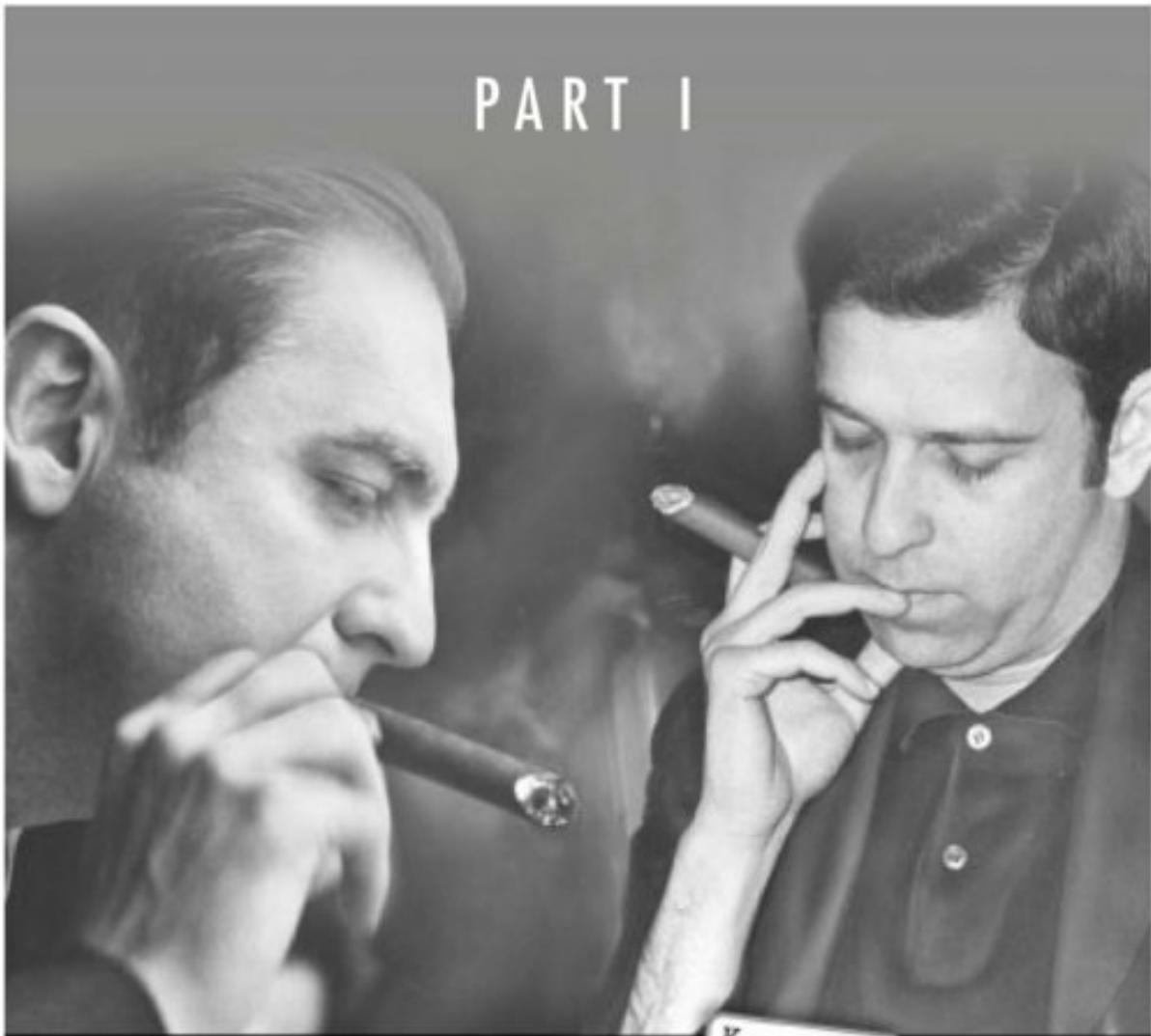
It turns out that Sami lives just a short drive away. The apartment he shares with his wife of eleven years, Anita, is elegant. Engaging paintings adorn the

walls, and sculptures sit discreetly on fine tables. Humphrey Bogart peers down from a poster of *Casablanca*. A classic Mason and Risch grand piano (“it belongs to my wife,” Sami explained later) stands by the window. We sit and talk over coffee. Sami passes me his scrapbooks, impressing on me the need to take care of them. Actually, he put it like this. “If anything should happen to these,” he said, “your life will not be worth much.”

Sami was interested in what sort of book I had in mind. I told him, frankly, that I didn’t yet have a clear mental image. I wanted it to be of interest to bridge players, with lots of deals and other bridge material, but also biographical information, anecdotes, reflections on the game. I asked Sami what he thought would make a good beginning. There was so much to cover, all the Bermuda Bowls, the Olympiads — the partnership spanned at least thirty years. I wanted a focus, a crucial point where the stakes were high and the tension palpable.

“Perhaps you want the pairs trials in San Francisco,” said Sami. “They were certainly dramatic. There were many pairs in contention, right down to the very last hand. There was this one deal that decided everything...”

PART I



BERMUDA BOWL QUEST



CHAPTER 1

SAN FRANCISCO TRIALS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1965



San Francisco, California

♠ A Q 9 3
♥ K 5 3
♦ K
♣ A K J 9 8

♠ 10 8 2
♥ A Q J
♦ A Q 10 8
♣ 10 7 3

Contract: Six notrump
Opening lead: ♥10
Plan the play.

For the next six days, the Hilton Hotel in San Francisco was to be the scene of all-out bridge war. Eighteen pairs, the elite of North America's millions of bridge players, would spend their next week in furious pursuit of a single objective. For the three pairs that finished on top at the end of play would have won the right to represent North America in the 1966 Bermuda Bowl, the emblem of world bridge supremacy.

The Contestants

All eighteen pairs entertained hopes of placing in the top three; realistically, the chances were greater for some than others. A handicapper might look to the final standings of the previous year's International Team Trials, held in Dallas, Texas. The top three pairs from that event had represented North America in the 1965 World Championships in Buenos Aires.

Placing first in the trials had been Howard Schenken and Peter Leventritt. Schenken was a bridge legend. As a member of the Four Aces, he won the first World Championship, a U.S. victory over the European Champions, France, in 1935. Six world team championships appearances, a winner three times; ten-time winner of the Spingold Trophy, for the premier knockout of the Summer Nationals; ten-time winner of the Vanderbilt trophy, for the premier knockout of the Spring Nationals; five-time winner of the Life Master Pairs. (He was the hands-down winner of a poll taken of experts which had asked, "If you were playing for money or your life, whom would you choose as your partner?") Partner Peter Leventritt had an impressive record of his own, including, amongst many other accomplishments, winning the Spingold twice, the Vanderbilt twice, and representing the U.S. four times in World Championships as a player, and once as nonplaying captain.

Second in last year's trials, behind Schenken and Leventritt, were Ivan Erdos and Kelsey Petterson. Erdos was born in Budapest, escaped to England before the war and later emigrated to the United States, settling in Los Angeles. He was a noted player, writer and teacher. (He went on to win the World Mixed Pairs in 1966 with Mary Jane Farrell, before dying prematurely in 1967.) His partner, Kelsey Petterson, was an attorney and leading West Coast player.

Third place in the last trials had gone to B.J. Becker and Dorothy Hayden. Becker was one of the world's great players. He had won the Spingold six times, had been on the victorious U.S. teams in the 1951 and 1953 Bermuda Bowls, and was widely known for his newspaper columns and books. Becker and Hayden had started their partnership on the flight home from the 1960 Olympiad in Turin. They were consistent high finishers in North American tournaments.

Of the three pairs that had represented North America in Buenos Aires, Schenken-Leventritt had to be reckoned the favorites. Captain John Gerber had used them as the anchor pair for the North American side, putting them in for every board of the critical match against Italy. Becker and Hayden had

the next most action, playing five of the nine sets against Italy and all but one set of the key match against Great Britain. Erdos and Petterson had been used more sparingly. Erdos's playing credentials were impeccable; his partner, though a very fine player, was considered slightly below front rank and there was speculation that there was a financial arrangement between them.

The members of last year's International Team were automatically eligible for this year's trials. The other route to qualification was through high placing in national events of the last two years. Veterans Sam Stayman and Victor Mitchell qualified for this year's event by winning the Life Master Pairs the previous summer. Finishing just out of the money in last year's trials, they too had to be considered among the favorites. Another pair with considerable international experience was George Rapée and partner Boris Koytchou. Rapée had won three Bermuda Bowls representing the U.S.; Koytchou had represented France three times in the European Championships before emigrating to the United States.

Robert Hamman had won the International Team Trials in 1963 playing with Don Krauss, qualifying to represent the U.S. in the 1964 Olympiad, where they finished second to Italy. He and Krauss narrowly missed qualifying in the last trials, finishing fourth. In this year's trials Hamman was playing with veteran international Lew Mathe. A relatively new partnership, they had qualified for the trials by winning the 1964 Blue Ribbon Pairs. Mathe had international experience dating back to a 1954 Bermuda Bowl win.

The four Canadians, Eric Murray, Sami Kehela, Percy ("Shorty") Sheardown and Bruce Elliott qualified for this year's trials by winning the 1965 Spingold in Chicago. That was the second of back-to-back Spingold wins for the foursome. In the previous trials they had finished sixth and eighth; they would be looking to break into the top three this time around.

Norman Kay and Edgar Kaplan had lost the finals of the 1965 Spingold to the Canadians, but the second-place finish was good enough for trials qualification. They had also finished second in the 1965 Vanderbilt, with Robert Jordan and Arthur Robinson, who had represented North America in the 1963 Bermuda Bowl and the United States in the 1964 Olympiad.

The 1965 Vanderbilt had been won by the legendary Oswald Jacoby and his son Jim, Ira Rubin, Phil Feldesman, Dr. John Fisher and Albert Weiss. They were all in attendance, but in a new line-up. Rubin had played with

Oswald Jacoby to start the Vanderbilt, but by the time the finals came around the team was rearranged. Ira Rubin renewed his partnership with Feldesman, which had been in hiatus since a very strong run in 1961-62. Oswald Jacoby would play with Weiss, while Jim continued with Fisher.

An all-Texas team had won the 1964 Open Teams (now the Reisinger). John Gerber would play with Paul Hodge, and Mervin Key with Dr. Harold Rockaway. Two other pairs were perhaps long shots, in that they had qualified through matchpoint successes and didn't have the team play credentials of the favorites. Edward Rosen, John Wachter, Gunther Polak and Robert Sharp had made their reputations with consistent results in Midwest tournaments. Sharp had recently moved to Miami Beach.

The pairs were organized into groups of friends (and in the Jacoby's case, family) who would by design meet each other in early rounds. The reason given was that "close friends would not be placed in the uncomfortable situation of knocking one another out of contention in the late rounds." Another interpretation might be to prevent any suspicion that an out-of-contestation player might improperly assist a friend near the end. Numbers were then drawn by lot. This is what the player board looked like:

1. Edgar Kaplan, New York City — Norman Kay, Philadelphia
2. John Gerber, Houston — Paul Hodge, Abilene, Texas
3. Samuel Stayman — Victor Mitchell, New York City
4. Eric Murray — Sami Kehela, Toronto
5. Mervin Key — Dr. Harold Rockaway, Houston
6. Percy Sheardown — Bruce Elliott, Toronto
7. John Wachter, Milwaukee — Ed Rosen, Chicago
8. George Rapée — Boris Koytchou, New York City
9. Howard Schenken — Peter Leventritt, New York City
10. Robert Jordan — Arthur Robinson, Philadelphia
11. Gunther Polak, Chicago — Robert Sharp, Miami Beach
12. B. Jay Becker, NYC — Mrs. Dorothy Hayden, Hastings, N.Y.
13. Oswald Jacoby, Dallas — Albert Weiss, Chicago
14. Lew Mathe, Los Angeles — Robert Hamman, Van Nuys, Calif.

15. Philip Feldesman, NYC — Ira Rubin, Paramus, n.j.
16. Ivan Erdos, Los Angeles — Kelsey Petterson, Bellflower, Calif.
17. Alvin Roth — Tobias Stone, New York City
18. James Jacoby — Dr. John Fisher, Dallas

The Format

The trials was to be run as a complete round robin. Since there were eighteen pairs, there would be seventeen rounds, three a day with starting times of 1 p.m., 4:30 p.m., and 9:15 p.m. Each round consisted of a single match of twenty boards against one of the other pairs. The boards were duplicated: everybody played the same deals. The scoring was on the ‘Butler’ method. Each board was first scored in the standard way for duplicate, with a bonus of 500 for a vulnerable game, 300 for a nonvulnerable game, 50 for a partscore. Since each board was to be played nine times, there were nine such scores. A ‘datum’ score was arrived at by removing the highest and lowest North-South scores¹ and averaging the remaining seven to the nearest ten points. Each pair’s result was then compared with that datum, with the difference converted to International Match Points, or IMPs. After the twenty boards of each match, the result in IMPs was converted to victory points. Sixty victory points (VP) were available each match. A tie would result in a score of 30-30. The first 20 IMPs of a winning margin were worth one VP each; each IMP beyond 20 was worth one half a VP, to a maximum of 60.

Day 1: Saturday, November 13, 1:00 p.m.

Round 1: Murray-Kehela vs. Sheardown-Elliott

Murray and Kehela’s first match was against their compatriots Sheardown and Elliott, a result of the policy of fratricidal early-round pairings. Kehela permitted himself a memory of the last year’s trials, in Dallas. There, too, they had been paired against their Canadian teammates in the first round. On the first board, Kehela opened one club on this black two-suiter:

♠ K Q 8 6 5 2 ♥ K ♦ — ♣ K Q J 9 4 3

He later introduced spades at the three-level and caught Murray with:

♠ — ♥ 10 9 7 5 3 ♦ Q J 10 9 8 5 4 ♣ 8

The partnership wound up in four diamonds doubled, set 1100. They would certainly have to make a better start this year. Sixth had been a respectable finish, but no one remembers who came sixth. First would be best, of course, but finishing in the top three was what counted.

This match would feature natural bridge, as both pairs employed simple, old-fashioned methods: four-card majors, 16-18 one notrump openings and relatively few gadgets. The first board was a potential swing, as a slam in diamonds required little more than the king of trumps onside, and would have succeeded as the cards lay. However, all nine pairs bid to a sensible three notrump and made it with differing numbers of overtricks. And so the tournament was underway. The all-Canadian match was tight. After seven boards, Sheardown and Elliott led by a slim 2 IMPs when Kehela, in fourth chair, held

♠ A 9 ♥ A K ♦ A Q 10 7 3 2 ♣ 9 8 3

With neither side vulnerable, Sheardown opened the bidding on his left with one club. Murray passed and Elliott raised to two clubs. Kehela bid three diamonds, a strong jump overcall. After a pass from Sheardown, Murray bid three spades and Elliott passed. Now Kehela faced a decision. What would you have bid, in his place?

The game prospects are not particularly good. Murray, who was unable to find a nonvulnerable overcall of the opening one club bid, is unlikely to have very good spades. On the other hand, there is a big reward for bidding and making a game. Kehela settled on four spades. Everybody passed and this was the deal:

Dealer West

Neither vul.

Board 8

♠ J 8 7 6 5 3

♥ Q 8 6

♦ K 6

♣ 6 4

♠ K Q

♥ 10 5 3 2

♦ J 5 4

♣ A Q 5 2



♠ 10 4 2

♥ J 9 7 4

♦ 9 8

♣ K J 10 7

♠ A 9

♥ A K

♦ A Q 10 7 3 2

♣ 9 8 3

The fortunate lie of the spade suit allowed Murray to take ten tricks. The result sheet looked like this (Murray and Kehela are #4):

NS	EW	CONTRACT	NS SCORE	NS IMPs
10	1	4♠	N	+420
18	17	2NT	N	+180
15	13	3♠	N	+170
2	5	4♠	N	+420
9	8	4♠	N	+420
3	7	2♠	N	+170
4	6	4♠	N	+420
16	12	2♠	N	+170
11	14	3♦	S	+150

To compute the datum, the lowest NS score, +150, is removed, as well as one of the highest, +420. The remaining seven are averaged and rounded to the nearest ten, giving +280. So Murray-Kehela's +420 was worth $420 - 280 = 140$ points, which converts to a win of 4 IMPs.

(You, the reader, are presented with many bridge questions in this book. Please note that a great many of them are *not fair*. They are from real life, and real life does not always reward virtue and punish transgressions. If you bid four spades on this last deal, your luck is in and you can give yourself 4 IMPs. You also win IMPs if you found the imaginative call of

three notrump, with no club stopper but a fair chance of finding them 4-4. I'll just have to take your word for it that you would have had the nerve to bid it playing with Eric Murray. Four diamonds and pass are also possible calls, but as the cards lie they result in a missed game.)

Sheardown struck back in a big way two boards later, when Murray held:

♠ A 10 6 5 4 3 ♥ Q 6 ♦ K J 9 6 ♣ K

Kehela passed as dealer, both sides vulnerable, and Sheardown opened three hearts. Murray faced an awkward decision: overcalling could lead to a disaster, and game opposite a passed hand looked unlikely. In addition, partner might be able to reopen with a suitable hand. In any event, Murray passed, and Elliott raised to four hearts. No one had anything to say to this, and the full deal was:²

Dealer East

Both vul.

Board 10

♠ Q 7

♥ A 10 4

♦ 8 7

♣ A J 7 5 4 3

♠ A 10 6 5 4 3

♥ Q 6

♦ K J 9 6

♣ K

N
W E
S

♠ K 9 8 2

♥ 8

♦ A Q 10 4 3

♣ 9 8 6

♠ J

♥ K J 9 7 5 3 2

♦ 5 2

♣ Q 10 2

With trumps 2-1 and the club king onside, Sheardown scooted away with ten tricks. Every single other East-West pair made a game in spades, and the swing to Sheardown-Elliott was the largest allowed under the scoring: 14 IMPs. Armchair quarterbacks have a field day with deals like this one. Shouldn't West overcall, with 13 points? (point-counters, ignoring the danger of bidding three spades and the unlikelihood of making game opposite a passing partner) Couldn't East double four hearts with his short hearts? (modern activists) Or, if West doesn't overcall, perhaps he should back in

with four spades when it transpires that North-South have a fit? (geniuses) Or, even, couldn't East open his promising hand? (light action, losing-trick count aficionados) Critics often sum up in frustration by saying that *someone* should have taken a call. But the truth of the matter is that just because all of these various actions are conceivable doesn't make any one of them correct. It is fine to say that somebody should have done something, but sometimes the primary cause of an adverse swing is bad luck. The South hand was a little weak in playing strength to open at the three-level, vulnerable, in 1965, and only one or two other players did so. Two Souths passed, and the rest opened a weak two bid. Perhaps Sheardown would have as well, had he been playing them, but he and Elliott played strong twos.

Board 12 posed a number of challenges for Kehela. With only his side vulnerable, Murray opened one club in second chair, and Elliott overcalled one diamond. Kehela held

♠ A J 10 4 3 ♥ A K 7 5 ♦ K 2 ♣ 10 3

and bid one spade. Sheardown raised to three diamonds, weak. (Both Canadian pairs, thoroughly modern, played weak jump raises of overcalls.) Murray raised to three spades. Kehela cuebid four hearts, and continued with Blackwood over Murray's signoff. Elliott tested out his friends' preparedness by interjecting a five diamond call, but Murray passed to show one ace³ and Kehela continued to six spades.

Dealer West

N-S vul.

Board 12

Opening lead: ♦3

♠ K 7 6

♥ Q 9

♦ J 5

♣ A K J 7 4 2

♠ A J 10 4 3

♥ A K 7 5

♦ K 2

♣ 10 3

Elliott took his partner's lead with the ace and returned another diamond. Kehela took that with the king and led a low spade on which Sheardown played the queen. That is a fortunate turn of events. How do you plan the rest of the play?

At this point, there are eleven tricks on top. A twelfth could come from a club finesse, or from ruffing out the clubs, if they are 3-2. Normally the latter would be the better play, but here West has shown up with a singleton spade. Might he not be likely to hold four clubs?

If he does, it won't matter. West is marked with four diamonds and one spade, so if he has four clubs he will also have four hearts. He can throw diamonds on the second and third rounds of trump, but will have to throw a heart on the fourth. Then declarer tries to ruff out the clubs. That fails, but his fourth heart is good for the slam-going trick. And if West happened to start with five clubs, East would have made a Lightner double of six spades, calling for an unusual lead. Kehela drew trumps, established the clubs with a ruff, and returned to dummy via the queen of hearts. Making the slam was worth 11 IMPs. West's hand was:

♠ Q ♥ J 10 8 6 4 2 ♦ 10 8 6 3 ♣ 6 5

There were no more large swings, and at the end of the closely contested match, Murray-Kehela had won by 10 IMPs, which converted to a 40-20 win in VPs. Several pairs had big wins, and Murray and Kehela lay tied for seventh after the first round.

COLONIAL ACOL

Notrump Bidding

1NT 16-18.

Nonforcing Stayman

Murray 2♦ (demands response in longer major)

3 of a minor preemptive

Gerber

Flint

General

Four-card majors

2♣: strong, forcing (2♦ negative)

2♦: Roman, 3-suiter, 17+

2♥, 2♠: Acol, forcing one round

Limit raises

Swiss 4♣, 4♦

Drury

DOPI, DEPO

Preemptive jump raises of overcalls

Strong jump overcalls

Ripstra/1NT (2♣, 2♦ for majors, longer minor)

Leads

A from A-K

Q from A-K-Q

Murray and Kehela dubbed their methods ‘Colonial Acol’, the references being to England’s national methods (from the Acol bridge club, named after the street on which it stood) and to Canada’s historical status as a colony of Great Britain. In bridge terms, the methods are a blend of the American strong notrump with English-style Culbertson tendencies: four-card majors, light openings based on playing strength and acceptable honor-count, many bids limited and nonforcing.

An opening bid of 1NT shows 16-18 and is permissible with a five-card major. In response 2♣ is nonforcing Stayman (opener may pass at his third turn). A response of 2♦ is Murray, asking opener to take a preference between the majors. A jump to three of a minor is preemptive.

Four-card majors are opened freely (Murray would open on 10xxx; Kehela preferred to have a little better). One heart is frequently the choice with four

hearts and five diamonds. With three four-card suits, open the suit below the singleton unless the singleton is clubs, in which case open 1♥. Occasionally a hand is opened 1♣ on a three-card suit, usually for preparedness: because a rebid of 2NT by opener over responder's two-over-one shows extra values, 1♣ might be chosen on a minimum 4-3-3-3 with any four-card suit, even diamonds. With 5-5 in the black suits, open 1♣.

As in Acol, there are many limit bids, bids which show the full value of the hand and allow partner to pass with a minimum. A direct raise of an opening bid to three is a limit raise, invitational. (With a game force and four-card support for opener's major, responder may use 'Swiss', an artificial jump to four of a minor.) After a one-over-one by responder and a simple rebid by opener, a second round jump by responder in notrump or any of the partnership's suits is limited and nonforcing. If opener has rebid in a new suit, a bid of the fourth suit by responder is completely artificial and is forcing to game. A two-over-one by responder does not promise a rebid, even in a sequence like 1♥-2♣-2♦. (This was later changed so that a two-over-one was forcing to two of opener's suit.)

Some other sequences follow mainstream North American lines: a jump preference after a two-over-one is forcing, as is a jump response of two notrump. A response of three notrump shows about a strong one notrump opening.

These basic methods changed a little, but not a lot, over the years. Negative doubles were added. The opening two diamonds went back to Acol and then on to become the Multi. Jump overcalls became preemptive when not vulnerable.

I was able to get a few hands from the San Francisco Trials from Sami's scrapbooks. Copies of the *Bridge World* and ACBL *Bulletins* provided a few more details, but to unearth the real story I needed complete hand records. Where could I get them? Who would have records of pairs trials from forty years ago?

A perusal of the ACBL website yielded the e-mail address of Richard Oshlag at the head office. He was director of computer operations, and I wondered if he might have knowledge of 1960s hand records. I e-mailed a plea for help.

North American Bidding circa 1965

Bridge in the mid-sixties was nearing the end of its age of innocence. The new ideas, popularized by writers like Edgar Kaplan and Alvin Roth, were gaining adherents, but the majority of both experts and non-experts still played old-fashioned, simple bridge: strong notrumps, four-card majors. Negative doubles were avant-garde; Jacoby transfers stood out as new science. Blackwood asked for aces — and there were only four.

If the bidding in these trials seems old-fashioned, the defensive agreements will look archaic. Everyone plays fourth-best leads. A high-low is encouraging or shows an even number of cards. There is little variance other than what to lead from ace-king or three small.

Saturday, November 13, 4:30 p.m.

Round 2: Murray-Kehela vs. Schenken-Leventritt

The one pair playing an “artificial” system was Murray and Kehela’s second-round opponents, Schenken and Leventritt. Schenken was both a great card player and a great bidding theorist. In his Bermuda Bowl appearances he had had first-hand experience contending with the Italian bidding systems. The one whose structure he liked best was Neapolitan Club, which used a strong one club opening, with other suit bids limited to at most 16 HCP. He was not, however, as enamored of canapé as were the Italians, so he simplified things somewhat and came up with the Schenken Club.

After seven low-scoring boards, Murray held:

♠ A K Q 8 ♥ 6 4 ♦ 8 ♣ A K J 8 6 3

With no one vulnerable, he opened one club. After a pass from Schenken, Kehela raised to three clubs, limit, and Leventritt entered with a takeout double. Murray leapt to four notrump, Blackwood, and after receiving a one-ace reply, bid six clubs. This left Schenken with a difficult guess on opening lead. He held

♠ 9 6 ♥ K J 10 9 5 2 ♦ 9 6 4 3 ♣ 5

and not unreasonably led a spade. The full deal was:

Dealer West

Neither vul.

Board 8

♠ 9 6

♥ K J 10 9 5 2

♦ 9 6 4 3

♣ 5

♠ A K Q 8

♥ 6 4

♦ 8

♣ A K J 8 6 3



♠ 7 4

♥ 8 7

♦ A K 7 5

♣ Q 10 9 4 2

♠ J 10 5 3 2

♥ A Q 3

♦ Q J 10 2

♣ 7

Kehela's hand was eminently suitable, at least on a spade lead, and Murray-Kehela chalked up 11 IMPs. That was typical Murray. He could have bid three spades as part of a scientific sequence to determine if Kehela held the right cards for slam. Instead, he chose a rough, practical bid that left the opponents with a big problem, and this time they got it wrong. The rest of the match was much more placid, and Murray-Kehela went on to win 42-18.



The Jewish community in Baghdad, where Sami R. Kehela was born in 1934, dates from the eighth century. The late 1930s and early 1940s were perilous times for the Jews in the pro-Axis political climate. The Kehela family escaped to India when he was seven, just before the Rashid Ali insurrection in 1941, known as the *Farhood*. The family settled in Bombay (now Mumbai).

I asked Sami where he learned English. "In India," he told me. "People often have trouble placing my accent. It's a mix of Iraqi, Indian and English. When I was ten I went to Bishop's High School, the English-language boarding school in Pune (formerly Poona — about 120 km east of Bombay). It was very English; our final exams were administered by Cambridge. I

played cricket and soccer — I usually played wicketkeeper in cricket and goalkeeper in soccer. I also swam — I was not too bad at the backstroke — and played table tennis.” I asked him about other games, like chess. “No,” said Sami. “No mind games. No time for that.”

We chatted for a while about table tennis. Sami doesn’t like the spin-producing, foam rubber paddles in use today. “Have you seen Eddie Kantar play?” he asked me. “Eddie can beat people playing with a book.” I looked skeptical. “Really, he’ll do it on a bet. And he can sit in a chair and beat people, too.”

Boarding school was where his name came to be misspelled ‘Sammy’. “People had enough trouble with ‘Kehela’. I didn’t want to trouble them about my first name, too. So I just went along, wanting to fit in. ‘Sami’ is correct; it is a common name in the Middle East.⁴ When I got older, I decided it was silly not to have my name spelled correctly.”

When it was time to go to university the choice was Berkeley. “I had plans to go to Cambridge,” Sami said, “but in those days you had to be eighteen to get in — I couldn’t wait for that.” So in 1951 Kehela boarded a cargo ship bound for America. En route he fell into the habit of watching a bridge game frequented by the captain. (And just who was steering the ship, I wonder.) “I didn’t know bridge,” Sami told me, “but I was familiar with Solo, a game with tricks, trumps and bidding, so I was able to follow what was happening.” His bridge education continued through his years at Berkeley. There he met Ron Von der Porten, who would later be on the 1962 North American team that employed Kehela as coach. Students met in the common room and played for a twentieth of a cent a point. Reconciliation was at the end of month, when the checks came in. “I could make a couple of dollars a day that way.” Sami recalled. “Two dollars went a long way back then, when you were a student.” Early books were Watson’s *Play of the Hand at Contract Bridge* and *Reese on Play*. “Watson was the undergraduate text,” Kehela explained. “When you graduated from that, you went on to Reese.”

Kehela worked for Adlai Stevenson’s run for the presidency in 1952. “It seemed clear to me that he was the right man for the job. He was so articulate, so compelling in his speech. I cried when he lost. When he lost again, in 1956, it didn’t hit me nearly so hard. I guess I was inured to the reality of American politics.”

Kehela left Berkeley in 1955. After a brief sojourn in Jamaica, where the family had a scrap metal business, he went on to London, England. Kehela frequented the New Acol club, and later Lederer's, where he often sat behind Adam Meredith. "I couldn't afford to play for stakes — I didn't have any money — so I watched Meredith. Meredith would play all night, drinking cognac, until the doctor forbade it — then he switched to Beaujolais."

Lederer's occasionally featured a "coffeehouse". Four of the up-and-coming younger players would sit down to play, while the established generation would watch, each equipped with a gong. When one of the learned kibitzers disagreed with a bid or play, he rang the gong and replaced the young miscreant. Thereupon play resumed. The incoming experts were also subject to being "gonged"; presumably that had to be done more circumspectly. On one occasion, Terence Reese rang the gong and took his place in the game. After an hour or so had elapsed, with Reese still in, he announced that he had better take himself out. "I never make a mistake," he explained.

In 1956 Kehela was invited to take part in the British trials. This was a multistage affair. For the first round, the British Bridge League appointed six captains and invited them to form teams. Meredith was one of the captains and he recruited Kehela to play with Norman Squire. Their first match was against four world champions: Reese, Schapiro, Dodds and Konstam. Kehela recalls some of the gamesmanship of Reese and Schapiro. "They treated the match almost disdainfully, as though they shouldn't have to compete. Reese would say 'Boris, are you keeping score?', things like that." Meredith's team won that first match, although the Reese team recovered to lead after the complete round robin. Konstam wrote a newspaper column on the international trials, which said in part:

Terence Reese's team won, but it was desperately close and Alan Truscott's and Joel Tarlo's teams, who finished second and third in a photo-finish, deserve equal credit. Two young players in particular impressed me, Julian Beale (Truscott's team) and S. Kehela (Meredith's team).

Kehela set out for Canada in 1957, first trying Montreal, which he found not to his liking, and then settling in Toronto. I asked Sami how it came about that he and Eric played together. I had read that a mutual acquaintance had set them up. "It could have been like that," Sami replied. "I don't know. You'd have to ask Eric. He can give you lots of stories, and hands, too. I don't remember hands very well — Eric is much better."

Saturday, November 13, 9:15 p.m.

Round 3: Murray-Kehela vs. Feldesman-Rubin

There were a number of 6-6's in the tournament. On board 13, Feldesman picked up as dealer, both vulnerable:

♠ A Q 6 5 3 2 ♥ 5 ♦ — ♣ K 9 7 6 5 2

He chose to pass. With Murray and Kehela remaining silent, Rubin and Feldesman bid as follows: one heart, two spades, three hearts, three spades. When Rubin now bid hearts a third time, Feldesman let it go and the partnership rested in four hearts. The full deal was:

Dealer North

Both vul.

Board 13

♠ K J
♥ A 8
♦ 9 8 7 6 2
♣ J 10 4 3

♠ A Q 6 5 3 2

♥ 5

♦ —

♣ K 9 7 6 5 2



♠ 9 8 4
♥ Q 7 6
♦ K Q J 10 4 3
♣ 8

♠ 10 7
♥ K J 10 9 4 3 2
♦ A 5
♣ A Q

Rapée was the only other contestant not to open the bidding on the North hand. The rest, counting honor tricks and playing strength, deemed it an opening bid. The question then becomes, which suit? With 5-5 in the black suits, the expert community was divided: some always bid one club, others

always one spade, and still others bid one or the other depending on overall strength or relative strength of the two suits. Should the same principles apply with 6-6? As it turned out, the only player to open one club was Erdos, whose sequence was:

Erdos	Petterson
1♣	1♥
1♠	3♥
3♠	4♣
5♣	pass

Writing in the *Bridge World*, John Lowenthal admired the one club opening, but thought that one more bid of spades might have completed the picture perfectly.

At the end of the match, Murray-Kehela had won by 19 IMPs, 49-11. After one day's play they lay second, behind Jordan and Robinson. The standings after the first day's play were:

Jordan-Robinson	157 $\frac{1}{2}$
Murray-Kehela	131
Key-Rockaway	124 $\frac{1}{2}$
Mathe-Hamman	121
J. Jacoby-Fisher	115
Roth-Stone	108
Becker-Hayden	99 $\frac{1}{2}$

Day 2: Sunday, November 14, 1:00 p.m.

Round 4: Murray-Kehela vs. Stayman-Mitchell

Writing up his partner's convention in the 1945 *Bridge World* worked very well for Sam Stayman. If it weren't for that article, bidding two clubs to ask for a major suit might have been known as Rapée or perhaps Marx. Murray tried the same trick with another two club convention, writing it up in the *Bridge World* in 1957, but it has steadfastly remained *Drury*.

Stayman didn't really need authorship of the two club convention in order to secure his reputation. He started winning major events in 1942 with the Spingold and Vanderbilt, and was on the winning team in the first three Bermuda Bowls. He and Vic Mitchell were on the team that won the 1959 Spingold (by one IMP) and thereby qualified for the first World Bridge Olympiad.

Murray and Kehela won by 5 IMPs, their fourth straight win, 35-25 in VP. Mathe-Hamman took over first from Jordan-Robinson by blitzing Key-Rockaway, pushing Murray-Kehela back to third.

Sunday, November 14, 4:30 p.m.

Round 5: Murray-Kehela vs. Mathe-Hamman

Next up were the leaders: Lew Mathe, the colorful, outspoken Bermuda Bowl champion, playing with Bob Hamman, the up-and-coming Californian expert still in his twenties. The match got off to an exciting start when Hamman had to decide how to play six spades, after an uncontested auction, on this layout:

Dealer North
Neither vul.
Board 1

♠ K Q 7
♥ K 8 2
♦ K
♣ A K Q 8 7 5

♠ A 10 9 5 3
♥ A 10 4
♦ 8 7 5 3
♣ 6

Kehela led the ace of diamonds and continued with another diamond at Trick 2, East following as dummy ruffed with the seven. Think about how you would play it before reading on.

Hamman cashed one high trump in dummy and then played ace of clubs and ruffed a club. When everyone followed, he continued with a trump to dummy. When both followed, he crossed back to the ace of hearts to draw the jack of trumps and claim.

If West had shown out on the second trump, declarer would have started to run the clubs. If East ruffs at any point, South can overruff, draw trump and make twelve tricks in the form of five trumps, four clubs, two hearts and a diamond ruff. Suppose instead East discards hearts. South discards his two losing diamonds and a heart, coming to this ending:

♠ —
♥ K 8 2
♦ —
♣ 7

♠ A 10
♥ A 10
♦ —
♣ —

Now declarer has to hope that East still has a heart left. He cashes the king of hearts from dummy and plays the last club, trapping East's trumps.

If clubs had proven to be 5-1, with no overruff (the first club ruff should be with the nine or ten if East has followed), then declarer needs trumps 3-2. He draws a second round, ruffs another club, and draws trump. Making six spades was worth 7 IMPs to Mathe-Hamman.

Then it was Kehela's turn to play a delicate slam:

Dealer East
N-S vul.
Board 2

♠ A K Q
♥ K J 9 2
♦ Q 10 8 6 5
♣ 7

♠ J 5
♥ Q 8 7 3
♦ A K 9
♣ A J 6 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Mathe	Murray	Hamman	Kehela
		pass	1♣
pass	1♦	pass	1♥
2♣	2♠	pass	3NT
pass	4NT	pass	5♥
pass	6♥	all pass	

Opening lead: ♣K

The Colonial Acol range for one notrump is 16-18, which explains Kehela's one club opening. He won the first trick with the ace of clubs and led a trump to the jack, gathering low cards. What would you do now?

The two questions are: who might have started with four hearts, and what can be done about it. If West started with four, the normal way to pick up the suit would be to lead low to the queen, leaving the jack-nine over his ten. That wouldn't work here, though, as West can take the queen with the ace and establish another trick by leading the queen of clubs. If we knew for sure that West had the remaining hearts, we could try coming to hand and running the eight of hearts, but that is impractical.

So we should turn our attention to the case where East has the remaining hearts. This is certainly possible, for it would be normal for a player of Hamman's caliber to hold off the first round. So perhaps the king of hearts should be led from the dummy at Trick 3. Kehela considered that, but saw a further danger. Mathe had bid two clubs in a very exposed position. To bid the opponents' suit, after they have bid three suits — surely there is a real possibility that he has seven clubs. In that case, if East has third ten of hearts, leading the king of trumps from dummy will fail as West wins the ace and gives his partner a club ruff with the ten.

Kehela's solution was to cross to hand on a diamond and play the second round of trumps from hand. This was successful. In fact, any reasonable play would have worked, for Mathe had an astonishingly ordinary hand:

♠ 10 8 2 ♥ A 4 ♦ J 7 2 ♣ K Q 8 4 3

Kehela's line ran the small risk that East might have held three small trumps and a singleton diamond. That's possible, but on some of those hands East might have raised to three clubs. Then Murray held

♠ K 9 8 4 3 ♥ 2 ♦ 10 9 8 6 4 ♣ Q 4

Kehela dealt and opened one notrump and Mathe overcalled two hearts, vulnerable against not; Murray competed with two spades. Hamman raised to three hearts. Kehela bid three spades and Mathe bid four hearts. What would you do?

Surely four spades rates to be no more than three down; the question is whether the opponents can make four hearts despite our preponderance of strength. Murray elected to believe the vulnerable opposing bidding, and took the save in four spades. He had two other things he had going for him: on a really good day four spades might make, and there is also the chance that the opponents will continue to five hearts. This was the deal:

Dealer South
E-W vul.
Board 3

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

N
W E
S

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Mathe	Murray	Hamman	Kehela
2♥	2♠	3♥	1NT
4♥	4♠	dbl	3♠ all pass

Murray took nine tricks on the lead of the ten of hearts. Allowing Mathe to play four hearts would have been a disaster, as he has an easy ten tricks. Murray-Kehela's -100 was worth 3 IMPs.

After a pair of quiet boards, Murray and Kehela faced a bidding challenge:

Dealer East

E-W vul.

Board 6

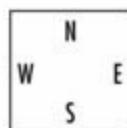
♠ K Q J 10 6

♥ 9 7 2

♦ 7 5 2

♣ 10 9

♠ 4
♥ A 4
♦ A Q 10 6 3
♣ K 7 4 3 2



♠ A 5 3 2
♥ K 6
♦ K 8 4
♣ Q J 6 5

♠ 9 8 7
♥ Q J 10 8 5 3
♦ J 9
♣ A 8

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kehela	Mathe	Murray	Hamman
		1♣	1♥
2♥	2♠	dbl	pass
3♦	pass	3NT	pass
4♣	pass	4♦	pass
4♥	pass	4♠	pass
5♠	dbl	pass	pass
6♣	all pass		

Kehela's initial cuebid suggested club support. After then showing diamonds, he made the good decision to go beyond three notrump. The slam was reached after an exchange of cuebids.

The play was straightforward. In a rather good display of bidding by the field, seven pairs bid the excellent 26-point slam. Two North-South pairs saved in six hearts, down six doubled for 1100.⁵ Murray-Kehela picked up 5 IMPs.

Murray and Kehela lost those 5 IMPs right back when a reasonable four hearts was defeated by horrible splits. Then Mathe had an interesting hand to play (rotated for convenience):

Dealer East
Neither vul.
Board 8

♠ J 10 9
♥ Q 8
♦ A 8 5
♣ Q J 7 6 3

♠ A Q 8
♥ A 10 9
♦ Q 10 9 4 2
♣ A 9

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Murray	Hamman	Kehela	Mathe
pass	3NT	pass all pass	1NT

Opening lead: ♣4

Mathe played low from dummy, taking East's eight with the nine. How would you play?

Mathe decided that he had to go after diamonds. He didn't want to release the ace immediately, since it might be needed later as an entry for a major suit finesse, or to get to a club trick. So he led the nine of diamonds and passed it to East's jack. Back came the four of spades. Mathe inserted the queen in an attempt to build a dummy entry, should the spade king be offside. West won the king of spades and exited with a small club to declarer's ace, East pitching a spade. Having arranged for both hands to have spade entries, he now led a low diamond and inserted the eight, East pitching a heart. So East started with eleven major-suit cards. The position was now:

♠ J 10
♥ Q 8
♦ A
♣ Q J 7

♠ A 8
♥ A 10 9
♦ Q 10 4
♣ —

Counting tricks, declarer has two spades, two diamonds, two clubs and the ace of hearts, for seven. There is the potential to build a trick in both diamonds and clubs, but if declarer does that, he cannot afford to lose a heart, which would be the defense's fifth trick. So one idea is to cash the ace of diamonds and play the queen of clubs, pitching a heart. If, upon winning the king of clubs, West plays a spade, then win the ace in hand and knock out the king of diamonds for nine tricks. If instead West plays a heart, declarer will need to make a winning guess, if there is one.

Mathe tried another line, leading the queen of hearts from dummy. This lost to the king, and a diamond came back to the ace. There was no point trying a heart finesse now, so Mathe knocked out the king of clubs for one down. The East hand was:

♠ 7 6 5 4 3 2 ♥ 7 6 5 4 3 ♦ J ♣ 8

To me, this seems like a most unlucky hand for declarer. The diamond play, losing to the singleton jack, was well reasoned, as was the finesse of the queen of spades, losing to the singleton king. The position after the eight of diamonds holds is extremely complicated. The reader is welcome to try to figure out the best line.

A few hands later, Mathe doubled Kehela in three spades for 500 on a partscore deal, winning 10 IMPs. Two hands later, Hamman held

♠ 2 ♥ A Q 6 3 ♦ Q 8 7 6 4 ♣ Q 7 2

and passed as dealer. Kehela, on his left, opened one club. Mathe jumped to two spades, intermediate, and Murray raised to three clubs. And Hamman *doubled*, for penalty. Everyone passed, and this was the layout:

Dealer South	♠ A 10 9 7 6 4									
N-S vul.	♥ J 5									
Board 15	♦ A 9 3 2									
	♣ A									
♠ K Q J 3	♠ 8 5									
♥ K 10 4	♥ 9 8 7 2									
♦ J 5	♦ K 10									
♣ K 10 6 4	♣ J 9 8 5 3									
<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>			N		W		E		S	
	N									
W		E								
	S									
♠ 2	♠ 2									
♥ A Q 6 3	♥ A Q 6 3									
♦ Q 8 7 6 4	♦ Q 8 7 6 4									
♣ Q 7 2	♣ Q 7 2									

Mathe, figuring that his partner might well be short in spades, led ace and another. Hamman ruffed and returned a diamond to the ace. Mathe led a third spade. Kehela ruffed in dummy, was overruffed, and finished three down. That was 500, and 7 IMPs to Mathe. A string of quieter boards followed, and then on the last board Mathe-Hamman stayed out of a close game, giving Murray-Kehela 8 IMPs for a dead tie. So they gained no ground on Mathe-Hamman, but didn't lose any either, and remained in third. Jordan-Robinson won a close match against Schenken-Leventritt to hold onto second.

Sunday, November 14, 9:15 p.m.

Round 6: Murray-Kehela vs. Polak-Sharp

Gunther Polak was a private investigator from Chicago; Robert Sharp worked in real estate in Miami Beach. They had qualified by virtue of a second-place finish in the 1964 Blue Ribbon Pairs combined with a third in the 1965 Life Master Pairs.

Murray and Kehela had a huge round, getting most of the small pickups and two large ones. On board 7, Polak-Sharp were the only pair to bid a roughly even money slam, which failed. Then on board 13, Murray-Kehela

bid a vulnerable five clubs off two diamonds and one or two trumps, but got a heart lead, and away went the diamonds. The IMP score was 48-6, a blitz. They still gained no ground on Hamman, who blitzed Wachter-Rosen, but their undefeated record was good enough for a solid second.

Standings after Day 2:

1.	Mathe-Hamman	271
2.	Murray-Kehela	256
3.	Jordan-Robinson	207
4.	J. Jacoby-Fisher	206 ^{1/2}
5.	Roth-Stone	201
6.	Gerber-Hodge	189 ^{1/2}
7.	Stayman-Mitchell	189 ^{1/2}
8.	Becker-Hayden	188 ^{1/2}

¹ Frequently done in IMP pair games, to reduce the effect of wild results on the field's scores.

² For this deal, Murray sat West. There were frequent direction changes throughout each round, so that a pair's results were not all compared with the same competitors.

³ I asked Eric if he and Sami played any conventional responses to Blackwood after interference, like perhaps the popular DOPI (Double with zero, pass with one). "Play it? I invented it! I remember talking to Easley (Blackwood) about it. He didn't like the idea — what if you wanted to make a penalty double? I told him: I double! So what if it shows no ace!" (The *Official Encyclopedia of Bridge* is silent on the inventor of DOPI.)

⁴ I have left the spelling uncorrected in quotations. - RH

⁵ Under the scoring table at the time. In 1993 the scoring table was changed from the old 100, 300, 500, 700, 900 scheme for nonvulnerable, doubled undertricks to today's 100, 300, 500, 800, 1100. It is a bit of a sore spot with the author, who feels that this was a needless change to the game, spoiling the continuity of its history and having the effect of making many deals, such as this one, less interesting.

CHAPTER 2

... AND TRIBULATIONS



Monday, November 15, 1:00 p.m.

Round 7: Murray-Kehela vs. Rapée-Koytchou

Murray-Kehela's first loss of the tournament came in a low-scoring, close match, 25-28 in IMPs, translating to 27-33 in VP. The biggest loss came on board 10 when they stopped in four diamonds, vulnerable, on:

Dealer East

Both vul.

Board 10

Rapée

♠ Q 10 8 2

♥ K 10 8 7 4 3

♦ 8

♣ Q 4

Kehela

♠ K J

♥ 9 5 2

♦ Q J 10 9 7 3 2

♣ 6

N
W E
S

Murray

♠ A 7 6 5 3

♥ J

♦ K 5 4

♣ A 10 7 3

Koytchou

♠ 9 4

♥ A Q 6

♦ A 6

♣ K J 9 8 5 2

Five pairs bid and made five diamonds, four of them doubled. Five diamonds failed once, when Kaplan led the queen of clubs. Leventritt took dummy's ace and played the jack of hearts, but Kay went in with the ace and played ace and another trump, leaving declarer a trick short when spades were 4-2.

Two declarers were successful on a club lead: Oswald Jacoby and Bob Hamman both played three rounds of spades, ruffing in hand, before conceding a heart. Now the defenders are in an impossible position: if they play ace and another trump to prevent two heart ruffs, declarer establishes the fifth spade.

Despite losing the match, Murray-Kehela took over top spot when Mathe and Hamman were badly beaten by Erdos-Petterson.

Monday, November 15, 4:30 p.m.

Round 8: Murray-Kehela vs. Wachter-Rosen

On the face of it, this would be a mismatch, with Murray-Kehela leading the field and Rosen-Wachter trailing badly, not having won a match. The action started right up on the first board, when Kehela held:

♠ — ♥ J 10 8 4 3 2 ♦ Q J 10 5 ♣ K 7 4

With no one vulnerable, he heard the bidding go one diamond, double, redouble to him. Kehela jumped to four hearts, giving his opponents a difficult problem. They elected to double, and the full deal was:

Dealer North

Neither vul.

Board 1

♠ A 10 9 5

♥ Q 9

♦ A K 9 8 7

♣ 9 6

♠ —
♥ J 10 8 4 3 2
♦ Q J 10 5
♣ K 7 4

N
W E
S

♠ Q 8 4 3
♥ A K 6
♦ 3 2
♣ J 8 5 2

♠ K J 7 6 2
♥ 7 5
♦ 6 4
♣ A Q 10 3

Four hearts doubled was one down. The defense can do no better: if they play three rounds of diamonds, trying to make something of South's heart seven, declarer can simply pitch a club from the table, and later another one on the fourth diamond. South's redouble was the standard action back in 1965, and this deal shows why the modern approach, bidding a suit when you have one, is better. This result had the potential to be a large pickup for Murray-Kehela. Four spades is cold as the cards lie. But the play is complex, and of the seven declarers in four spades, only Ira Rubin made it. In the end, -100 for four hearts doubled represented a loss of 3 IMPs.

On board 3, Murray-Kehela bid these hands to a fine six diamonds, and made it for 11 IMPs:

Dealer South		♠ 8 7 4
E-W vul.		♥ 8 4
Board 3		♦ 10
		♣ J 10 9 8 7 5 2
♠ J 10		♠ A K Q 5
♥ A K 9 7 5 2		♥ J 6
♦ J 9		♦ A Q 8 7 6 5
♣ A 6 3		♣ 4
	N W E S	
♠ 9 6 3 2		
♥ Q 10 3		
♦ K 4 3 2		
♣ K Q		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kehela	Rosen	Murray	Wachter
			pass
1♥	4♣	4♦	5♣
pass	pass	5♠	pass
6♣	pass	6♦	all pass

Six diamonds requires little more than avoiding two trump losers, whereas six hearts has that issue plus the problem of negotiating a twelfth trick. However, all slams that were bid were made.

Then, Murray and Kehela were innocent bystanders on this explosive deal. Their opponents stopped in four spades and made five, but several pairs bid the slam. Try your hand at six spades.

Dealer East

Both vul.

Board 4

♠ Q 10

♥ 9 8 6 4

♦ A K J 8 6 5

♣ Q

Opening lead: ♣ 7

♠ A K J 9 8 3

♥ Q

♦ 10 2

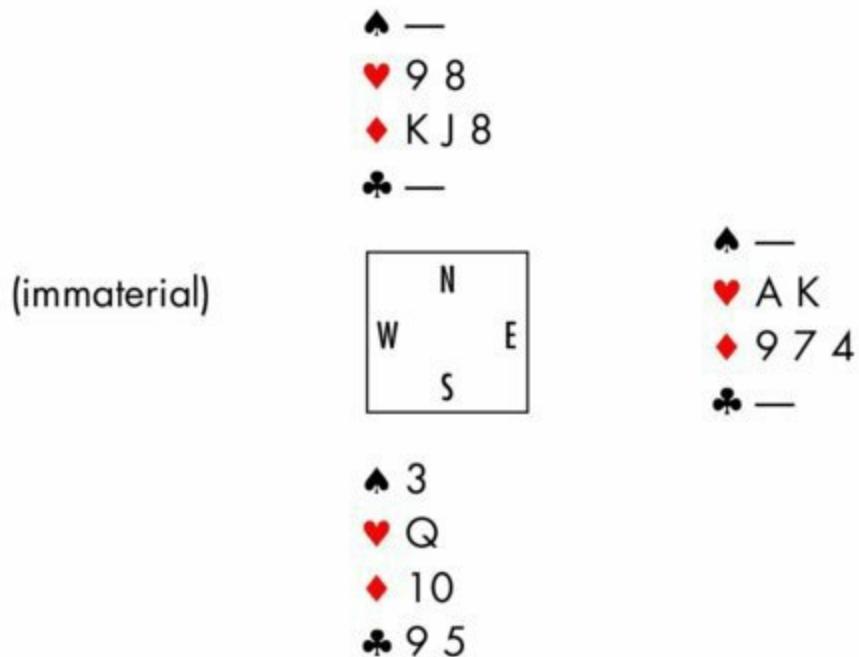
♣ A 9 5 2

Dummy's queen of clubs holds the first trick. How do you play?

The best play for six is to concede a heart. The defense is likely to win and lead a trump. You win that in dummy, and assuming both follow, cash a top diamond, ruff a heart, ruff a club, and ruff another heart. Now you play off the rest of your trumps. Assuming nothing dramatic happens, you will need the diamond finesse, but this line gives you squeeze chances when diamonds are 4-1. The one declarer who faced a club lead simply drew trumps and banked on finding diamonds 3-2 with the queen onside.

Three other declarers at six spades got the lead of the queen of diamonds. As diamonds was dummy's first-bid suit, this was very likely to be a singleton. How do you play now?

Win the first trick and play ace of clubs and ruff a club. Prospects are not good, but run all the trumps, hoping for the ace-king of hearts to be on your right. In that case the ending will be:



On the play of the last trump, a heart is discarded from table and East is in an impossible position. He has to guard the diamonds, so he discards a high heart. Now declarer cashes the ten of diamonds and exits with a heart. East now has to give dummy the last two tricks with the king and jack of diamonds. His actual hand was:

♠ 5 2 ♥ A K 10 3 ♦ 9 7 4 3 ♣ 10 4 3

This is known as a “stepping-stone” squeeze: the analogy being that the ace of hearts serves as a stepping-stone providing access to dummy’s stranded winners. Terence Reese described the play, and gave it its name, in *The Expert Game* (or, in North America, *Master Play*), published in 1960. So any keen readers would have been aware of the technique. In fact, good defense is to discard both high hearts, hoping that partner can provide a heart higher than declarer’s. None of the declarers in slam succeeded; through no fault of their own, Murray-Kehela lost 8 IMPs. When the match was finally over, Wachter-Rosen had prevailed 42-36. The 24 VPs were not enough to maintain first place, and Murray-Kehela slipped into second behind Jordan-Robinson, just ahead of Mathe-Hamman.

On my computer is a message from Tim Bourke in Australia. I know him as a fine author but not personally. Apparently Richard Oshlag passed my

request on to Tim, who is a kind of historical bridge guru.

Hi Roy,

There were books produced on the pairs trials in the 1960s:

FREY, RICHARD LINCOLN editor

International Team Trials, Dallas, Texas, November 20-26, 1964
1964, (Mimeo, ACBL, New York), Edn. 1, Prt. 1, 144p.,
260x220mm

Report On The 1966 International Team Trials, San Francisco - Nov. 13-18, 1965 1966, (Booklets, ACBL, New York), Edn. 1, Prt. 1, 388p., 210x140mm

Report On The 1967 International Teams Trials 1966, (Stapled, ACBL, Greenwich, Ct), Edn. 1, Prt. 1, 144p., 280x220mm

Getting copies of these could prove troublesome. Probably, Carl Ritner or Paul Lavings would be the best bets to get copies.

regards

Tim

I did a quick online search and found Paul Lavings' website. The banner at the top reads 'Welcome to bridge book heaven', and it is not an overbid. What an amazing collection of stuff! I could spend thousands of dollars here. Staying focused, I go to Annotated Hand Records and Reports from Tournaments and scroll through the items. Bermuda Bowl accounts from the 1950s, Culbertson matches from the 1930s... aha!

Frey, R Report on the 1967 International Team Trials Strong Butler

That would be the trials in Pittsburgh, the year after the ones I am looking for. It is a valuable find nonetheless, as Murray and Kehela played in those trials, and in fact won them. I sent an e-mail to Lavings to confirm the availability of the report, and to see if he knows anything about the San Francisco one.

Monday, November 15, 9:15 p.m.

Round 9: Murray-Kehela vs. Roth-Stone

The world of bridge had been rocked the past summer by the accusations of illegal communication leveled against Terrence Reese and Boris Schapiro in Buenos Aires. The pair, held to be one of the best in the world, were alleged to have used finger signals to indicate to each other the number of hearts held on any given deal. News of the scandal was in the bridge magazines and daily newspapers. While the North Americans battled in San Francisco, in London the Foster inquiry was attempting to determine the truth of the charges.

So it was understandable that security should be tight at the International Team Trials. There were no bidding boxes or screens separating the players in 1965. Bidding was verbal with partners in plain view. The organizers were anxious to prevent any player from getting information he was not entitled to. No one other than tournament officials was allowed to sit tableside and watch the play. What the bridge-playing public could do, for a dollar, was attend one of the Bridge-O-Rama sessions. Nine matches were featured, including one from each evening session, and one from each of the last two rounds. The four players involved headed off a half block away to the Bellevue Hotel, where they played in front of the audience. The bids and plays were put on a big board.

Nine sessions was just enough to feature each pair once, and the Monday night session, the midpoint of the trials, was Murray and Kehela's turn. The match started calamitously:

Dealer North

Neither vul.

Board 1

♠ A J 9 8 5 4 2

♥ K 3 2

♦ 3

♣ 3 2

♠ K Q
♥ A Q 8 4
♦ A Q 7 4
♣ A 10 7



♠ 10 7 6 3
♥ 10 6
♦ 10 8 6 5 2
♣ 9 5

♠ —
♥ J 9 7 5
♦ K J 9
♣ K Q J 8 6 4

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kehela	Roth	Murray	Stone
	2♠	pass	pass
dbl	pass	3♦	pass
3NT	pass	pass	dbl
all pass			

Roth led a club. Kehela won the third round and, desperate for tricks, played ace and one diamond. His hand was hopelessly squeezed on the run of the clubs, and in the end Kehela made only his three aces. Down 6, 1100, and on Bridge-O-Rama! Stone, enjoying the moment, picked up Kehela's cards and fanned them across the table, saying "Imagine taking only three tricks with a hand like that!" Murray and Kehela could only suffer in silence.

Things continued badly for the Canadians, other than on board 15, where after wild and woolly play Murray was the only declarer to make three notrump. Murray-Kehela lost the match 36-20, salvaging 14 VPs. After three full days of play they were still in a qualifying spot, a quarter-match ahead of the next competitor.

Results after the ninth round:

1.	Mathe-Hamman	361
2.	Jordan-Robinson	333
3.	Murray-Kehela	321

4.	Rapée-Koytchou	307
5.	J. Jacoby-Fisher	295 $\frac{1}{2}$
6.	Becker-Hayden	290 $\frac{1}{2}$
7.	Roth-Stone	288
8.	Feldesman-Rubin	284 $\frac{1}{2}$
9.	Schenken-Leventritt	267

Day 4: Tuesday, November 16, 1:00 p.m.

Round 10: Murray-Kehela vs. Key-Rockaway

Mervin Key and Eric Murray had been teammates on the 1962 North American team that had come second in New York to Italy. In this event Key was playing with Dr. Harold Rockaway, with whom he had won the 1964 Open Teams (now the Reisinger). Most things went Murray-Kehela's way. On board 7, Key-Rockaway had to negotiate the following pair of hands:

♠ Q
 ♥ Q 4
 ♦ A 10 7 3
 ♣ A K 10 6 4 3

♠ K 6 3
 ♥ A K 7
 ♦ K J 8 6
 ♣ Q 7 5

The best contract is six notrump, and six clubs is almost as good. But Rockaway found himself in six diamonds on the 4-4 fit, often worth an extra trick but definitely no advantage here, and failed to find the queen. (The same happened to Robinson.) Murray-Kehela went on to a 56-19 win, a near blitz, to pass Jordan-Robinson into second behind Mathe-Hamman.



Lavings was off at an interstate bridge tourney, but got my e-mail and confirmed that he did indeed have a copy of the 1967 Trials, and would be glad to send it to me. Having done what I considered to be hard-digging research, I phoned Kehela to give him the good news. After some preliminaries, I told him that I had discovered that there were books on the pairs trials.

“Are there,” he said.

“Yes,” I confirmed, “and I’ve managed to track down a report on the Pittsburgh ones, the ones you won. It’s in Australia, though,” I added, thinking about shipping times and deadlines.

“Australia!” said Sami. “Well. As it happens, I know of a copy a little closer than that.”

Wary, I asked him where that was.

“My basement,” he said.

I was somewhat deflated by this, but another thought struck me. “And how about the San Francisco trials, Sami. Do you have hand records of those?”

“As a matter of fact, I do. Would you like to borrow them?”

Sami let me in and produced a bag containing the hand records of the San Francisco Trials. There were nine small booklets, mimeographed 8¹/₂ x 11 sheets folded in half and stapled. The originals had obviously been produced on a manual typewriter; occasional characters were lightly struck and sometimes a capital was lifted above the line of the text, which happens on a manual typewriter when you don’t fully depress the shift key, or don’t exactly coordinate the pressing of the shift key and the letter. “I have to explain something about these records,” said Sami. “In each round, there was a featured match. You get all the hand records, but for each round there is only one match where you get all the bidding and play. We were featured in the match against Mathe and Hamman and the last match against Jordan and Robinson.”

As I got set to leave, Sami asked me if I had spoken with Eric yet. I told him I was going out to see him on the weekend. Sami said, “Let me know how you make out. I may be able to add some things, or more likely, subtract.”

Tuesday, November 16, 4:30 p.m.

Round 11: Murray-Kehela vs. Kaplan-Kay

A revolution was underway in how to bid after the opponents open the bidding. Edgar Kaplan's *Competitive Bidding in Modern Bridge*, published in 1965, described the new style: takeout doubles guaranteeing support for unbid suits, sound overcalls and preemptive jump overcalls. The style of the majority was the older way: strong jump overcalls, strictly limited overcalls and a heavy reliance on the takeout double when holding a full opening bid in high cards.

This was a tight, low-scoring affair. Murray faced an interesting challenge on board 16. He was in four spades, with no opposing bidding, on (rotated for convenience):

♠ 10 7
♥ A 9 5 2
♦ J 5 3 2
♣ K 8 2

Opening lead: ♣4

♠ A K J 8 4 2
♥ Q J 7
♦ —
♣ A 10 6 3

He played low from the dummy, capturing East's jack with the ace. Given that a heart loser is likely and a spade loser quite possible, the hand would seem to revolve about limiting the club losers to one. Preparing possibly to ruff the fourth round in dummy, Murray led a low club to the second trick. When West played low, he went up with the king, dropping East's nine. Shifting gears, Murray now led a trump to the jack. If this had lost, the ten would stand guard in dummy against a fourth round of clubs from the defense. When in fact the jack of spades held, Murray simply drew trumps and used his eight of clubs to drive out the queen. Here is the full deal (original directions):

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

Kaplan and Kay won the closely contested match by 7 IMPs, for a 37-23 edge in VPs.



Eric maintains two residences: one in Toronto, convenient to his law practice, and a country property in the Hockley Valley, a little over an hour's drive to the northwest of the city. He suggested that we meet there on a weekend, when there would be time to talk about bridge. We made a date for the upcoming Saturday, but when the morning in question arrived snow was falling heavily, so we put it off for a day. The next morning was bright and clear as I set off into the country.

Once I get out of the city the drive is magnificent. The sun is strong and reflects brightly off the new-fallen snow. This part of Ontario is flat and I can see for miles over farmers' fields. The transportation department has done a good job of clearing the roads and I encounter no difficulty. When I leave the main highway, though, the route begins to wind through the Niagara escarpment. My next turn is at the bottom of a steep incline, and I am glad I wasn't making this trip in bad weather.

Eric suggested that when I arrive I park on the roadside and call him on my cell phone. He will meet me in his jeep and take us over the long, winding drive up to the house. He seems unsure that my vehicle, or its tires, or perhaps its driver, is up to the task. True to his word, he is sitting in the jeep, waiting at the foot of the drive as I arrive. I park on the side of the road, gather my things and get out of the car. We exchange greetings and I hop in the front of a jeep that has seen better days. The windows are rolled down in spite of the subzero temperature. I have no complaint about this, as Murray is puffing away on one of his trademark cigars.

The drive is indeed treacherous and I am happy to leave Murray in charge. The road winds through the trees, past a waterfall, over a creek. On the left is a tennis court. We start to go uphill, past an open shed with an ax and chopping block and firewood neatly stacked. Some thirty odd years ago I had been part of a group of university students invited to the Murray country residence to give Canada's Olympic team a bit of practice. I ask Eric if this is the same property. He confirms that it is, but that we would be meeting in a newer house; the last time I had been there we had played in a log cabin which is now rented out to a tenant.

The house is a large one, with three levels and built into the hill, with glass covering most of the southern exposure. It overlooks a large, picturesque pond, solidly covered in ice this cold winter. Beyond that is an expanse of snow-covered evergreens, and then the sky — we are in complete seclusion. Eric pulls into the garage and we ascend into the house. I look around for somewhere to put my belongings, but every available surface is covered with stamps — Murray is a philatelist.

He asks me if I own any stamps. I tell him that my father had a stamp collection — it's been sitting in my den unexamined for years. Eric is interested to know about my family. My father was a navigator in the Air Force during the war. Eric's eldest brother was, too; he died on a mission to Hamburg in 1944. Eric's parents came from New Brunswick, settled in Hamilton and raised three sons, of whom only Eric remains. Eric and his wife, Helen, in turn have three sons.

A fire is crackling merrily in the stone fireplace; Eric stokes it and offers me a drink before we settle into a couple of well-worn armchairs. He asks me about my plans for the book. I tell him that they are still in the formative stage, but I know that in addition to plenty of hands I want stories about the

people and times. “Yes, people like lots of deals. But you have to speak to Sami for hands. He remembers hands like he played them yesterday — I don’t remember hands. But stories! I have more funny stories than any ten men you know.” I have no doubt whatsoever about this; I get out my pencil and notebook and sit back to listen.

The stories come one upon the next, some funny, some poignant. How Murray was trapped in a hotel room in St. Vincent at game time, inadvertently locked in by his wife, while Sami paced anxiously downstairs. How Murray and Agnes Gordon (“she was a great player”) were at the fall nationals for the Mixed Pairs when the news came that President Kennedy had been shot. How Murray and friends left a tournament in Columbus, Ohio to drive back home to Toronto, but were so busy discussing hands that they wound up in Lexington, Kentucky. How Mathe ran up to the elevator at the Bermuda Bowl in 1966, veins bulging, demanding to know how Kehela had gone down in a four spade contract.

We break for lunch. Afterwards Eric asks me if I would like to see a collection of photograph albums, put together by his friends the Luscombes, that covers his bridge career. There are five large albums, labeled “pass” through “1♠”, stored in a cardboard box upstairs. I haul them downstairs and we open the first on the kitchen counter. Inside are pictures and newspaper columns from the forties and fifties. In one a young Eric Murray is standing in front of a group of young people, pointer in hand, evidently discussing a hand displayed on the blackboard.

“That was the McMaster bridge club,” he explains.

There is too much to go through here, so I ask if I may borrow the albums.

“Yes,” says Eric. “If I die before you get them back to me, just return them to my family. Would you like to borrow anything else?”

We move onto another bookcase and I see row upon row of maroon-colored binders, each one labeled with a year and the title ‘BRIDGE WORLD’. These would be very useful. I ask for the years 1965 to 1967, the years of the first two pairs trials and Bermuda Bowls that he played with Kehela, but Murray has been distracted by a break in the symmetry of the binders: the ones for the later years are larger. A cloud passes over his face.

“Did I ever tell you what that editor¹ did to me? I may have to kill him. He changed the size of the issues! What am I supposed to do with these

binders?” Eric’s anger subsides and he looks reflective for a moment. “I haven’t seen him in a while,” he adds.

We sit by the fire again. I mention that Sami couldn’t tell me how their first game had come about. “I don’t know,” says Eric. “Somebody must have arranged it for us. Drury had just left town, and Sami was the best player around. It was natural we should play together. Did I ever tell you the one about the two club convention? I wrote it up for the *Bridge World* — it’s in one of those binders over there².

“We invented the convention to handle my light third hand openings. It was a terrific improvement. The bidding used to go pass, pass, one spade, pass, three spades, pass, pass, double and we would go for 1100. Now the bidding goes pass, pass, one spade, pass, two clubs, pass, two diamonds, pass, two spades, pass, pass, double and we go for only 800.”

The sun is sinking and I want some light for navigating the country roads, so I get ready to go. We get back in the jeep and Eric drives me back down to my car. “Bring your dad’s stamp collection next time,” Eric says as we make our goodbyes. I get in my car and set off back home.

Tuesday, November 16, 9:15 p.m.

Round 12: Murray-Kehela vs. Erdos-Petterson

Erdos and Petterson were hovering around average and would need a strong finish to retain their place on the International Team. In situations like this, a sense of humor helps. Once Erdos and Petterson had a dreadful session in the finals of a national knockout. After comparing scores, their outraged teammate demanded to know how they dared come back with such a card. Said Petterson: “It wasn’t my idea to come back.”

Murray is often caricatured as a reckless bidder. His critics point to his outrageous psychics and feather-light overcalls. But those overcalls are primarily nonvulnerable ones, and Kehela has learned how to cope. Murray can exercise restraint when the situation calls for it. Here he was dealt yet another of the tournament’s 6-6’s:

Dealer East

Neither vul.

Board 14

♠ —
♥ K Q 8 6 4 3
♦ K Q 7 4 3 2
♣ 9

♠ A 10 6
♥ J 7 5
♦ A
♣ A J 8 6 3 2



♠ K Q 8 4 2
♥ A 10 2
♦ 10 8
♣ K Q 10

♠ J 9 7 5 3
♥ 9
♦ J 9 6 5
♣ 7 5 4

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Erdos	Murray	Petterson	Kehela
		1♠	pass
2♣	2♥	2NT	pass
3♥	4♦	pass	pass
4♠	all pass		

The action was relatively subdued at this table, with Murray simply bidding his second suit at the four-level and then subsiding when Kehela could do nothing.

Kehela led the five of diamonds against four spades, and although the contract is secure the play at spades is instructive. After crossing to the king of spades and discovering the 5-0 trump split, declarer should start to play clubs. If he plays a second trump instead, he will eventually lose touch with dummy's clubs and be held to ten tricks.

The datum was 500 to East-West, achieved at two tables when North-South saved in seven diamonds. Kaplan-Kay did better: they saved at seven diamonds, and then went plus when their opponents took the push to seven notrump and were a spade pip short of being able to make it.

The rest of the deals were quieter, and Murray-Kehela outscored their opponents 30 IMPs to 23. The 37 VPs were enough to hold onto second place. Jordan-Robinson blitzed Rosen-Wachter to return to the top three. The leaders after four days' play:

Murray-Kehela	438 $\frac{1}{2}$
Jordan-Robinson	435
Feldesman-Rubin	419
Becker-Hayden	395 $\frac{1}{2}$
Rapée-Koytchou	391

Day 5: Wednesday, November 17, 1:00 p.m.

Round 13: Murray-Kehela vs. Oswald Jacoby-Albert Weiss

The weak two-bid had been in existence for a while when Howard Schenken started playing and promoting it in the 1930s. By the mid-sixties most American experts were using weak twos in the major suits. In these trials only four pairs did not: two American pairs, Gerber-Hodge and Key-Rockaway played strong twos, and the two Canadian pairs, with their quasi-British methods, played Acol Twos. Two deals from this round demonstrated the advantages of the weak two.

Dealer South

E-W vul.

Board 3

♠ 9

♥ Q J

♦ A K Q 8 6 3

♣ A 7 5 2

♠ K Q J 8 7 3

♥ A 10

♦ 10 9 5

♣ 8 3



♠ 6 5

♥ K 8 7 6 5

♦ J 4

♣ Q J 10 6

♠ A 10 4 2

♥ 9 4 3 2

♦ 7 2

♣ K 9 4

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kehela	O. Jacoby	Murray	Weiss
pass	1♦	pass	pass
1♠	3♦	pass	1♥
all pass			3NT

With diamonds 3-2, three notrump was cold, and Jacoby made four. At six of the other tables, West opened the bidding with a weak two spades. Each North overcalled three diamonds and only one South, Robinson, bid three notrump. The others all passed, missing the game.

The second deal was:

Dealer West
E-W vul.
Board 16

O. Jacoby
♠ J 8 5 3
♥ 9 6
♦ A J 8 6 4
♣ J 7

Kehela
♠ 6 4
♥ 8 5
♦ Q 7 3 2
♣ K 10 8 5 4



Murray
♠ K Q 10 9 7 2
♥ K 10 7
♦ —
♣ 9 6 3 2

Weiss
♠ A
♥ A Q J 4 3 2
♦ K 10 9 5
♣ A Q

Murray opened one spade in third chair. Weiss doubled for takeout, then cuebid over his partner's diamond response. Eventually Jacoby played six diamonds, making seven, winning 6 IMPs.

Six diamonds is a desirable contract, especially by South but even if played by North. Every East opened some number of spades. Mervin Key's opening of three spades was the most effective. Koytchou doubled and bid four hearts over his partner's three notrump, ending the auction. Five Easts opened two

spades; two of the pairs who had to contend with that made it to six diamonds, as did two of the three whose East opened at the one-level. All those in six diamonds made seven.

One unlucky South went down in four hearts. He won the spade lead in hand and tried to reach dummy with the ace of diamonds. East ruffed, and declarer had to lose an additional trump, diamond and club.

Murray-Kehela had slightly the better of the other deals and finished losing by the slimmest of margins, 30-31 in IMPs, for 29-31 in VPs.

Wednesday, November 17, 4:30 p.m.

Round 14: Murray-Kehela vs. Gerber-Hodge

The first half of the match had been about even when disaster struck the Canadians on three straight deals. On board 11, Hodge stole the hand for two spades making three, with most pairs making four hearts the other way: that cost 9 IMPs. On the next two boards, Gerber brought home four diamonds doubled and three spades doubled, for 10 and 11 IMPs respectively. Thirty IMPs lost in the space of three deals! Suddenly Murray and Kehela were in trouble. They could not recover any of the lost ground in the rest of the match and wound up losing by 29 IMPs — almost exactly the margin of those three gruesome results. For the first time since the end of the first round, Murray-Kehela were out of a qualifying spot, lying fifth, $10\frac{1}{2}$ VPs out.

Jordan-Robinson	$522\frac{1}{2}$
Feldesman-Rubin	$504\frac{1}{2}$
Mathe-Hamman	$483\frac{1}{2}$
J. Jacoby-Fisher	$479\frac{1}{2}$
Murray-Kehela	473

Wednesday, November 17, 9:15 p.m.

Round 15: Murray-Kehela vs. J. Jacoby-Fisher

Murray-Kehela won a tight match 31-20. The 41 VPs moved them up a notch to fourth, but left them further back of the last qualifying space, now occupied by Jordan-Robinson, who had fallen back after losing to Key-Rockaway. Mathe-Hamman took over first place by virtue of a big win over Schenken-Leventritt. The standings, with two rounds to go:

1.	Mathe-Hamman	538
2.	Feldesman-Rubin	535 $\frac{1}{2}$
3.	Jordan-Robinson	527 $\frac{1}{2}$
4.	Murray-Kehela	514
5.	Rapée-Koytchou	506 $\frac{1}{2}$
6.	J. Jacoby-Fisher	498 $\frac{1}{2}$
7.	Becker-Hayden	483
8.	Stayman-Mitchell	466 $\frac{1}{2}$
9.	Roth-Stone	459

1 Jeff Rubens.

2 January, 1957. Known today as Drury, but Murray claims co-authorship.

CHAPTER 3

THE FINAL DAY



Day 6: Thursday, November 18, 1:00 p.m.

Round 16: Murray-Kehela vs. Becker-Hayden

With two matches to play, Murray and Kehela faced an uphill climb. They were $13\frac{1}{2}$ victory points out of the last qualifying spot, with several other pairs nipping at their heels and two tough matches, against pairs with Bermuda Bowl experience, to come. The first was against B.J. Becker and Dorothy Hayden. Only a few months ago they had come second to the Blue Team in Buenos Aires, and they were eager to have another chance at a world championship. They were old-fashioned, natural bidders. In fact, they didn't even use Stayman; their minor-suit takeouts of one notrump were natural and forcing.

The match went back and forth. Each side gained a large swing by bidding and making a slam. Murray and Kehela had slightly the better of it until they missed a slam on the second-last board. The hard-fought match ended in a dead tie at 39-39.

In the other matches, Feldesman-Rubin moved into first place with a blitz. Rapée-Koytchou took over second with a big win over Erdos-Petterson. Sheardown and Elliott did their compatriots a favor by beating Matthe-Hamman, 53-7, while Jordan-Robinson fell back to fifth after losing to Gerber-Hodge.

Standings with one round to go:

1.	Feldesman-Rubin	$595\frac{1}{2}$
2.	Rapée-Koytchou	$548\frac{1}{2}$

3.	Mathe-Hamman	$545\frac{1}{2}$
4.	Murray-Kehela	544
5.	Jordan-Robinson	$539\frac{1}{2}$
6.	J. Jacoby-Fisher	$535\frac{1}{2}$
7.	Becker-Hayden	513
8.	Stayman-Mitchell	$508\frac{1}{2}$
9.	Sheardown-Elliott	$485\frac{1}{2}$

Thursday, November 18, 4:30 p.m.

Round 17: Murray-Kehela vs. Jordan-Robinson

The possibilities were many, and there was much frantic scribbling of pencils on scraps of paper as they were figured out. Rubin and Feldesman were assured of qualification, although it took a little calculation to see why. By luck of the draw, the teams lying second and third were playing each other, as were the teams lying fourth and fifth. Only the victors of these two matches could catch Feldesman-Rubin. J. Jacoby-Fisher, lying sixth, could catch them in victory points if they won a blitz and Feldesman-Rubin lost one; however, the resultant dead tie would then be broken by the result of the match between them, which had been a win for Feldesman-Rubin.

Each of the pairs from second through fifth could ensure qualification with a large enough win, whereas a loss was likely to be fatal. Jacoby-Fisher needed a big win and some luck in the other matches. Becker-Hayden would need a miracle to qualify: perfect results from the matches involving the teams ahead of them, while winning a blitz themselves.

After twelve boards of the final round, the four pairs contending for the last two qualification spots (excluding Feldesman-Rubin, who were already in) stood like this:

Mathe-Hamman	585
Jordan-Robinson	578 $\frac{1}{2}$
Rapée-Koytchou	569
Murray-Kehela	565

Both sides were vulnerable, and Kehela picked up

♠ 10 8 2 ♥ A Q J ♦ A Q 10 8 ♣ 10 7 3

Jordan, the dealer, passed and Murray opened one club. After a pass from Robinson, Kehela responded one diamond. There was to be no bidding from Jordan-Robinson. Murray now jumped to two spades, natural and forcing to game. Kehela, with definite notrump orientation but rather too much to simply jump to game, marked time with two notrump. Murray raised this to three, and Kehela had a decision to make. Since Murray had passed up a chance to bid a suit at the three-level, he should be somewhat balanced, and since he had forced to game over a simple diamond response, he should have 19 HCP or so. With good controls, honors and three potentially useful tens, Kehela jumped to six notrump. Jordan led the ten of hearts, and here is what Kehela saw:

♠ A Q 9 3
♥ K 5 3
♦ K
♣ A K J 9 8

Opening lead: ♥10

♠ 10 8 2
♥ A Q J
♦ A Q 10 8
♣ 10 7 3

Kehela went up with the king of hearts and cashed the king of diamonds and ace of clubs. When he crossed to hand with a heart, East discarded a low

diamond. Kehela finessed a club, losing to the queen. Robinson exited with his remaining club, Jordan throwing a heart. Kehela finished the clubs, on which East threw a diamond and a spade, while West threw hearts. Kehela then crossed back to hand with a heart as East threw another spade. Both opponents followed to the ace of diamonds, but on the queen, West threw a heart. Kehela now faced the following two-card ending:

♠	A Q
♥	—
♦	—
♣	—

♠	10
♥	—
♦	10
♣	—

On the spade lead from hand, Jordan played the jack.

The hand on the left is 3-6-2-2, and his last card is a spade. The hand on the right is 3-1-6-3, and his last two cards are a spade and the jack of diamonds. Each opponent started with three spades, making this a fifty-fifty guess. If the king of spades is on your left, you must finesse. If it is on your right, it will fall, your opponent having been squeezed out of his little spade when you came to hand with the third heart. There is no real clue from the opening lead; the perfect sequence in hearts was an obvious choice.

Kehela thought for upwards of ten minutes. I asked him about it one day in his apartment, as we enjoyed coffee and some excellent biscotti. "You could think as long as you wanted in those days," he told me. "And in forty years, no one has asked me what I was thinking about." I certainly wanted to know. Did he make anything of the jack of spades? "No, the jack of spades didn't mean anything, not against a player as good as Robinson. Everyone knew the situation, and he could easily have been hiding the little spade. No, it was a complete toss-up. This is what swayed me. I thought that we needed a swing. We figured to be behind on the boards so far and Jordan and Robinson were the best pair in the country — they weren't going to give us anything. There

rated to be others in six notrump: what would they do? It's human nature for experts to choose a squeeze over a finesse. That's what I figured they would do — so I went the other way."

Kehela called for the queen. Murray said, "That's my play." (Sami told me later that this remark was "a pre-emptive effort to soothe my feelings in case I got it wrong — Eric was always supportive, a good partner!") Robinson muttered, "He never gets anything wrong against me."

This was the deal (original directions):

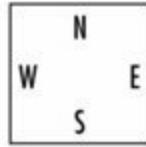
Dealer North

Both vul.

Board 13

♠ K J 7
♥ 10 9 8 7 4 2
♦ 7 6
♣ 5 4

♠ 10 8 2
♥ A Q J
♦ A Q 10 8
♣ 10 7 3



♠ A Q 9 3
♥ K 5 3
♦ K
♣ A K J 9 8

♠ 6 5 4
♥ 6
♦ J 9 5 4 3 2
♣ Q 6 2

Although no scores were posted, and seven boards remained to be played, everyone at the table was aware of the potential impact of this last deal on the destinies of the players not only there, but throughout the other rooms as well. No one spoke for a moment, and then it was time to resume play. A few quiet deals later, Robinson had a complicated three notrump to play.

♠ J 10 2
♥ J 6 3 2
♦ J 10 9 3
♣ 10 6

♠ A 4
♥ A K
♦ Q 7 6
♣ A K J 9 8 7

The opening lead was the five of spades, after declarer had shown a strong balanced hand and denied a four-card major. The ten of spades was covered by the king and ace. How would you play?

The other declarers in this situation all took the straightforward line of cashing the ace and king of clubs. That obviously works perfectly if the queen falls, or if the defense gives declarer another spade trick. But Robinson looked a little further. What if the queen of clubs does not fall? Declarer then concedes a club, and what will the defense do? Perhaps they will shift to hearts. (“He never gets anything wrong against me.”) Then they will likely come to one spade, one club, two diamonds and a heart, for one down.

A low club a Trick 2 is an interesting shot. First, you have the chance of slipping by a doubleton or tripleton queen. But suppose the defense takes the queen of clubs and plays a heart. Now, if you try to build a ninth trick by leading up to the jack of spades, West rises with the queen and plays another heart, and declarer’s tricks are tangled. He can cross to the ten of clubs to reach the jack of spades, but that strands the four club winners in hand.

Robinson chose to play for the club finesse — a high-level compliment to the defenders. He led a diamond a Trick 2. The defense won and cleared spades. In dummy with the jack, Robinson ran the ten of clubs and was set two tricks. Here is the full deal:

Dealer East	♠ K 8 6
N-S vul.	♥ Q 10 4
Board 18	♦ K 8 4 2
	♣ 4 3 2
♠ J 10 2	♠ A 4
♥ J 6 3 2	♥ A K
♦ J 10 9 3	♦ Q 7 6
♣ 10 6	♣ A K J 9 8 7
	♠ Q 9 7 5 3
	♥ 9 8 7 5
	♦ A 5
	♣ Q 5



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		2♣	pass
2♦	pass	2NT	pass
3♣	pass	3NT	all pass

The record is unclear about which diamond Robinson led to Trick 2. It seems to me the best is the queen. The defense has to win, lest declarer shift to clubs. Then, if the defense plays hearts, declarer can force an entry to dummy in diamonds, to take the club finesse. (A first-round finesse, of course, as Robinson did. There are four queen fourths onside against one holding of singleton queen offside.)

On the next-to-last hand of the tournament, Kehela held as dealer, with just the opponents vulnerable:

♠ A K 7 4 3 ♥ 9 5 ♦ A Q 5 ♣ A 10 4

He opened one spade and Murray responded two clubs. This is a kind of in-between hand for Colonial Acol. It is too good for three clubs, which is nonforcing, and not really right for four clubs, which precludes three notrump. Kehela settled on two notrump, which was forcing and showed extra values. Murray raised to three on:

♠ 10 8 ♥ A 4 ♦ J 6 2 ♣ K Q 9 7 3 2

On a heart lead, Kehela managed to take eleven tricks without risking his contract.

Those hands make a fair six clubs, which was reached at just one table. Hamman held Kehela's cards, and over two clubs he improvised with two diamonds. Mathe rebid three clubs, and Hamman jumped to five. There used to be a style where that showed a strong hand and no heart control. I don't know if Hamman-Mathe played that way, but Mathe went on to six. Koytchou led the eight of diamonds. What would you do?

♠ A K 7 4 3
♥ 9 5
♦ A Q 5
♣ A 10 4

Opening lead: ♦8

♠ 10 8
♥ A 4
♦ J 6 2
♣ K Q 9 7 3 2

The diamond lead may be a singleton, but unless the black suits lie very favorably, you can't afford to go up with the ace. Mathe played low. The opening leader's hand turned out to be:

♠ Q 9 5 2 ♥ K Q 10 3 2 ♦ K 8 ♣ 8 6

That's right — Koytchou underled his doubleton king of diamonds in an attempt to scare declarer off the diamond finesse. Mathe took all the tricks after playing low from dummy at Trick 1. How would you play the slam on the more normal lead of the king of hearts?

You win the first trick with the ace and play off the king and queen of clubs, saving the ace for a later entry. Then you take the ace and king of spades and ruff a spade. When they prove to be 4-2 you cross to dummy with the ace of clubs (or the ace of diamonds), ruff the fourth round of spades, cross back to dummy and throw your losing heart on the fifth spade. Finally

you concede a trick to the king of diamonds and claim the last two tricks with a trump and a diamond.

If it turns out that East has third jack of clubs and ruffs in on the third spade, you simply discard your losing heart and play for the diamond finesse. Finally, if trumps are 2-2 but West has five spades, you concede a heart and play to squeeze West in spades and diamonds.

And then came the last board of the tournament. The standings of the contending pairs (other than Feldesman-Rubin, who had already qualified):

Mathe-Hamman	604
Murray-Kehela	581
Jordan-Robinson	562 $\frac{1}{2}$
Rapée-Koytchou	550

At this point, although no one knew it, Mathe and Hamman had qualified, by virtue of making six clubs on the previous deal. Murray and Kehela lay in the third qualifying spot, but Jordan and Robinson were just 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ behind. If they could pick up 10 IMPs or more on the last deal, they would overtake Murray-Kehela at the wire. Murray picked up

♠ 9 8 4 ♥ K J 10 8 5 ♦ 9 7 ♣ J 6 5

With both sides vulnerable, Kehela opened the bidding with one diamond. Jordan passed and so, rather uncharacteristically, did Murray. Robinson reopened with one heart. Kehela passed and Jordan jumped to two notrump. Robinson carried on to game, and it was Murray to lead.

Partner's suit is best when nothing else stands out, and Murray led the diamond nine.

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

Declarer won the first trick with the ace in hand and cashed the ace of hearts, Kehela discarding the deuce of spades. Now declarer led the nine of hearts, and Murray took the king, as Kehela pitched the five of spades. What would you do now?

This was the full deal:

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Murray	Robinson	Kehela	Jordan
pass	1 \heartsuit	1 \diamond	pass
pass	3NT	pass	2NT
		all pass	

Murray continued with another diamond. That is the correct defense, although a club shift would have worked as well. Jordan won the second diamond in hand with the queen and played ace and queen of spades to Kehela's king. Kehela led a third diamond, leaving himself with the ace of clubs and two winning diamonds. With this final board went Jordan-Robinson's last chance to qualify, and Murray and Kehela took the final qualifying spot.

There was some speculation in the print media that Jordan might have succeeded by playing spades at trick 2; one declarer made three notrump that way when East grabbed the king and continued diamonds. Now declarer played ace and a heart, and when West took his king he had no diamond to play, and so declarer had time to lead towards the king of clubs for his ninth trick. It seems unlikely that this would have worked against Kehela, though. He would probably have taken the king of spades and played a club, playing partner for the jack.

As the players gathered to await the results, all the talk was about board 13, where Kehela had successfully finessed for the king of spades in six notrump. What had everyone done? It turned out that five other pairs had played six notrump, all from the same side as Kehela, and with the same opening lead. Just as he had envisioned, the play inevitably continued to the same position. Every declarer faced the fifty-fifty guess. Rapée, in his do-or-die match against Mathe-Hamman, had played for the squeeze and gone down. So had Ira Rubin, against Schenken-Leventritt. But three other declarers succeeded: Kay (vs. Erdos-Petterson), Stayman (vs. Jacoby-Fisher) and Gerber (vs. Roth-Stone). B.J. Becker had made six clubs from the other side, and two pairs played in game.

The final standings were:

1.	Feldesman-Rubin	615 $\frac{1}{2}$	Q
2.	Mathe-Hamman	598	Q
3.	Murray-Kehela	585	Q
4.	Becker-Hayden	564	
5.	J. Jacoby-Fisher	563 $\frac{1}{2}$	

6.	Jordan-Robinson	$558\frac{1}{2}$
7.	Rapée-Koytchou	556

The week of grueling bridge, 340 deals, was over. The 1966 North American International Team would be Phil Feldesman, Ira Rubin, Lew Mathe, Bob Hamman, Eric Murray and Sami Kehela.

And if the king of spades had been offside? Then all those who made the slam would have gone down, and the ones who went down would have made. How would the scoring and standings have been affected? Kehela would have been two down, losing the last two tricks to the king of spades and jack of diamonds. If the same happened to the others who took a finesse, the datum would have been -280 and the scoring of the board would have changed to look like this:

NS pair	EW pair		<i>If ♠K offside</i>			
			Actual	NS IMPs	NS	IMPs
J.Jacoby-Fisher	Stayman-Mitchell	6NT W	-1440	-10	+ 200	+10
Jordan-Robinson	Murray-Kehela	6NT W	-1440	-10	+ 200	+10
Polak-Sharp	Key-Rockaway	3NT W	- 660	+ 8	- 660	- 9
Sheardown-Elliott	Becker-Hayden	6♣ E	-1370	- 9	+ 200	+10
Rosen-Wachter	O. Jacoby-Weiss	4NT W	- 660	+ 8	- 660	- 9
Mathe-Hamman	Rapée-Koytchou	6NT W	+ 100	+14	-1440	-15
Schenken-Leventritt	Feldesman-Rubin	6NT W	+ 100	+14	-1440	-15
Erdos-Petterson	Kaplan-Kay	6NT W	-1440	-10	+ 200	+15
Roth-Stone	Gerber-Hodge	6NT W	-1440	-10	+ 200	+15

The top five positions would have been:

Feldesman-Rubin $644\frac{1}{2}$

J. Jacoby-Fisher 583

Rapée-Koytchou $582\frac{1}{2}$

Jordan-Robinson $578\frac{1}{2}$

Murray-Kehela $576\frac{1}{2}$

“Wouldn’t that have been dreadful,” said Eric.

CHAPTER 4

NORTH AMERICA'S TEAM



The following February, as a prelude to the upcoming Bermuda Bowl, the ACBL began a three-part series called *Meet Our Team* in the *Contract Bridge Bulletin*. The Bulletin's editorial staff, under Dick Frey, introduced Ira Rubin and Phil Feldesman in the February issue and Ron Von der Porten did the honors for Hamman and Mathe in March. But the April segment ran like this:

A happy inspiration caused us to invite each of the members of the third North American world championship pair to introduce his partner. It is not BULLETIN style to use "Mr.", but a search of Webster revealed no equivalent for the term as a descriptive insult, and for this one occasion we've suspended the rules. Just to reassure literal-minded readers, the Murray-Kehela style of humor and cigars is used with equal devastation on their opponents.

The Eric Murray Story by Sammy Kehela

The World's greatest bridge player was born 37 years ago in Hamilton, Ontario, a small village on the outskirts of Toronto.

He discovered bridge in his second year as a freshman when he happened upon four people seated at a table holding cards and screaming at each other at the top of their lungs. Eric Murray was — and is — the possessor of a stout pair of lungs and he was soon the outstanding player in his circle. As such he came to the attention of one Harry Bork, a patient man and the leading player in Hamilton, who attempted, without any success whatsoever, to teach Eric some of the finer points of the game. (He did, however, cultivate in him a taste for cheap cigars.)

Nevertheless, bolstering his modest ability by a fierce will to win, Eric was soon holding his own at the weekly duplicates, and by the time he had accumulated his first masterpoint he felt that he was ready for the big city.

Murray's early stay in Toronto marked a period of unprecedeted prosperity for that city's rubber bridge players. Penniless and desperate, our hero threw himself at the feet of Douglas Drury. Drury, who was then — and remained until 1957 the best bidder in the country, consented to make a disciple of the callow youth, and I can pay no greater tribute than to point out that he and Murray won the National Men's Pairs Championship in 1954 and 1955. When the burden of carrying Murray alone eventually proved too great, Drury conscripted Percy Sheardown and Bruce Elliott to help. As a team they developed a formidable reputation, and, beginning to believe that he was not such a dreadful player after all, Murray demanded that he be permitted to bid notrump once in a while. This was too much for Drury, who fled to San Francisco.

Assuming a grand manner, Eric let it be known that he was available for a partnership and would entertain applications from likely candidates. This elicited offers from three Roth-Stoners and an invitation to a Salvation Army Whist Drive. In the meantime his agents in the field suggested that a newcomer from England might be persuaded to fill the bill, since he was probably unaware of the discrepancy between Murray's reputation and his ability. Acting on the advice of his P. R. man, Mr. Murray commenced to hold forth on the deficiencies of a certain Mr. Kehela as a bridge player, suggesting that though the latter's card-play was not completely intolerable, his bidding was that of a raving lunatic. Privately I was besieged by telephone calls, letters, and delegations — now cajoling, now threatening — until my resistance wore down and I agreed to take him in hand. Surprisingly, my pupil had no difficulty adapting to my bidding theories, and after some formal financial negotiations had been completed, we were ready to launch our partnership. It was 1959.

Brainwashed and exhilarated ("Colonial Acol" is heady stuff), Murray soon began making significant dents in ACBL silverware. Though together we have won our share of national titles (including the Spingold Trophy in 1964 and 1965), my proudest moment came when I let Eric out on his own in 1961 and he justified my confidence by winning the Vanderbilt in partnership with Charles Coon and a pickup pair from Philadelphia (for the record, Jordan-Robinson - Ed.). He then went on to represent North America in the 1962 Bermuda Bowl.

Determined to achieve immortality, Murray decided to invent a convention. I presented him with some ideas for which he immediately took credit, dubbing the product the "Murray Two Diamonds" (it had to outrank Drury). Though the convention has a great deal of theoretical merit, its only effect thus far has been to lead to some uncomfortable partscore contracts in diamonds with inadequate trump suits (he invariably forgets his "own" convention).

The hand below, from the 1965 Trials, features Eric Murray in a typical effort, combining aggressive bidding with courageous playⁱ to achieve a complete disaster:

Neither vul. Dealer South

			♠ AKQ85
			♥ 84
			♦ 9652
			♣ A4
♠ 43		♠ J97	
♥ KJ5		♥ A9732	
♦ AQ8		♦ J1074	
♣ J9732		♣ 5	
		♠ 1062	
		♥ Q106	
		♦ K3	
		♣ KQ1086	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Rubin</i>	<i>Kehela</i>	<i>Feldesman</i>	<i>The Man</i>
			pass
pass	1♠	pass	2♣
dbl	2♠	pass	3NT
all pass			

There are some who might consider South's second bid a little forward, but it was a clear-cut call for "neck or nothing Murray." West led a low club and it was only a matter of minutes before Murray realized that it would not gain to let the lead come around to his hand. In a flash it came to him that his best chance for a ninth trick — provided the spades behaved — lay in the king of diamonds. Assuming a nonchalant air he called for a low diamond from dummy, losing his king to the ace. West unsportingly switched to hearts and the defense quickly took nine tricks in the red suits.

"One down?" offered Mr. Rubin facetiously.

"No, we made it," said Mr. Feldesman.

In the past year, rumors have been rife concerning the Murray back ailment — a condition which has caused considerable concern in international bridge circles, especially among the Italians who feared it might prevent Murray from playing against them again. The most pernicious canard — carefully leaked by the Murray publicity machine — is that his back was strained from carrying a certain partner. Those better acquainted with the facts, however, know that the true cause is Murray's constant stretching for contracts that would prove impossible except for bidding contortions by which he contrives to make his partner the declarer. With due sympathy for Murray's agony, it is to be hoped that he continues to rest his back having first insured that his partner play these crucial hands.

By way of explanation, the title "World's Greatest Bridge Player" had been seen in one or two newspaper columns in Hamilton, Ontario; they had not presumably been seen in New York, London or Naples where there might have been some objection.

In the *Bulletin*, The Sammy Kehela Story came first, but here they are presented in the order they were written. Sami got his blows in first; an outraged Eric at first threatened litigation but settled for getting equal time.

The Sammy Kehela Story by Eric Murray

Sammy Kehela began his battle with the world in Baghdad on November 8, 1934. India (Bombay) was blessed from 1941 until 1951 when California was selected, that state yielding to Jamaica and then England in 1955, and subsequently Canada in 1957. It is noteworthy that Kehela has never stayed in one country for more than 10 years, and Canada may have additional cause for celebrating its centennial in 1967.

A dearth of talent permitted Kehela to play for Canada in the 1960 Teams Olympiad in Turin, Italy — we lost.

An inability to understand Kehela's bidding persuaded ACBL authorities that he was an authority on peculiar and complicated systems and he was accordingly appointed coach of the 1963 North American team for the Bermuda Bowl in Italy — they lost.

A deterioration of conditions in Canada permitted Kehela to participate on the 1964 Olympiad team in New York — we lost again.

Unchastened, for 1965 the ACBL reappointed Kehela coach (presumably not on his record) and another defeat swiftly followed.

In the 1965 Trials in San Francisco, Jordan and Robinson found themselves on the horns of a dilemma in the final round. They faced Kehela and partner, and if they won they would qualify for the 1966 team and Kehela would undoubtedly be reappointed coach. If they lost, then Kehela would be on the team and the inevitable loss would be suffered without them. Their sensible decision reflected their appreciation of their 1963 coach.

Kehela's indifferent success as coach and player turned him to the pen, but his contributions to the Bulletin have not noticeably improved the standard of that publication. It is as editor of The Kibitzer, the Ontario Unit publication, that Kehela has enjoyed some measure of achievement, which might best be termed mediocrity. Unfortunately, he has a facility for "switching places" and one may invariably conclude that in any of his writings dealing with our own misfortunes, our positions have been reversed to his benefit.

For Kehela, the greatest difficulty has been the transition from IMP to matchpoint play, having been fully schooled in the former. Typical of his endeavours is the following deal:

♠ Q10953	
♥ KQJ42	
♦ J10	
♣ 4	
♠ A864	♠ J72
♥ 986	♥ —
♦ Q82	♦ A9654
♣ A85	♣ QJ973
♠ K	
♥ A10753	
♦ K73	
♣ K1062	

South's opening bid of one heart was raised to four and Kehela (West) led a trump. A second trump followed by a spade to the king and ace put Kehela on play whereupon he made an imaginative shot and led a low club (following my discard of the encouraging three spot) hoping to find me with the king. I, no doubt, would now lead a low diamond and declarer would most certainly misguess, playing me for the ace-king of clubs. This is fine IMP or Rubber Bridge thinking, but unfortunately, the game was Match Points and we were rewarded with our usual zero.

However, happily we have been able to completely convert Kehela to the American game so that we now advance upon the Italians armed with bags and bags of Match Point tricks. It is Match Points, isn't it?

North America's team was scheduled to make its first appearance at the Vanderbilt in Louisville, Kentucky. Unfortunately, Eric Murray was suffering acute pain from a disc pressing on a nerve in his back — he had to stay home. So the team played five-handed, with Feldesman-Rubin as anchor pair and Kehela-Hamman-Mathe as a threesome. They won, enjoyed a few drinks and

gave Eric a 3 a.m. phone call to let him know his presence hadn't been required.



I called Eric and asked how he was. "I'm recovering," he said. "I've been in the hospital. How's the book going?" I told him I had made a start at collecting deals, that I had some design ideas, and that then I would work towards getting a rough draft. "When will that be?" Eric wanted to know. "Three, four weeks?" I preferred not to answer that right away, having mentally allotted myself six months or so. Instead I asked if Eric could help by reviewing some early material that I might put together, without worrying too much about the English. "What!" he exploded. "You people are always massacring the language. It's no use having me proofread your rough work. I suppose you're too young to have learnt grammar in school." I pleaded that I really had been taught grammar, and Eric was mollified. I had been, too, primarily by my Latin and French teachers. And my copy editor will be ever vigilant. The grammar checker on my computer I have less faith in. It seems to feel that since 'raise' is transitive, requiring an object, then the statement "Murray raised to two spades" should be corrected to "Murray rose to two spades".

On a glorious Sunday morning in early April I make my second expedition to the Murray country residence. Most of the snow has gone, and Murray has left me to negotiate his driveway by myself today. I am a little concerned — spring thaws can be hard on country roads and driveways — but his is in pretty good shape. I leave the car in the parking area by the basement door, get out and fill my lungs with the bracing spring air.

The pond is still covered in ice, but the surface is showing signs of breaking up. There is no sign of Murray, and I am unsure of which door to try. I walk up to the main level and consider the laundry room entrance. The welcome mat has a message in capitals that reads: GO AWAY

I rap on the door and, getting no response, open it and call Eric's name, to no avail.

This is the weekend when clocks get set forward; perhaps Murray has forgotten. He told me he would be in town purchasing supplies this morning, so I enjoy a stroll around the property. A little later the familiar jeep and its cigar-puffing occupant come up the driveway. Murray is surprised to see me until I remind him about the time change. Among the supplies are numerous tins of cat food. “I have a couple of feral cats that come around, and I feed them,” Eric explains.

Eric asks if I would like to go over his old tournament books. We go down to the basement, past the indoor swimming pool (dry at the moment), through the games room, complete with old upright piano and large snooker table, and come to a pair of large bookcases crammed with soft-cover bridge publications. “Would this be of any use to you?” Eric asks, picking up what I recognize to be the report on the Pittsburgh trials. I decline with thanks, but I spot and pick out a book on a subject of interest to me, the 1962 World Championships. I ask Eric about them as we head back upstairs to the fireside chairs.

“I was on the board of directors (of the ACBL) at the time. I told them we needed pairs trials to pick the North American teams for the Bermuda Bowl.” The board agreed, and the first pairs trials was held at the Shamrock Hilton just prior to the 1961 Fall Nationals in Houston. Murray and Coon won by close to a full match. They had qualified for the trials by winning the 1961 Vanderbilt in Denver with Jordan-Robinson, defeating teams led by Kantar and Shuman in a three-way final. Coon and Murray had been considered long shots, if considered at all, as Murray complained in a letter to the *Bridge World* (January, 1962):

To the Editor:

Some several years ago, I finally hit the bridge press when Alfred Sheinwold, writing in the *Bridge World*, and referring to a hand, said: “At this point West went into the deepest dark brown study you ever did see but finally came up with the right answer.” I was singularly delighted, for I knew that I had been *West*.

Shortly thereafter my cup began to run over as the European Bridge Review, while criticizing the method of selecting the American team for world play, stated that the method had very

obvious defects when the highly rated Goren team lost to a team of “unknown Canadians.” I was not unnaturally overcome with pleasure and self-pride, for I knew that I had been one of the unknown Canadians.

My press notices, however, reached an all-time high with the publication of the November BRIDGE WORLD and particularly the article entitled “The Houston Trials” found on page 27 thereof. There in black and white were the selections of 36 experts of the Cavendish Club of New York and although the partnership of Coon and Murray was neither picked, chosen nor mentioned, I thought it reasonable to assume that someone had at least considered them before passing on. I could, of course, mention Mathe and Von der Porten, but I have found them quite capable of looking after themselves.

Needless to say, I find it quite comforting to know that if my law practice should ever fall off, I will still be able to earn a good living making book at the Cavendish Club.

ERM, Toronto

That trials victory qualified Murray and Coon, together with runners-up Mathe, Von der Porten, Nail and Key, to play in the 1962 Bermuda Bowl in New York. One hand from that tournament rankles Eric above all others. “Tell people it wasn’t me who bid four notrump on that hand with king-jack doubleton spade. Coon had a marvelous tournament, but he had one absolutely dreadful session, and that editor¹ got the directions mixed up. I asked him to fix it, or publish an erratum or do something, but he never did. All these years people have been asking me why I bid four notrump.”

The hand in question was this, board 17 of the match against Italy:

Dealer North
Neither vul.
Board 17

♠ —
♥ K 10 5 3
♦ Q 9 8 6
♣ A K J 8 7

♠ 6 5 2
♥ A J 8 6 2
♦ 7 5 3
♣ 5 2



♠ K J
♥ Q 9 7
♦ A K J 10 4 2
♣ Q 3

♠ A Q 10 9 8 7 4 3
♥ 4
♦ —
♣ 10 9 6 4

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Murray	Belladonna	Coon ²	Avarelli
	pass	1NT	3♠
4♠	pass	4NT	all pass

Opening lead: ♥4

That must be one of the great all-time leads. North took the ace of hearts and returned a spade. South made his eight spades for down six, +300 to Italy. At the other table:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Forquet	Nail	Garozzo	Key
	pass	1♦	4♠
5♠	6♥	pass	6♠
dbl	all pass		

Opening lead: ♣A

West took the two top clubs and led a third, East overruffing dummy for down two, another +300 to Italy. So, for the record, Murray sat West on deals 15-28 of the match against Italy.

I was delighted to put the record straight, but it turns out I was not the first. Murray was criticized for the bid he never made in the May, 1962 *Bridge*

World. His outraged reply, printed the following month, reads in part like this:

Now, may I say that I share your condemnation of the four notrump bid, and the only explanation I have to offer, which should most assuredly come to your mind, is that Mr. Richard Frey of the ACBL, presumably in collusion with Bostonian Charles Coon, has continued an anti-colonial policy dating back to the Boston Tea Party, and in the World Championship book the ACBL has just published, surreptitiously played musical chairs with Mr. Coon and me and I find myself saddled with my partner's idiocies on Deals 15 to 28 inclusive, 64 to 70 inclusive and 72 and 76.

Based on the foregoing information, I think it a reasonable practice for you to follow in future that in discussions of hands, you assume my performance to be faultless. If this course does not appeal to you without confirmation, you may obtain same from my wife. You may seek confirmation of the above from Mr. Coon but I feel confident there will be no rebuttal because Mr. Coon has never been known to reply to any correspondence either orally or in writing...

With a singular lack of love and affection,
E. R. Murray
Toronto, Canada

I showed Eric another deal from the 1962 World Championship. “Against Great Britain, you held:

♠ A K 10 5 3 ♥ A Q 8 6 4 ♦ 7 6 5 ♣ —

You opened a spade in second chair, with only the opponents vulnerable. Nico Gardener doubled and Coon raised to three spades. Albert Rose jumped to five diamonds.” At this point, the reader may like to consider his next call.

“You doubled, and everyone passed.”

“Really,” said Eric. “What did I do, underlead the spades?”

“No,” I said, “You led the ace of hearts.”

I thought that was a great lead. The king of hearts rates to be on your left. After looking at the dummy, you are likely to be well placed to decide whether to underlead in spades, cash out, or try to give partner heart ruffs. And so it proved, when the whole deal was:

Dealer North

N-S vul.

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



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Coon	Rose	Murray	Gardener
	pass	1♠	dbl
3♠	5♦	dbl	all pass

Murray underled twice in spades to get club ruffs, for down three, +800. In the Open Room:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Priday	Mathe	Truscott	Nail
	2♦	2♠	3♦
3♠	4♦	4♥	dbl
4♠	dbl	all pass	

Nail led a trump. Truscott took that in dummy and led the jack of diamonds. Mathe took the ace and led his singleton heart. Declarer finessed the queen. Nail won and played his second trump. Four spades finished one down.

After a few more hands and stories it was time to go home, so we said our goodbyes and I headed back to Toronto.

Kehela, writing in the *Kibitzer*, tells this story about the 1962 World Championship:

John Gerber, non-playing captain of the American team decided, whenever possible, to use Murray and Coon against Avarelli and Belladonna, due to their being well-drilled in defending against the Roman Club. (This proved to be a successful tactic, for they were able to contain the brilliant Belladonna). It developed, unfortunately, that cigar-smoke offended Mr. Belladonna's nostrils, so that, naturally, Mr. Murray chain-smoked his foulest brand whenever they clashed. After the second day's play against Italy, Mr. B. encountered Mrs. Mathe and Mrs. Murray in the elevator, and recognizing the former, greeted her warmly, thus: "Ah! Votre mari — le plus grand joueur." (Mr. B. has no English). Blushing, Mrs. Mathe introduced him to "Signora Murray" (who was still bridling at the unintended slighting of her husband). "Ah! Votre mari," exclaimed Mr. B. with a fierce gleam in his eyes, "votre mari — le plus grand cigare!"

The six members of the North American team met in New York to embark on their transatlantic quest. The goal was to walk into St. Vincent and seize the Bermuda Bowl from the Italians in their very own country. But the first stop was to be London, England to play in the annual *Sunday Times* Invitational. Fourteen of the world's best pairs had accepted invitations to play in this, the third running of the prestigious tournament. The previous winners had been Pierre Jaïs and Roger Trézel of France, and Terence Reese and Boris Schapiro of England.

Murray and Kehela started out against veteran British internationals Albert Rose and Nico Gardener. The very first hand of the tournament was a harbinger of trouble for the North Americans. South played three notrump. The bidding is unavailable; it might have been one notrump by South, three notrump by North.

Dealer South

♠ J 10 9
♥ Q 10 6 3
♦ Q 9 8
♣ K 6 5

Opening lead: ♠3

♠ K 5 4
♥ A 9
♦ A J 6
♣ A J 10 8 2

East plays the eight (count) and you win the first trick in dummy. The spots suggest that West has led from ace-queen fifth. How do you play?

One line is to play a club to the jack. If it wins, play a club back to the king. If all have followed, a diamond to the jack secures the ninth trick. If instead East started with four clubs to the queen, then run the clubs and watch the discards — declarer has an answer to anything the defense may do if he can read the position. If at Trick 2 the jack of clubs loses to the queen the situation is less favorable, but declarer is a favorite if the diamond king is right.

Another attractive approach is to play a diamond to the jack at Trick 2. If the jack loses to the king, the defense is not well placed unless East has both heart honors. If West plays another spade, declarer tries to run the jack of clubs. If instead West exits passively in diamonds, declarer can win in dummy and play a club to the jack. If that loses, he still can play for the king of hearts to be on his left. Paradoxically, declarer is perhaps less well off if the jack of diamonds holds at Trick 2. The next move will be a club to the king and a club back, intending to finesse if the queen has not come up. If the jack loses to the queen, perhaps the defense is endplayed. If not, the situation remains complex.

Kehela took the first line, playing a club to the jack. As a glance at the diagram below shows, this was not a success:

Dealer South

Neither vul.

♠ J 10 9
♥ Q 10 6 3
♦ Q 9 8
♣ K 6 5

♠ A Q 7 3 2
♥ J 7 5
♦ K 10 5 2
♣ Q

N
W E
S

♠ 8 6
♥ K 8 4 2
♦ 7 4 3
♣ 9 7 4 3

♠ K 5 4
♥ A 9
♦ A J 6
♣ A J 10 8 2

Rose found the strong continuation of ace and another spade. Declarer can now succeed by playing on hearts, but that requires the king of hearts on the right plus some further luck. Kehela took the straightforward diamond finesse and went one down, the only player to fail.

At another table, Feldesman made the same play of a club to the jack at Trick 2, but made three notrump when West shifted to diamonds and was later endplayed. At a third table, Ralph Swimer took the second line, a diamond to the jack. On the lie of the cards this worked fabulously, because the normal play in clubs now brought in the whole suit.

The London tournament was an unpleasant experience for the three North American pairs, who finished well back. Murray was suffering from constant back pain, periodically leaving the table to lie flat on the floor. (The problem was ultimately corrected with surgery.) The leaders with one round to go were Cornelius (Bob) Slavenburg and Johannes Kreyns of the Netherlands. Unfortunately, Slavenburg had a commitment to get back to the Netherlands in time to drive his teammates to the Bermuda Bowl in St. Vincent. Rather than leave his teammates in the lurch, he headed home and Kreyns played the final session with a substitute. Keeping his promise may have cost Slavenburg the *Sunday Times* Pairs, as Dr. Georges Theron and Gerard Desrousseaux overtook Kreyns and substitute at the wire.

i I should add, in all fairness, that Mr. Murray's efforts on this hand have been described in less flattering terms.

1 Richard Frey.

CHAPTER 5

ST. VINCENT, 1966

APRIL, 1966



The first competition for what has become the emblem of world bridge supremacy was held on the island of Bermuda in 1950. The event, organized by Mr. Norman Bach and his associates at the Bermuda Bridge Club, consisted of a round robin between the three invited teams. The Americans took the Bermuda Bowl trophy by winning the match against each of their opponents, Great Britain, and a combined team from Sweden and Iceland.

Beginning the following year, the Bermuda Bowl became a contest between two teams: one from North America, as selected by the American Contract Bridge League, and the reigning European champions. The European Championships had been held regularly, apart from the war years, since 1932. The Americans won the next three Bermuda Bowls. But in 1955 the American dominance was broken by a strong English team, and the following year the French won in Paris.

France did not get a chance to defend her Bermuda Bowl title. The 1956 European Championships were held in Stockholm. As usual, the event was a round robin among teams from member nations. As the end of the event approached, the French were neck-and-neck with a new team from Italy. At the end of play, the two teams were in an exact tie in victory points. The conditions of contest broke the tie in favor of Italy, on the basis of their having won the head-on match between the two teams.

From this point on the Italians, known as the Blue Team, were virtually unstoppable. The following year in New York they defeated the Americans by the convincing margin of 10,150 points.¹ They won the European Championships again in Vienna and went on to win their second Bermuda Bowl in Lake Como in 1958, this time defeating both the Americans and Argentina, the new South American representatives. A third straight European Championships win, this time in Oslo, was followed by a third Bermuda Bowl win in New York.

For one year the Italians were unsuccessful; France won the inaugural World Bridge Olympiad in 1960. This event, open to teams from every country, was scheduled to take place in leap years, with Bermuda Bowls in the intervening years. When the Bermuda Bowl resumed in 1961, the format was expanded to include the defending champions as a fourth team, in addition to teams representing Europe and the two Americas. And Italy won every Bermuda Bowl through Buenos Aires in 1965, as well as the second Olympiad in 1964.

St. Vincent, Italy

Tuesday, April 26, 1966

St. Vincent is a little town in the northwest corner of Italy, nestled in the Alps close to the border with France. It is about an hour's drive north from Turin, if you make all the right turns. Many of the players were staying at the grand old Hotel Billia, where the world championship had been staged just three years ago. This year, play would be in the Casino de la Vallée.

Five teams would be taking part. North America had a permanent position. Italy was there as defending champions, so their victory in the last European Championships was redundant; Europe was instead represented by the Netherlands, who had come second. They were making their Bermuda Bowl debut, as were Venezuela and Thailand. In previous years Argentina had been the South American representative, and the Thais were there as the first-time representatives of the Far East Bridge Federation. The Bermuda Bowl was now a thoroughly global championship.

The betting line would have to favor the Italians, who had won the Bermuda Bowl the last seven times it had been played. But there were always those optimistic for the North American side. "In bridge, as in other sports, eager youth presses hard on aging champion, and the end of Italy's long reign is now in sight," wrote Charles Goren for *Sports Illustrated*. But he had written those words four years ago, and the long reign had only gotten longer. The other three teams were generally held to be long shots. Perhaps the Netherlands could pose a threat. Kreyns and Slavenburg, just off their near win in the *Sunday Times* Invitational, were a first-class pair who could be expected to play most of the boards. And a team that had finished ahead of England and France in the European Championships couldn't be ignored. But

the Netherlands had finished behind a second-string Italian team — Italy had already qualified for the Bermuda Bowl and most of the Blue Team had stayed away from the European Championships — so how could they be expected to beat Italy's best?

Each team would play a 140-board match against each other team, broken into twenty-board segments played in seven complete round robins. The schedule called for three segments a day except for light days on May 2 and 8, which would each have only one. Since there was an odd number of teams, every team would have a bye once every five rounds, roughly every other day. North America had the bye for the opening round, where Italy would face the Netherlands and Venezuela would take on Thailand. Then North America would face, in order, the Netherlands, Venezuela, Thailand, and finally Italy. Then this pattern of five rounds would be repeated a total of seven times.²

Day 1: Tuesday, April 26, 1966

So the first day started with a sitout for the North American squad. The newcomers Venezuela and Thailand started their match with a grand slam bid and made at both tables for an exciting push. Meanwhile the Blue Team roared out to a 72-25 lead against the Netherlands.

North America started play in round 2, playing the Netherlands. The Dutch anchor pair, Slavenburg and Kreyns, sat North and South in the Closed Room and had somewhat the better of it against Rubin and Feldesman. On board 10, Rubin was in a vulnerable three notrump. The defense had four spades to cash but blocked them at Trick 1, and failed to find the right shift at Trick 2. Now to make three notrump Rubin needed to play king-jack-nine fifth opposite ace and one for four tricks. He cashed the ace and led towards the king-jack: only little cards appeared. In the absence of other considerations, the jack and nine are equally likely to produce four tricks, and the jack gives you a chance for five tricks without losing the lead. Spurning the mathematical odds, Rubin went up with the king and lost to queen-ten fourth onside.³

Meanwhile Murray and Kehela were doing very well in the Open Room. They stole a partscore hand. On the hand with king-jack-nine fifth opposite ace and one the Dutch stopped in a partscore. An unlucky lead helped Kehela

make a vulnerable four spades. One unfortunate Dutch declarer called the wrong card from dummy and went down in a game, apparently upsetting his partner who revoked on the next deal and went three down in a makeable contract. Murray and Kehela had just one bad result, bidding one notrump, three notrump on a hand that belonged in four spades.

Slavenburg was disappointed to win the twenty-board segment by only 8 IMPs, 53-45. Later he spotted Murray and came up to ask how he and Kehela had thought they had done. Murray decided to have some fun.

“Oh, I knew we’d lost; it was just a matter of by how much.”

Slavenburg was incredulous. “What on earth do you mean?” he exclaimed, thinking back to his disappointment at the comparison. “You had a tremendous set!”

“No, no, we were dreadful,” said Eric. “For example, playing three notrump on that hand instead of four spades. We’re lucky our partners had a good game.”

In the last round of the day, North America faced Venezuela. Murray and Kehela went into the Closed Room to face Onorati and Straziota, while Hamman and Mathe played against Berah and Rossignol. Perhaps the Venezuelans were not fancied, but on the very first board they signaled their intent to put up a fierce resistance. Murray held:

♠ A K 6 4 ♥ 10 ♦ Q 10 7 6 ♣ A Q 7 3

As dealer with no one vulnerable, he opened one diamond. The next hand passed, as did Kehela, and fourth hand reopened with double. After a pass by Murray, and one heart by the next hand, Kehela came in with two clubs. Murray’s right-hand opponent jumped to four hearts. Since his partner rated to have fair clubs, and the defensive prospects were uncertain, Murray raised to five clubs. The bidding continued pass, pass, five hearts. Satisfied to have pushed the opponents to the five-level, Murray doubled. And his right-hand opponent redoubled! Now not so sure, Murray retreated to six clubs, and the opponents doubled for a two-trick set. As it happens, five hearts would have failed by a trick. The rest of the match went better for the North Americans, and after twenty boards, they had made a good start in the 140-board match, leading 56-32.

Day 2: Wednesday, April 27, 1966

The North Americans were eager to play Italy. The schedule, though, had them playing Italy last in each cycle. Next were the representatives of the new zone, Thailand. Murray and Kehela sat out, resting up for the match against Italy as North America outscored the Thais 52-31. Meanwhile Italy rested, having gone out to big leads against the other three teams.

At last, the time for face-to-face battle had arrived. The Italians were playing in three fixed partnerships. Giorgio Belladonna and Walter Avarelli of Rome had been a fixture of the Blue team since its debut in the 1956 Italian trials. Belladonna, with his big smile and expressive features, was the better known of the two; Avarelli was more reserved and had to balance time playing bridge with his duties as a judge. They would be playing the Roman Club. Pietro Forquet, an unparalleled technician and steely competitor, was the veteran: although just into his forties, he had played for Italy in the European Championships back in 1951. His partner, since his first international appearance in Buenos Aires in 1961, was Benito Garozzo. They would be playing the latest refinement of the Neapolitan Club. The third pair consisted of the capable veterans Massimo D'Alelio and Camillo Pabis-Ticci. They played the Little Roman Club and could be expected to play a supporting role to the frontline four.

Kehela was the team expert on Italian bidding methods. John Gerber had recruited him as coach for the North American side for three previous World Championships. One of his duties was to remind the American pairs what methods their opponents were using. Kehela had picked up some understanding of the Italian systems ("some, not very much" says Kehela, "but it was a case of half a loaf being better than no bread") during his time in England in the late fifties. Edgar Kaplan was the other North American interested in Italian methods; he went so far as to publish a little summary. In 1962, Kehela and Kaplan played the Italian methods against the North American team in a practice match held in Toronto.

The two major Italian bidding systems took the names of the cities in which they were developed. The Roman Club, as played by Belladonna and Avarelli, makes a primary distinction between balanced hands, those patterned 4-3-3-3 or 4-4-3-2, and unbalanced hands (5-3-3-2 hands were occasionally treated as balanced). Balanced hands are opened with 1NT if

holding 17-20 points, and with one club if 12-16 or more than 20. Unbalanced patterns divide into one-suited, two-suited and three-suited. Three-suited hands, 4-4-4-1 or 5-4-4, are opened with two clubs when holding 12-16 points, and two diamonds with 17 or more. Two-suiters are opened according to the French canapé style: the shorter of unequal lengths, and the lower-ranking of equal lengths. One-suiters are normally opened in the long suit (unless it is clubs), but may be opened in a three card suit instead if above minimum. Opening bids through one spade are all forcing, and a one-step response is negative. There are many specialized sequences. For example, a one notrump rebid by opener, having opened one diamond and received a negative reply, shows a canapé into hearts. Slam bidding relies heavily on asking bids.

The methods played by Forquet and Garozzo were undergoing development. Forquet had started playing Neapolitan Club with the system's inventor, Eugenio Chiaradia, a professor of philosophy originally from São Paulo, Brazil. Forquet went on to play Neapolitan with Siniscalco and later, Garozzo. Garozzo and his former partner, Léon Yallouze, developed a series of refinements which led to a new name for the system, the *Trèfle Bleu*, or Blue Club. The system is based on a strong, artificial one club opening. Other opening bids are natural but possibly canapé, which is used in many sequences but not to the extent it is in Roman. Slam bidding relies heavily on cuebids, which show first or second round control. Four notrump, unless it is a jump, is likely to be a generalized slam try.

In the Closed Room, Murray and Kehela sat North and South respectively. Belladonna sat East and Avarelli West. In the Open Room, Mathe and Hamman took on Forquet and Garozzo. The match started with a play problem for Avarelli and Mathe in four hearts:

♠ K Q
♥ A 10 2
♦ A 8 7 2
♣ A 8 7 2

♠ A
♥ J 8 7 6 4
♦ Q J 10
♣ K Q 9 5

Belladonna had opened 1NT, 17-20 in the Roman system. Avarelli responded two hearts, natural, game forcing and requesting a step reply. Belladonna bid two notrump, showing a minimum with support, and Avarelli signed off in four hearts. Murray led the four of clubs. How would you play?

It isn't often you see a trump suit that might reasonably be played four different ways. Low to the ten looks normal, but I can see a case for low to the ace. Mathe ran the eight, playing from the other side after a transfer auction and an opening spade lead. Avarelli ran the jack. That was worth an IMP, as Murray held:

♠ J 9 5 4 3 ♥ K Q 5 ♦ K 9 5 ♣ 4 3

Avarelli's play looks a bit odd at first glance, but he may have placed Murray with short clubs and decided he was the likelier defender to hold long hearts. So it was first blood to Italy, but only a pinprick.

On the second board, Murray and Kehela again did nothing but pass, and Avarelli won Italy another IMP, again for an overtrick in four hearts. So when Murray was dealt a queen and a jack on board 3, he decided it was time to attack:

Dealer South

E-W vul.

Board 3

♠ 9 8
♥ Q 10 8 3 2
♦ 6
♣ J 10 7 5 3

♠ J 10 7
♥ A 7 6 5 4
♦ Q 10 7 3
♣ 8



♠ A K 5 2
♥ J
♦ A J 9 4 2
♣ A Q 9

♠ Q 6 4 3
♥ K 9
♦ K 8 5
♣ K 6 4 2

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Avarelli	Murray	Belladonna	Kehela
			pass
pass	1♥!	dbl	redbl
2♣	2♥!	3♥	pass
4♦	pass	5♦	all pass

Opening lead: ♥3

Murray's psychic opening bid backfired when the Italians put on the brakes and stopped in game with their promising cards. Asked by his partner why he hadn't bid a slam, Belladonna placed his forefinger alongside his nose and pointed at Murray. As Kehela explained, writing in *Toronto Life*: "From his point of view there was too much bidding; having played against Murray before (in 1962) he smelled a rat and correctly diagnosed that South would hold the missing cards, thus reducing the likelihood of successful finesses."

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Hamman	Forquet	Mathe	Garozzo
			pass
pass	pass	1♦	pass
1♥	pass	2♠	pass
4♦	pass	4NT	pass
5♦	pass	6♦	all pass

Hamman and Mathe competently bid to the odds-on slam, and the spotlight shifted to Garozzo. Would he lead a spade or club, which would allow the slam to be made? No, he unerringly led a trump. Mathe won the opening lead and ruffed a club. When North showed out on the next trump, declarer went up with the ace, ruffed his last club and took a spade finesse. One down, and 12 IMPs to Italy, who now led 14-0.

On the next board Hamman was the dealer, with both vulnerable, holding:

♠ A K J 8 3 ♥ 10 7 ♦ K 10 4 3 ♣ 9 6

He opened one spade, and Mathe held:

♠ 7 ♥ K Q 9 5 4 2 ♦ 8 2 ♣ J 8 7 5

Not wanting to risk missing a game by passing, or playing in one notrump on a hand that belonged in hearts, Mathe responded with an aggressive two hearts. Hamman had to rebid two spades, and the unlovely contract went three down, vulnerable. Had Mathe chosen to respond one notrump, the bidding would have finished in two hearts, which would have had a chance. As it was, it was 7 IMPs away when the board was passed out in the closed room. North America was down 21-0, after only four boards. Then Kehela held:

♠ A K Q 10 9 5 2 ♥ 9 ♦ A 7 ♣ A K 4

Kehela opened with two clubs, the normal choice in Acol with hands this strong in honor strength, as opposed to the more limited opening of two spades. Murray gave a positive of two notrump, and after showing his spades and hearing a three notrump reply, Kehela asked for aces and settled in six spades when he found one to be missing. A club was led, and Murray tabled:

♠ 6 3 ♥ K J 2 ♦ K J 8 ♣ J 10 8 6 5

East had a doubleton queen, and Kehela had thirteen tricks. Garozzo and Forquet duplicated the contract, but on a spade lead Forquet naturally tried a heart to the jack before playing clubs. That was 1 IMP to North America. Not much, but a start.

The Canadians had more good cards and even better luck on the next board:

Dealer East

E-W vul.

Board 6

♠ A K Q J 8 4

♥ 6

♦ A 10 8 7 6

♣ A

♠ 7 2

♥ A K 4

♦ K J 9 3

♣ Q 9 4 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Avarelli	Murray	Belladonna	Kehela
		pass	1♦
pass	2♠	pass	2NT
pass	3♦	pass	3♥
pass	4NT	pass	5♦
pass	6♣	pass	6♦
pass	7♦	all pass	

Six clubs was the Baron grand slam try, asking partner if he had good trumps for the bidding so far. Kehela said no, but then Murray decided to go to seven anyway. Kehela won the spade lead in dummy, cashed the ace of diamonds, and led a diamond towards his hand. With nothing but mathematics to go on, Kehela went up with the king and the queen fell.

The odds of picking up the diamonds, playing normally by playing for the drop, are about 58% (40.7% for 2-2 split + $\frac{1}{4}$ of 49.7% for singleton queen + $\frac{1}{2}$ of 9.6% for 4-0 splits, since the spots are so good). There is also a small and difficult to calculate danger from a 5-0 spade break. So is this a good grand slam? Under the always iffy assumption that a slam will be bid at the other table, bidding seven risks 970 points (920 for six diamonds plus fifty for going down in seven) to gain 500 (the larger bonus for a grand slam). In

IMPs, that is risking 14 IMPs to win 11. The breakeven point for that risk is 14/ (14+11), or 56%. Of course, at the table no one cares about a percent or two. The grand slam is essentially a toss-up. One team or the other was going to be lucky, and this time it was North America. The bidding at the other table:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Hamman	Forquet	Mathe	Garozzo
		pass	1♦
pass	2♠	pass	2NT
pass	3♦	pass	3♥
pass	5NT	pass	6♦
pass	6♠	all pass	

Five notrump was the Grand Slam Force, asking for two of the top three trump honors. The Italians played graduated responses, and Garozzo would have bid six clubs with king fifth or better. Forquet saved an IMP by playing in spades: it was now Italy 21, North America 11.

On board 8, Murray and Kehela were pushed by competitive bidding to four clubs, one down when declarer's side suit split 5-1. That was a small pickup when Garozzo-Forquet pushed to five clubs and went down three.

After that, North America couldn't seem to make any headway. On board 11, Murray-Kehela bid a thin game that didn't get the required luck. A few boards later, Mathe faced a tactical problem. Suppose you hold, in fourth, not vulnerable against vulnerable:

♠ A J 7 6 2 ♥ A 3 ♦ J ♣ A J 10 7 3

Forquet in third chair opens one spade. What do you do?

Experts are divided on what to do when holding a good hand with length in an opponent's suit. Arguing for a pass is that a one spade opening in Neapolitan is frequently a bad four-card suit. In fact, had Mathe passed, one spade would have been passed out and beaten several tricks, vulnerable. Instead, he overcalled two clubs. The Italians passed that out in a flash, and this was the deal:

Dealer South

N-S vul.

Board 15

♠ K 8 5 4

♥ K 10 5

♦ A K 3

♣ Q 4 2

♠ 10 9 3
♥ Q J 8 2
♦ Q 10 8 6 2
♣ 6



♠ A J 7 6 2
♥ A 3
♦ J
♣ A J 10 7 3

♠ Q
♥ 9 7 6 4
♦ 9 7 5 4
♣ K 9 8 5

Two clubs was a battle. Mathe won the spade lead and exited with the jack of diamonds to North's king. Forquet cashed the king of spades and gave his partner a ruff. Garozzo played a diamond and Mathe ruffed Forquet's ace. Now declarer played ace and jack of clubs. Garozzo stepped in with the king and played another trump to Forquet, who got off play with the fourth spade. Mathe was left having to play hearts from hand, and was one down. In the other room:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Avarelli	Murray	Belladonna	Kehela
pass	1NT	dbl	pass
2♦	pass	2♠	all pass

On a low club lead, two spades played very comfortably, and Belladonna finished with ten tricks. That was 6 IMPs to Italy. And on the next deal:

Dealer West

E-W vul.

Board 16

♠ 7 2
♥ K 8 7
♦ J 10 8
♣ Q 8 7 4 2

♠ 10 9 6 4
♥ Q
♦ Q 7 5 4 3 2
♣ J 3



♠ A K J
♥ J 3 2
♦ A K 9 6
♣ A 10 5

♠ Q 8 5 3
♥ A 10 9 6 5 4
♦ —
♣ K 9 6

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Hamman	Forquet	Mathe	Garozzo
pass	pass	2NT	pass
3♣	pass	3♦	pass
3NT	all pass		

Three notrump is perhaps the best game: it makes whenever the ace-king of hearts are in the same hand, which is almost 50%; and of course it also makes if the defense fails to lead hearts. Five diamonds pretty much needs the spade finesse, unless the queen is singleton, but has the virtue of going down at most one on normal layouts. Four spades is a complicated alternative. Garozzo led the ten of hearts against three notrump and Mathe was quickly down two. At the other table:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Avarelli	Murray	Belladonna	Kehela
pass	pass	1NT ¹	2♥
pass	3♥	dbl	pass
3♠	all pass		

1. 17-20 HCP.

Three spades is a complicated contract which can in fact always be made on the lie of the cards. On the low heart lead it was straightforward. When Kehela won the ace and returned a heart, Avarelli pitched a losing club. When North won and led a club, declarer took the ace, cashed the ace and

king of trumps, and started to play diamonds, allowing the defense to make two trump tricks. All very reasonable play by North America, but 8 IMPs to Italy.

On the next board, Garozzo and Forquet seemed to have a misunderstanding, finishing in two spades on a 4-2 fit. But Garozzo made it. Then North America dodged a bullet:

Dealer East	♠ 10 9
N-S vul.	♥ 10 3
Board 18	♦ A 9 8 7 6 3
	♣ J 6 4
♠ 5 4	♠ K Q J 2
♥ A J 4	♥ K 8 6 5 2
♦ 2	♦ Q 10
♣ A K Q 8 7 3 2	♣ 10 5
	♠ A 8 7 6 3
	♥ Q 9 7
	♦ K J 5 4
	♣ 9

N
W E
S

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Hamman	Forquet	Mathe	Garozzo
		pass	pass
1♣	pass	1♥	pass
3♣	pass	3NT	all pass

Garozzo led a spade and Mathe ran ten tricks. At the other table:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Avarelli	Murray	Belladonna	Kehela
		1♠	pass
3♣	pass	3♥	pass
4NT	pass	5♣	all pass

Five clubs was clearly the better contract, although it doesn't seem that the Roman Club bidding dealt fully with all the issues. One IMP to North America.

The last two boards were quiet. Over twenty boards, Italy had outscored North America by 41-17. Apart from the lucky grand slam, all North America had mustered was 3 IMPs on extra undertricks and 4 IMPs on overtricks. The two teams wouldn't meet again until the day after tomorrow — North America would have to hope to do better then. At this point, the first cycle of pairings was complete: every team had played twenty boards against every other. Now it would all start over again. The other teams headed back for round six, while the North Americans took the evening off.



Back at Sami's over coffee, I asked what it was like playing against the Italians. "We were always on the best of terms with Forquet and Belladonna," he recalled, leaning back comfortably in his chair. "They were gracious and likeable and the easiest to get to know. D'Alelio, Pabis-Ticci and Avarelli were not so charismatic. It's not that they were unfriendly, perhaps just a bit reserved, especially compared to Belladonna. He exuded energy, volatility. His eyes would grow big when he saw a dummy that wasn't quite what he was expecting. Belladonna was a big bear at the table — a match for Murray! Forquet had perfect manners and demeanor. He never said a word. Garozzo was always looking for something, to do something to the opponents."

I asked what the Italians thought about Eric's psyching.

"They admired him," Sami told me. "They didn't resent the psychs."

"Did any of your teammates?" I asked.

Sami shook his head. "Everyone knew that was part of our game. In other ways we were easy to play against: we didn't play preemptive jump overcalls, or weak notrumps, or even weak twos. What we had was that Eric would psyche, make light overcalls or take other slightly off-center actions."

I asked Sami about the fact that he always sat South, when the partnership was North-South.

"Well, Murray liked to sit North," he told me. "Mind you, he didn't like to fulfill North's responsibilities — you know, making out the score, passing the boards. He said he couldn't concentrate if he had to do all that, so I did it all."

I had noticed in my reading that when the partnership sat East-West, it seemed that Kehela was always West, and I asked him about it. “That started in London (the *Sunday Times* Pairs). I don’t really know how it came about.” Sami smiled as he remembered a conversation from long ago. “Forquet told me once ‘I like to sit North. Then, on Vugraph, I am on top of Garozzo, which is as it should be.’”

Day 3: Thursday, April 28, 1966

North America vs. the Netherlands

Murray-Kehela had a huge set against Blitzblum and De Leeuw while Feldesman and Rubin took on Slavenburg and Kreyns. This difficult board came near the end of the session:

Dealer South

Both vul.

Board 39

♠ Q 8 6 4

♥ 9 6 2

♦ 8 6 3

♣ K 7 3

♠ K 9
♥ A J 10
♦ A 10 9
♣ A 9 8 6 4

N
W E
S

♠ J 10 3 2
♥ Q 4 3
♦ K J 4
♣ J 10 2

♠ A 7 5
♥ K 8 7 5
♦ Q 7 5 2
♣ Q 5

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
De Leeuw	Murray	Blitzblum	Kehela
1♣	pass	1♠	pass
2NT	pass	3NT	all pass

Murray led the nine of hearts, won by declarer with the jack. He tried the nine of spades, but Murray went in with the queen to play another heart, won by the ten. Declarer now played the king of spades, which Kehela allowed to hold.

With only one sure entry to dummy, declarer had to guess how to attack clubs. He chose to lead a low one from hand, which went to Kehela's queen. A third round of hearts came next, and declarer was helpless. No matter what he did, the defense had established the setting trick in hearts and kept the ace of spades as entry to it.

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Feldesman	Slavenburg	Rubin	Kreyns
1NT	pass	2NT	pass
3NT	all pass		pass

In the Closed Room, Rubin concealed his spade suit, and the defense got off to the less threatening start of the four of spades to South's ace. Declarer won the second spade and, with no convenient entry to dummy, tried playing a low club to the ten and queen. South played a third spade, North winning the queen while declarer pitched a heart. North exited passively with the fourth spade, declarer throwing a diamond. He now ran the club jack to North's king. North, Slavenburg, again refused to break a red suit, getting out with his last club. Declarer, not knowing where the red honors were, ran the clubs. To keep his king of hearts guarded, South threw diamonds. Declarer then played the ace and king of diamonds, dropping the queen for his ninth trick. That was well done by declarer, but do you see anything of interest?

Declarer might have improved his prospects by throwing the king of spades under the ace on the first trick. Now any switch is to his advantage. Suppose South returns a spade. If North takes his queen, he has no good return. If instead he plays low, declarer can overtake the spade and start clubs from dummy.

It was a huge win for the North Americans, a phenomenal 107 IMPs won over twenty boards, while losing only 23. Murray and Kehela sat out the next match, against Venezuela, who picked up 4 IMPs in a high-scoring set: 63-67. Then they were back in against Thailand.

The Thais played in different combinations. Nandhabiwat played "The Bangkok System" with three different partners, while non-Nandhabiwat partnerships played Acol. In the Bangkok System, suit openings are 11-17 with at least five cards in the suit, except for one club, which could be

short. The strong forcing opening, 18+ points, is one notrump. Murray showed a deft touch in this two heart contract:

Dealer West

Neither vul.

Board 24

♠ K Q J 9

♥ K J 8 3

♦ Q 10

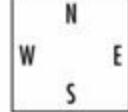
♣ J 4 2

♠ A 7 4 2

♥ Q 7 2

♦ A 9 2

♣ A 10 3



♠ 10 8 6

♥ A 9 5 4

♦ 8 6 4

♣ K Q 6

♠ 5 3

♥ 10 6

♦ K J 7 5 3

♣ 9 8 7 5

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kehela	Istenyeli	Murray	Boonsupa
1♣	dbl	re dbl	1♦
pass	pass	1♥	pass
2♥	all pass		

South started with the five of spades, ducked to North's jack. North continued with the king of spades, won by dummy's ace. At first glance, it seems that even if declarer manages to hold his trump losers to two, he will be one down. Murray took three rounds of clubs and exited with a spade to the queen. North continued with the fourth spade as Murray and South discarded diamonds. The diamond queen was permitted to hold and the second diamond taken by the ace. Murray now led a diamond from dummy in this position:

<table border="0"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>—</td></tr> <tr><td>♥</td><td>K J 8 3</td></tr> <tr><td>♦</td><td>—</td></tr> <tr><td>♣</td><td>—</td></tr> </table> <table border="0"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>—</td></tr> <tr><td>♥</td><td>Q 7 2</td></tr> <tr><td>♦</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>♣</td><td>—</td></tr> </table>	♠	—	♥	K J 8 3	♦	—	♣	—	♠	—	♥	Q 7 2	♦	9	♣	—	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		<table border="0"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>—</td></tr> <tr><td>♥</td><td>A 9 5 4</td></tr> <tr><td>♦</td><td>—</td></tr> <tr><td>♣</td><td>—</td></tr> </table> <table border="0"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>—</td></tr> <tr><td>♥</td><td>10 6</td></tr> <tr><td>♦</td><td>K J</td></tr> <tr><td>♣</td><td>—</td></tr> </table>	♠	—	♥	A 9 5 4	♦	—	♣	—	♠	—	♥	10 6	♦	K J	♣	—
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♥	10 6																																										
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♣	—																																										

North ruffed with the three, overruffed by Murray's four. Now Murray led the five of hearts and covered South's six with the seven. North won cheaply with the eight but was endplayed, forced to lead from the king-jack of trumps at Trick 12. Declarer had held his trump losers to one!

Take another look at the four-card ending above. Do you think the defense can do better? Ruffing in with the eight doesn't work. Declarer overruffs with the nine, leads low and covers South's card.

Suppose instead North ruffs the diamond with the jack. If declarer overruffs, North will make both the king and the eight, so let's say declarer leaves North on play by underruffing. If North now exits with the three, declarer can take South's six with the seven and lead the queen, pinning the ten and winning the last two tricks. But say North, after ruffing in with the jack, exits with the eight. Suppose that is covered by the nine, ten and queen. Now the seven from dummy pins South's six, and declarer's five is good for the last trick. But South doesn't cover the nine — he plays small, leaving declarer in hand. That is the only defense.

Day 4: Friday, April 29, 1966
The Second Match Against Italy

The Americans started with a modest pickup for defeating four of a minor in both rooms. That lead was returned immediately when Mathe pushed to a four heart game, down, while Belladonna played well to make three. Then North America bid another close game:

Dealer South

Both vul.

Board 23

♠ A Q 8 5
♥ K J 5 4
♦ 6 2
♣ A K 9

♠ K J 9
♥ A 9 8 6 2
♦ 7 3
♣ Q 10 6



♠ 10 7 6 2
♥ Q 7 3
♦ A Q 9 8
♣ 7 2

♠ 4 3
♥ 10
♦ K J 10 5 4
♣ J 8 5 4 3

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kehela	Belladonna	Murray	Avarelli
			pass
1NT	pass	2♣	pass
2♠	pass	3♠	pass
4♠	all pass		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Forquet	Mathe	Garozzo	Hamman
			pass

1NT all pass

The Canadians' 1NT range was 16-18; the Blue Club one was 16-17 if the strong variety, 13-15 if weak with clubs. The difference in ranges made it normal for Murray to try for game while Garozzo did not. When only one team bids a game like this, someone is bound to be unlucky. With the diamond and spade kings offside, it was Murray-Kehela. The heart ruff made it down two.

North America stretched to another reasonable game on the next board, only to go down two when three cards were offside. The loss was

only 2 IMPs, as at the other table Italy stopped below game but went down anyway. Then came a small pickup when Murray-Kehela defeated Belladonna in a complicated two spades, while Mathe made it. North America picked up single IMPs on two successive deals.

Then Belladonna held:

♠ Q J 4 2 ♥ K 10 9 3 ♦ A ♣ 7 5 3 2

With only the Italians vulnerable, he passed in second position, and Murray opened one heart. Avarelli jumped to three notrump, Kehela passed, and Belladonna pondered. He had a good hand, a maximum for not opening the bidding, and here was partner contracting for nine tricks at notrump, vulnerable. Against that, it is seldom that one has a slam against an opponent's opening bid, and partners have been known to jump to three with nothing more than a long minor suit and an optimistic outlook. Eventually, Belladonna passed, and this was the deal:

Dealer West	♠ Q J 4 2
N-S vul.	♥ K 10 9 3
Board 28	♦ A
	♣ 7 5 3 2
♠ 10 8 6 5	♠ 9 3
♥ —	♥ Q 8 7 6 5 4 2
♦ J 8 5 4 3 2	♦ 9 6
♣ J 9 4	♣ 10 6
	♠ A K 7
	♥ A J
	♦ K Q 10 7
	♣ A K Q 8

N
W E
S

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kehela	Belladonna	Murray	Avarelli
pass	pass	1♥	3NT
all pass			

Larceny by E. R. Murray, and revenge for the unsuccessful psyche two days earlier. Thirteen tricks were taken in silence. Kehela wrote up the deal in *Toronto Life*:

Gamesmanship being very much a part of the match, Murray was not to be denied, and after suitable references to Belladonna's deteriorating sense of smell, he politely inquired whether the contract might have been improved upon had there been no interference. "Si," admitted Belladonna ruefully, "even my wife would have bid seven."

Apparently, there was no bid for a balanced 26-count in the Roman defensive methods. Takeout doubles were limited, and this hand was obviously far too strong. A direct bid of two hearts would be natural — a treatment that made a lot of sense against Italian opponents whose canapé style permitted opening the bidding in a three-card major. Against North Americans it made less sense, and after a hurried discussion, it was agreed that from this point on a direct overcall in the opponents' suit was to be artificial and game forcing.

In the other room, Mathe and Hamman were given a free run:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Forquet</i>	<i>Mathe</i>	<i>Garozzo</i>	<i>Hamman</i>
pass	pass	pass	3NT
pass	4♣	pass	4♦
pass	6NT	all pass	

Six notrump was available in top tricks and North America scored up 13 IMPs. It seems quite likely Belladonna and Avarelli would have bid a grand slam had it not been for Murray's psyche. And if they happened to play it in clubs, it would have been from the South hand, which is a one club opening in Roman, so they could not have suffered a ruff on the opening lead. Had it not been for Murray's audacious psyche, North America likely would have lost 13 IMPs instead of winning 13.

Seven notrump would have been a very good contract. How would you play it, as South on a spade lead?

After winning the spade lead in hand, unblock the ace of diamonds and cash two top clubs. Claim if they split; otherwise take the king and queen of diamonds, throwing a club and a heart from dummy. Claim if the jack of

diamonds has fallen. If East is known to be guarding both minors, take the hearts and spades to squeeze him. Otherwise, cash the last high club and run the spades. You will make seven on a double squeeze if the minor suit guards are held in different hands, or on a triple squeeze if one opponent holds both minors and the queen of hearts.⁴

The next board was a widely reported three notrump by Hamman. He failed to guess the lie of a critical suit, and that Garozzo had handed him a chance to make his contract. That suggests to me that the word used in the World Championship book, “flubbed”, might be a bit unfair. Anyway, it was a missed opportunity for North America.

Throughout this match, bidding aggressive games had been unprofitable. The trend continued as Mathe-Hamman bid a 24-point three notrump that had plenty of play, but with three cards wrong it finished three down. Belladonna played a cozy two diamonds on a four-four fit and made a comfortable overtrick. Then came a defensive problem for Kehela:

Dealer South	♠ 7 6 5 4
N-S vul.	♥ 9
Board 31	♦ A J 4 3
	♣ 10 9 8 4
♠ 3	
♥ A K Q J 5 3	
♦ 6 2	
♣ K 6 5 3	

	N	
W		E
	S	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kehela	Belladonna	Murray	Avarelli
			1♦
1♥	2♦	2♥	2♠
4♥	4♠	dbl	all pass

Kehela led the ace of hearts; Murray played the deuce. What do you do now?

Kehela made the normal switch to a club, hoping to find partner with something there. Murray’s hand was a surprise:

♠ A K Q ♥ 10 7 6 2 ♦ 10 9 7 ♣ J 7 2

The three top spades meant Avarelli was one down, but the important second down-trick disappeared with the club shift. Could the partnership have done better? Some critics in the print media suggested East should have played the heart ten, or seven, at Trick 1, to steer partner away from a club shift. There may be something in that, but a diamond shift could be wrong, and a club shift from the queen would not have cost. From Kehela's point of view, it was wildly unlikely that his partner's entire hand should be in spades. In the Open Room Forquet was allowed to play in four hearts, cold on the lie of the cards, so Italy won 7 IMPs.

A few boards later both Murray and Garozzo were on lead against four hearts with:

♠ K J 10 5 4 ♥ K 6 ♦ 7 6 4 ♣ 7 5 4

Murray, who had overcalled one spade and been raised to two, attacked with the jack of spades; Garozzo, whose partnership had been silent, led a diamond. Garozzo's lead, striking KQ109, was the winner. Chalk up 10 IMPs to the Italian preference for passive leads.

Then Kehela and Forquet held

♠ K 9 ♥ 7 6 5 ♦ J 8 3 2 ♣ Q 10 9 7

and had to lead against four hearts. Forquet's partner had opened one spade and voluntarily bid two clubs, canapé. He attacked with the king of spades, which cost the contract. Kehela, whose partner had bid only clubs, led clubs and defeated it.

That was a welcome respite for the North Americans, who had been swamped by adverse swings. They got 10 IMPs more when Murray guessed the diamond suit in three notrump and Forquet didn't. That was it for the North American rally. An aggressive five clubs by Murray and Kehela failed by a trick, costing another 9 IMPs, and at the end of the set, Italy had won 69-45. The margin of 24 IMPs was identical to that of the first set, and Italy led by 48.

The next set against Italy was not until the last match the following day, so, for the moment, there was nothing to do but try to do well against the

other teams. The match against the Netherlands was going well; after the evening session North America had a commanding 133-IMP lead.

Day 5: Saturday, April 30, 1966

The match against Venezuela was also going well; North America had a strong third set, picking up 50 to lead by 70. Apart from Italy, it was the Thais who were giving North America the most trouble. In the third set, with Murray and Kehela on the sidelines, the Thais outscored North America 54-34, to trail by a barely significant 5 IMPs. By contrast, Italy led Thailand by over 200.

Next up was the third match against Italy. North America would have to make a move soon.

[1](#) At this time, scoring was by total points when play was in the United States, and by IMPs when in Europe. IMPs used to be EMPs (European Match Points).

[2](#) This was the source of one complaint about the conditions: Italy was scheduled to have a bye right before playing North America, presumably allowing them to be relatively well rested. This perceived advantage would occur all seven times. When this was pointed out, Italy graciously agreed to a switch of the 32nd and 34th rounds.

[3](#) The writeup in the world championship book suggests that at the time experts were divided on how to play this combination.

[4](#) If East has the club length, you can delay taking the last high club. Then, if you decide that East has the jack of diamonds, you can play for the simple squeeze.

CHAPTER 6

FRUSTRATION IN ITALY



Captain Rosenblum brought in Feldesman and Rubin in place of Hamman and Mathe. The third board saw Murray in a touch-and-go two spades:

Dealer South

Neither vul.

Board 43

♠ A K 3
♥ J 9 7 6
♦ K J 10 7
♣ Q J

♠ J 10 9 7 5
♥ A K Q 5
♦ 5
♣ A 5 3

N
W E
S

♠ 8 6 2
♥ 4 3 2
♦ A 9 4 3
♣ 9 8 4

♠ Q 4
♥ 10 8
♦ Q 8 6 2
♣ K 10 7 6 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Avarelli	Murray	Belladonna	Kehela
			pass
1♣	dbl	2♣	pass
pass	dbl	pass	2♦
pass	2♠	all pass	

Opening lead: ♣6

Murray took the opening lead with the ace and led a sneaky five of spades. Belladonna played low, blocking the spades, and Avarelli took the king. Two rounds of clubs followed, and now the defenders were helpless. To defeat two spades, they needed to draw three rounds of trumps, leaving declarer with a heart loser. The defense actually conceded an overtrick by crashing the spade honors and failing to play a third round, +140 to North America.

That looked like a possible pickup, but trouble was brewing in the Closed Room:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Feldesman	Forquet	Rubin	Garozzo
			pass
1NT	dbl	redbl	pass
pass	2♠	pass	pass
dbl	all pass		

Opening lead: ♣6

Rubin led a club against the hair-raising contract of two spades doubled. Forquet won and led a trump, as Murray had done, but the jack. Rubin took the queen, avoiding the spade block, and cashed two clubs before shifting to a diamond. Declarer took the ace and played a second trump; West won and cashed his other trump. The defense had done everything right, but West unaccountably threw a heart on the last trump, and +100 turned into -470, 8 IMPs to Italy.

On the next board Murray held, vulnerable against not:

♠ Q 8 2 ♥ 10 9 8 ♦ 10 3 ♣ A K Q 10 8

Avarelli, the dealer on his right, opened with three diamonds. Murray and Belladonna passed, and Kehela reopened in fourth with a double. What would you do now? With Colonial Acol takeout doubles being notoriously unreliable with respect to support for unbid minors, Murray's hand constituted a real problem. However, before he had to find a call, Avarelli surprisingly raised himself to four diamonds. Murray doubled, ending the auction. This was the deal:

Dealer West

N-S vul.

Board 44

♠ Q 8 2

♥ 10 9 8

♦ 10 3

♣ A K Q 10 8

♠ 10 9

♥ 2

♦ A K J 9 7 6 5 4

♣ 7 3



♠ 6 5 4

♥ Q 5 4 3

♦ 2

♣ J 9 6 4 2

♠ A K J 7 3

♥ A K J 7 6

♦ Q 8

♣ 5

Italian preempts were often stronger than North American ones, but ace-king-jack to eight for a nonvulnerable versus vulnerable three bid was remarkable. The defense collected their five tricks for +300. In the Closed Room, Feldesman played wait-and-see:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Feldesman	Forquet	Rubin	Garozzo
pass!	pass	pass	1♣
5♦	dbl	all pass	

Feldesman lost the same five tricks for -500, 5 IMPs to Italy.

A signaling mishap cost Murray and Kehela a chance to defeat three notrump on the next board, which wound up being a push. Then Murray had to lead against three notrump after dummy had shown hearts and spades, with

♠ 4 2 ♥ Q 3 2 ♦ 10 8 6 ♣ K Q 9 5 4

Murray's choice of a low club looks normal, but it wound up surrendering no fewer than three tricks, compared to Forquet's lead of the king. Fortunately they were all overtricks, but it was still 3 IMPs to Italy. Then Kehela had to play a close game:

Dealer South
N-S vul.
Board 47

♠ K 8 6 2
♥ 5
♦ 10 9 7 6 2
♣ 10 9 3

♠ Q J 7 3
♥ A J 8 7
♦ A K 4
♣ A K

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Avarelli	Murray	Belladonna	Kehela 2NT
pass	3♣	pass	3♠
pass	4♦	all pass	

Avarelli led the queen of diamonds, which conventionally showed the king or shortness. Queen-jack doubleton was possible, but from queen-jack third or longer the lead would be the jack. Kehela took the ace of diamonds and led the queen of spades. West took the ace and shifted to the queen of hearts to declarer's ace. What would you do now?

Kehela crossed to the king of spades as East discarded a club. He then crossed to a club, ruffed a heart, crossed to a club and ruffed another heart. He then led the ten of diamonds from dummy, East following small.

With two spades and a heart to lose, declarer needed to get the diamonds right. After several minutes of agonizing, Kehela ran the ten of diamonds. West won the jack, cashed a heart and later took another trump trick for down one. His hand was:

♠ A 10 9 4 ♥ K Q 10 4 ♦ Q J ♣ J 8 7

This was the deal that so incensed Mathe, bringing him running up to the elevator. Sami had nightmares about it for years. I am not so sure he is culpable. The jack of diamonds rated to be on his right. There was some suggestion after the fact that upon taking the queen of hearts with the ace, Kehela should have played off the king of diamonds. Obviously that succeeds as the cards lie, but the point is that even if West were to ruff the king of diamonds, declarer is safe unless the defense can effectively tap the dummy

in hearts. That is possible only if East has the king, otherwise declarer's jack sets up. So playing off the king of diamonds is a good line if you feel that West necessarily has shifted to the queen of hearts from the king-queen. But it seems to me that Avarelli might have led an unsupported queen. Sami insists he should have made it.

In the Closed Room, Forquet played four spades from the other side and got a low club lead. He cashed the ace of diamonds, dropping the queen, and then continued with the king of diamonds. When the jack fell there were no further problems and he made five: 13 IMPs to Italy.

On the next deal, both sides missed a good slam:

♠ K Q 7 6 4
♥ Q 7
♦ J 10 3 2
♣ 10 5

♠ A 2
♥ AK 10 6
♦ AQ 9 7 6
♣ A 2

Feldesman

pass
3♥
4♠

Rubin

2NT
3♠
pass

Avarelli

pass
1♠
3NT

Belladonna

1♣
2NT
pass

Both East players treated their control-rich, 5-4-2-2 hands as balanced, never showing their suits. Six diamonds is an excellent contract; in fact five, six and seven diamonds are all better contracts than three notrump. Try playing six diamonds by East on a club lead.

Probably the best line of play is to take the club and try to cash three rounds of hearts, pitching the losing club from dummy. If North should

happen to ruff the third heart, you can try the diamond finesse. In fact, all roads lead to success as North held:

♠ 9 5 3 ♥ J 8 3 ♦ K 8 5 ♣ Q 9 4 3

A little later, Garozzo and Kehela had to lead against three notrump, where dummy had shown hearts, with:

♠ A 9 7 5 3 ♥ 8 2 ♦ A 6 ♣ J 10 9 8

It was the age-old dilemma: length versus solidity and safety. Kehela's fourth-best spade beat three notrump, while Garozzo's jack of clubs did not. This was the deal (rotated for convenience):

Dealer West	♠ 8 6
E-W vul.	♥ A K 9 7 4 3
Board 51	♦ 10 4
	♣ A 5 4
♠ A 9 7 5 3	♠ J 10 4
♥ 8 2	♥ J 10
♦ A 6	♦ Q J 9 8 5
♣ J 10 9 8	♣ K 7 6
	♠ K Q 2
	♥ Q 6 5
	♦ K 7 3 2
	♣ Q 3 2

N
W E
S

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kehela	Avarelli	Murray	Belladonna
pass	1♥	pass	1NT ¹
pass	2♥	pass	3NT
all pass			

1. Forcing.

Opening lead: ♠ 5

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Garozzo	Feldesman	Forquet	Rubin
pass	1♥	pass	2NT
pass	3NT	all pass	

Opening lead: ♣J

First, note the excellent contract reached in both rooms — four hearts would likely have failed. Rubin played low from dummy on the jack of clubs. Forquet put up the king and shifted to the queen of diamonds. Rubin ducked the first round and put up the king on the second; when Garozzo had no more diamonds three notrump was in.

Against Kehela's lead of the five of spades to Murray's ten, Belladonna considered his play at length and eventually played low. This would have succeeded if West had six spades and no entry. As it was Murray continued spades and Belladonna had to go one down.

Belladonna's play at Trick 1 struck me as remarkable. Surely spades are far more likely to be 5-3 than 6-2, and six rounds of hearts is bound to put the defenders under pressure. In an article in the October, 1984 ACBL *Bulletin*, Hugh Kelsey had another look at what might have happened. Suppose West keeps his spades. East's best effort is to come down to two cards in every suit. The position will be:

	♠ 8 — ♦ 10 4 ♣ A 5 4							
♠ A 9 7 3 — ♦ A 6 ♣ —	<table border="0" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">W</td> <td style="width: 33%;">N</td> <td style="width: 33%;">E</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S			♠ J 4 — ♦ Q J ♣ K 7
W	N	E						
S								
	♠ K 2 — ♦ K 7 ♣ Q 3							

If declarer reads the position, he may try playing the ace of clubs. West must now discard the spade seven (or nine). Then the eight of spades goes to the jack, king and ace, and West can play the three of spades to his partner's four.

That's very pretty, but better defense, which doesn't require East to have the four of spades, is to for both defenders to come down to three doubletons. Now declarer has no answer. So maybe Belladonna was right after all!

On board 54, Murray held:

♠ 9 5 4 ♥ A J 10 ♦ Q J 4 ♣ A K 5 4

Kehela opened one club and Avarelli overcalled one diamond. Murray bid two diamonds, showing a game-going hand with club support. Kehela bid two spades, Murray two notrump, and Kehela three hearts. Now Murray's three notrump closed the auction.

♠ A K J 8
♥ K 8 6 5
♦ 3
♣ J 9 8 2

Opening lead: ♦6

♠ 9 5 4
♥ A J 10
♦ Q J 4
♣ A K 5 4

Avarelli won the first trick with the king and returned the eight, West playing the seven (consistent with holding three diamonds). How do you play three notrump?

Murray's first move was to cash the ace and king of clubs. If the queen had fallen, that would have been nine tricks. All followed but the queen remained out. Murray then crossed to the ace of spades and played a heart to the jack. If that had won declarer would have faced the annoying problem of which heart to play next: the ace wins if the queen of hearts is doubleton or third, while leading the ten of hearts to the king and a heart back to the ace wins if hearts are 3-3 or the spade finesse wins (which would be almost certain if the queen of hearts was fourth). Murray was spared this conundrum as the jack of hearts lost to the queen and the defense cashed four diamonds and the queen of clubs, for down three. The full deal was (original directions):

Dealer East	♠ 9 5 4
E-W vul.	♥ A J 10
Board 54	♦ Q J 4
	♣ A K 5 4
♠ 7 6	♠ Q 10 3 2
♥ 9 7	♥ Q 4 3 2
♦ A K 10 9 8 2	♦ 7 6 5
♣ Q 10 6	♣ 7 3
	♠ A K J 8
	♥ K 8 6 5
	♦ 3
	♣ J 9 8 2

N
W E
S

This is the sort of deal that one doesn't want to play on Vugraph. Murray's line is surely the best at single dummy. With a quick peek at a defender's hand, he could have taken an extra six tricks. In the Closed Room:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Feldesman	Forquet	Rubin	Garozzo
		pass	1♠
2♦	dbl	all pass	

The Neapolitan four-card major opening meant that West's bid, if he bid, would have to be at the two-level. One would likely get away with that today, but Forquet pounced with a penalty double. North led the ace of clubs and switched to a spade. South won the jack and shifted to his singleton trump. Declarer won and, instead of playing a club to secure his ruff in dummy, tempted fate by leading a spade. South won and played a heart to North, who played a second round of diamonds. Declarer was now in danger of losing his club ruff, but when he won the second trump and led the ten of clubs, the defense did not have the entries to do everything. Forquet gave it his best try by stepping in with the king of clubs and drawing dummy's last trump, but Feldesman had the queen of clubs for his sixth trick. The 500-point penalty was still worth 12 IMPs to Italy.

North America got 12 IMPs back when Feldesman-Rubin adroitly collected an 800-point penalty from Forquet. The normally conservative

Italian had somewhat uncharacteristically opened a weak two bid on

♠ A K J 7 6 ♥ K ♦ J 3 2 ♣ J 10 9 6

The North Americans lost 10 IMPs when Murray-Kehela played in three notrump instead of a superior four hearts. At the end of the set, North America had suffered their third straight significant loss at the hands of the Italians. This time, the score was 57-31. Italy had won by margins of 24, 24 and 26, for an overall lead of 74 IMPs.

After five days of bridge, each match was approaching the halfway point, with 60 of the 140 boards having been played. In addition to their big lead over North America, the Italians held a 103-IMP lead over Venezuela and a 202-IMP lead over Thailand. Only the Netherlands had stayed close to them, trailing by 20. North America had big leads over the Netherlands and Venezuela, 133 IMPs and 70 IMPs respectively, but the match against Thailand was almost even.

The winner would be the team with the most wins of the 140-board matches. In the event of a two-way tie there would be a playoff between the two teams, and if more than two teams tied, the two teams with the best “IMP quotient”, IMPs won divided by IMPs lost, would play off for the title. But at the moment, it didn’t look like anyone was going to beat Italy.

Day 6: Sunday, May 1, 1966

Since five full days of three sessions had accommodated three sets against each team, Day 6 was the same schedule as Day 1. North America started with a bye, and then played the Netherlands and Venezuela. While there was still time for the Dutch to turn things around, the match was rapidly getting out of hand. Murray-Kehela and Hamman-Mathe picked up another 17 IMPs, to stretch the North American lead to 138. The match against Venezuela was closer, and with Murray and Kehela sitting out, North America gave back 11 IMPs, reducing the lead to 59.

Day 7: Monday, May 2, 1966

This was one of the two ‘light’ days, with only one segment scheduled. North America was scheduled to play Thailand, who trailed by the slender margin of 5 IMPs. Murray-Kehela and Mathe-Hamman put together a huge set, winning 101-29.

Day 8: Tuesday, May 3, 1966

With a 74-IMP lead, the Italian captain Perroux brought in Camillo Pabis-Ticci and Massimo D’Alelio to see their first action against North America. For the North Americans, Captain Rosenblum went back to his original lineup, sending Murray-Kehela into the Closed Room to sit East-West against the newcomers, while Mathe and Hamman took on Avarelli and Belladonna.

One of the strengths of the Roman Club, and the “Little Roman Club” variant played by Pabis-Ticci-D’Alelio, is stopping low. Board 67 was an example. Murray held, with just his side vulnerable,

♠ A Q J 2 ♥ Q 8 2 ♦ Q 9 7 2 ♣ J 4

Pabis-Ticci, on his right, opened one club in third chair. This could be one of a number of types, but by far the most common is a balanced hand of 12-16 points. Murray passed, and D’Alelio bid one diamond, negative, up to about 9 points. Pabis-Ticci rebid one heart, showing the balanced minimum type with a heart suit. Murray passed, and so did everyone else. Kehela held:

♠ 10 9 8 4 ♥ 10 7 6 ♦ K 5 4 ♣ K 10 5

Pabis-Ticci made one heart, for +80, and his teammates made an overtrick in two spades, for 5 IMPs to Italy. It’s easy to say someone should have bid, but Murray’s hand is under strength for a vulnerable double opposite a passed hand, and there was no safe action at his second turn either. Usually partner will balance when necessary, but Kehela had an awful hand.

On the next board, though, Hamman made the right play in three notrump while D’Alelio erred and went down. That was 12 welcome IMPs for North America, and there was a chance for more on the next deal. Italy stopped in three spades in the closed room, making for +140. Mathe reached four, vulnerable, and played it well until he misread the five-card ending. That

was 6 IMPs to Italy which could have been 10 to North America. Then Mathe-Hamman missed a good slam, bid by Italy:

Hamman

♠ K 9 5 2
♥ A 7 6 3
♦ K J 9
♣ K 9

Mathe

♠ —
♥ K Q J 9 8 4
♦ A Q 2
♣ Q J 3 2

1♠
3♥
4♥
5♦
pass

2♥
4♦
4NT
5♥

It is always difficult when a void in partner's first bid suit is a critical ingredient. That was 13 IMPs away, and the next board was the killer:

Dealer West

Neither vul.

Board 72

♠ K 7 5 4 3 2
♥ Q 10 4
♦ J 7 5 2
♣ —

♠ 6

♥ 6 5

♦ A K 10 9 4 3

♣ A Q J 5



♠ Q 10 9 8
♥ A K 8 7 2
♦ Q
♣ 8 4 3

♠ A J
♥ J 9 3
♦ 8 6
♣ K 10 9 7 6 2

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kehela	Pabis-Ticci	Murray	D'Alelio
pass	1♣	dbl	3♣
3♠	5♣	dbl	all pass

Opening lead: ♥A

This was a case of two partners, normally well attuned to each other, working at cross-purposes. Kehela, attempting to buy the hand and prepared to bid up to five spades on his own if necessary, made a strategic underbid. Murray, not aware of his partner's intentions and looking to make up ground, made a speculative double of five clubs. And then Kehela was trapped into passing; Murray might well have had trump tricks.

The defense started with three rounds of hearts, understandable but ineffective. All Pabis-Ticci had to do was ruff, ruff dummy's losing spade and claim. The most effective defense is difficult to see, even with all hands showing. After a trump shift at Trick 2, declarer will need to take a second-round finesse against the diamond jack or he will be one down.

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Avarelli	Mathe	Belladonna	Hamman
pass	1♦	dbl	2♣
dbl ¹	5♣	pass	pass
5♠	pass	pass	dbl
all pass			

1. Takeout.

Opening lead: ♦K

Avarelli had no trouble taking eleven tricks, for a whopping 15 IMPs to Italy. North America had needed to win a swing to get back in the match, and instead had suffered a stunning reversal. On the next board, Hamman-Mathe stretched to a game, 6 IMPs away. On board 79, the Romans made another of their good stops, Avarelli making one spade, while Kehela made a normal misguess to go one down in one notrump. When it was over, the Italians had

won for the fourth successive segment, 50-34, now leading overall by 90 IMPs. The match was rapidly getting out of reach.

North America had a bye in the next round, and then their fifth segment against the Netherlands. This match was no longer in doubt, and the North Americans stretched their lead to 346-181.

Day 9: Wednesday, May 4, 1966

While Kehela has the well-justified reputation for technical excellence, Murray is also a superb card player, imaginative and accurate. Watch him at work in one notrump on this deal from the match against Venezuela.

Dealer West

E-W vul.

Board 96

♠ A J 9

♥ 8 7 5 4

♦ 9 3

♣ K Q 10 2

♠ Q 6 4 2

♥ 10 9 3 2

♦ J 8

♣ J 9 8

♠ K 10 3

♥ A Q

♦ A K 10 5

♣ 7 5 4 3



♠ 8 7 5

♥ K J 6

♦ Q 7 6 4 2

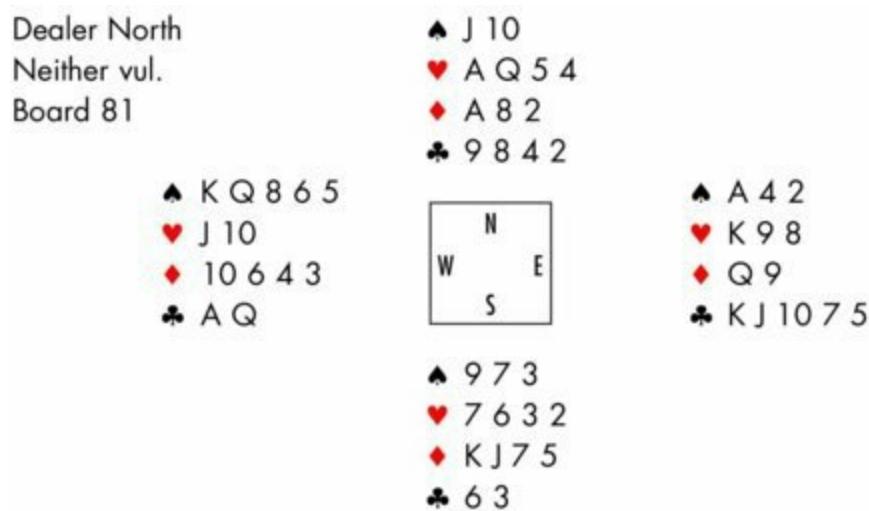
♣ A 6

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kehela	Vernon	Murray	Benaim
pass	pass	1NT	all pass

South led a small diamond and Murray called for dummy's jack. When that held, he immediately attacked the opponents' communications by leading the eight of clubs. North put in the ten, which held, and returned his other diamond. Murray won the ace and played a second club to South's ace. With no attractive lead, South switched to a spade to the jack and king. Murray played the ten of spades next, and North held off to keep him from the long spade in dummy. Murray continued with a third spade. North won, cashed his two high clubs, and played a heart. North had passed in second position, so

couldn't possibly have the king of hearts in addition to the ace-jack of spades and king-queen of clubs, so Murray put up the ace of hearts. Seeing the impending endplay, Benaim in desperation threw the king of hearts. The queen of hearts was Murray's seventh trick.

Although reports had Murray-Kehela as the most effective pair, after four straight losses captain Rosenblum decided to try the other four in an effort to shake things up. With a 90-IMP lead, Perroux chose to sit out Forquet-Garozzo. On the first board, Hamman created a problem for Avarelli and the Roman methods:



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Avarelli	Mathe	Belladonna	Hamman
	1♥	dbl	1♠
1NT	pass	2♣	pass
2♦	pass	2NT	all pass

Hamman chose the ideal moment for his little psyche of one spade. The Roman Club methods included short-suit “exclusion” responses to takeout doubles. When third hand bid a new suit, then double took the place of the exclusion bid; a double of one spade would have shown short spades and willingness to compete. Once again a North American psychic had created a problem for the Italians. They themselves hardly ever psyched. Their methods, which included light overcalls, systemic bids on short suits, and canapé, were already difficult enough to play against.

The story is that after the session, the other Italians tried to get Belladonna, the author of the exclusion double, to set the convention aside, at least temporarily. He refused, pointing out that Avarelli could have bid spades on the second round to get to game. (To make a game, of course, he would have to have done better in the spade suit. Believing the one spade bid, Avarelli had taken the jack of spades with the ace and led another spade to the eight.)

That was the start of a wild set, which North America won 64-20, closing to within 46 IMPs with 40 boards to play.

Day 10: Thursday, May 5, 1966

In the sixth segment against the Netherlands, Murray had this complicated club slam to play. Try it on the lead of the three of spades.

(deal rotated for
convenience)

♠ 5
♥ A K J 8 7 3
♦ A 6 3
♣ K Q J

Opening lead: ♠3

♠ A J 4 2
♥ 5 4
♦ 7 4
♣ A 10 7 6 4

With East-West silent, the bidding had been:

Kehela	Murray
2♥	3♣
4♣	4♠
5♦	6♣
pass	

Murray took the opening lead with the ace of spades and played a heart to the king. He cashed the king of clubs and then led the queen, overtaking with the

ace when the eight appeared on his right. Now he played a heart to the ace, all following, and ruffed a heart to set up the suit. He entered dummy with a trump and claimed twelve tricks.

On this line Murray would have succeeded if his left hand opponent had four hearts and three clubs or one heart and two clubs. In either case he would continue: heart ruff, spade ruff, heart ruff, draw the last trump throwing a diamond, diamond to the ace, hearts, conceding the last trick. It seems Murray's line is the best. The alternative of a first-round finesse of the jack of hearts wins when the left hand opponent has four hearts and two clubs, but loses when the right hand opponent, with third queen of hearts and a doubleton club, wins the queen and returns a heart. Another idea is to lead ace and another heart early, say at Trick 2, but that fails if trumps are 4-1 and the defense knocks out the ace of diamonds. This was the full deal:

Dealer South

Neither vul.

Board 107

♠ Q 9 8 6
♥ Q 6 2
♦ K 8 5 2
♣ 8 3

♠ A J 4 2

♥ 5 4

♦ 7 4

♣ A 10 7 6 4



♠ K 10 7 3
♥ 10 9
♦ Q J 10 9
♣ 9 5 2

♠ 5
♥ A K J 8 7 3
♦ A 6 3
♣ K Q J

Day 11: Friday, May 6, 1966

Segment 6 vs. Italy

Captain Rosenblum went back to the lineup that had started the comeback, while Perroux hurriedly went back to his primary foursome. Mathe-Hamman took the North-South seats in the Open Room, facing Forquet and Garozzo, while Feldesman-Rubin played in the Closed Room. North America won

back a further 10 IMPs over the first 11 boards, closing the gap to 36. But then:

Dealer West

E-W vul.

Board 112

♠ K Q 6

♥ K 10 8 2

♦ A 3

♣ K J 9 5

♠ J 9 8 7 5 4 3

♥ 4

♦ 9 2

♣ A 8 4



♠ 10

♥ A J 7 6

♦ K 8 7 6 4

♣ 10 7 2

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Feldesman	Belladonna	Rubin	Avarelli
pass	1♣	pass	1♥
1♠	1NT	pass	2NT
pass	3NT	all pass	

Opening lead: ♦6

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Forquet	Mathe	Garozzo	Hamman
pass	1NT	pass	2♣
pass	2♥	pass	4♥
all pass			

Opening lead: ♠10

Belladonna, with the king-queen third of spades behind the one spade bidder, didn't even show his four-card heart support. Three notrump made in comfort with an overtrick, while Mathe's four hearts went one down. The one spade overcall came under heavy fire from A. Moyse in the *Bridge World*, who called it "ridiculous, obviously futile" — of course, Moyse seldom indulged in half-hearted criticism. Another thoughtful analyst criticized the Open Room auction, which likely would be repeated by most North American pairs

even now, forty years later. In his “Big Club”, Howard Schenken argued that the South hand should raise a strong notrump opening to three, forgoing Stayman. The North-South cards, with every suit triple-stopped, were certainly ideal for notrump. Figuring that out, with no opposing bidding, is perhaps another matter. This was the first board of a 41-0 run for Italy, which effectively clinched the championship.

Writing in the *Kibitzer*, Kehela recalled an incident from the 1965 Bermuda Bowl in Buenos Aires.

Prior to the crucial final session in the Italy-North America match, I was chatting with Garozzo and Forquet when the latter abruptly asked me:

“Who, in your opinion is the best bridge player in the world?” I thought I had the answer to that one:

“MURRAY,” said I.

“Fool,” said he, “It is Forquet. And the second-best?”

“Murray?” I ventured, less confidently.

“No. It is Forquet. And the third-best is Forquet also.” Whereupon he walked into the playing room with Garozzo and put on an immaculate performance in the course of which Italy gained 58 IMPs.

Day 12: Saturday, May 7, 1966

This was the final day for North America’s ‘other’ three matches. North America had big leads in all these matches — the smallest was 95 IMPs over Thailand — so interest was marginal and the card play a little quicker. The final scores were:

North America	477	vs.	The Netherlands	243
North America	39	vs.	Venezuela	260
North America	359	vs.	Thailand	234

Venezuela had now finished play, having a bye in the last round. With victories over the Netherlands and Thailand, they had assured themselves of a creditable third-place finish.

Day 13: Sunday, May 8, 1966

North America had just one set to play, the last twenty boards against Italy. With Italy in good form, a 77-IMP lead was almost insurmountable. Matthe-Hamman faced Forquet-Garozzo in the Open Room, while Murray-Kehela played East-West against Belladonna and Avarelli in the Closed Room. North America won back 20, to lose the 140-board match 319-262.

When all the play had finished, the sixteen journalists voted Avarelli-Belladonna best Italian pair, Murray-Kehela best non-Italian. Italy had dominated the tournament, winning against every other team. Kehela summed up the tournament for the *Kibitzer*:

Italy's magnificent Blue Team continued its domination of the Bermuda Bowl competition, winning its key match against North America by 57 Imps, 319-262. During the next few months critics will no doubt amuse themselves advancing various reasons as to why we lost — inferior systems, indifferent captaincy, poor team spirit, etc. In the final analysis none of these factors was critical: we lost to a team of better players, who, even when not at the top of their form, nevertheless managed to make fewer mistakes than their opponents.

For the champions, Belladonna and Avarelli were outstanding. Forquet, who has played with great accuracy in previous championships, was not at his best — his bidding lacked confidence and he had more blind spots in the play than a first-class player can afford at this level of competition. (I do not mention this in a critical vein, for I lost a 4-spade contract against Italy, a hand on which the average declarer in a novice game would make 11 tricks without breathing hard.) Venezuela finished third and had the distinction of scoring the first victory in the Bermuda Bowl by a South American country. The Netherlands was handicapped by virtue of having only one reliable

pair — Slavenburg-Kreyns, winners of the Pair Olympiad in Amsterdam — and were never in serious contention. The Thailanders, though playing without their best player, made a creditable debut, losing their match with Venezuela by a narrow margin, and at the end of 60 boards had a slight lead over North America.

At the victory banquet the Italian captain announced his retirement and intimated that one or two members of his team would follow suit. Even assuming that his forecast is correct (and there are indications that he may be wrong) Italy will still be able to field a formidable team in Miami next year.

CHAPTER 7

TRIALS IN PITTSBURGH

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1966



What a difference a year makes! Of the sixteen pairs meeting at the Penn-Sheraton Hotel in Pittsburgh to contend for positions on the North American International Team, only four partnerships were intact from the San Francisco Trials: Becker-Hayden, Kaplan-Kay, Mathe-Hamman and Murray-Kehela. Several players were back with new partners. Alvin Roth was back but playing now with Bill Root; Stone was now playing with Erdos. Feldesman and Rubin had broken up again: Feldesman was now playing with Richard Freeman of Atlanta, while Rubin faced Curtis Smith of Houston. Rapée was back, but playing with Sydney Lazard of New Orleans. Eddie Kantar had played in the Dallas Trials two years ago with Lew Mathe; this year he was playing with regular partner Marshall Miles. Rounding out the field were Bobby Goldman playing with Paul Levitt, Billy Eisenberg playing with Len Harmon, Michael Lawrence with Lew Stansby, Chuck Henke with John Moran, Harold Ogust with William Grieve and Meyer Schleifer with Hermine Baron.

In an effort to get more play between the top pairs, there was a change in the format from that of the previous year's trials in San Francisco. The sixteen pairs would play a complete round robin, a short 14-board match against each other pair, in a five-day qualifying round. The ten highest-ranking pairs would proceed to the final round, where another complete round robin would be held.

As in the previous year, the result on each board was compared with a datum, which was the average of all results apart from the top and bottom ones. The difference was then converted to IMPs, with the maximum win or loss for any board being 14 IMPs. Match results were converted to victory points: the first 14 IMPs of a winning margin were worth one victory point each, the next 14 worth half a victory point, so a margin of 28 IMPs or more was required for a 42-0 blitz.

Murray-Kehela started the first day with a 13-29 loss to Mathe-Hamman. They followed with a 27-15 win over Lazard-Rapée and finished with a close 19-23 loss to Becker-Hayden, finishing the first day just below average. Thursday they moved up in the standings with a blitz of Eisenberg-Harmon, setting up a confrontation with their occasional teammates Kaplan and Kay, who had started badly and were currently sitting next to last. Their reversal of fortune was later described by Kaplan in the *Bridge World*:

The sun finally breaks through the clouds when, in the fifth round, we meet Sammy Kehela and Eric Murray, a redoubtable Canadian playing with an indubitable one. They go down in a slam on a finesse; they go down in another because five trumps are in one hand and side suits split badly; they lose 9 IMPs when we bid a cold five clubs; they lose 9 IMPs more when Norman finds the killing defense against a vulnerable game. And to cap it all, they lose a further 11 IMPs when Norman and I bid a laydown grand slam.

All that added up to a blitz, and Murray and Kehela's troubles continued with a big loss to Erdos-Stone. Thursday finished with a near tie against Roth-Root.

There were only two matches Friday: Murray-Kehela managed a win against Henke-Moran, but lost to Goldman-Levitt. Saturday started with two big losses, first to Lawrence-Stansby, and then to Schleifer-Baron. Time was running out: Murray-Kehela lay tied for twelfth, 18 victory points back of the last qualifying spot, held by Erdos-Stone.

Murray and Kehela responded by winning $35\frac{1}{2}$ - $6\frac{1}{2}$ over Ogust-Grieve. Then in the last match of the day, against the leaders Feldesman-Freeman, they won again, again by a wide margin, $38\frac{1}{2}$ - $3\frac{1}{2}$. With only Sunday's two matches remaining, Murray and Kehela had a precarious hold on tenth, half a match ahead of several pairs.

Sunday's first match was against one of those pairs, Rubin and Smith. Murray and Kehela guaranteed themselves a spot in the final with a big win, 37-5. In three matches, they had scored 111 out of 126 possible victory

points. They finished the qualifying round, playing just for prestige and carryover, with a 24-18 win over Kantar-Miles. The qualifying ten pairs and their scores were:

1.	Feldesman-Freeman	405 $\frac{1}{2}$
2.	Rapée-Lazard	394 $\frac{1}{2}$
3.	Kantar-Miles	381
4.	Lawrence-Stansby	356 $\frac{1}{2}$
5.	Kaplan-Kay	352 $\frac{1}{2}$
6.	Roth-Root	330 $\frac{1}{2}$
7.	Schleifer-Baron	330
8.	Murray-Kehela	326
9.	Mathe-Hamman	316
10.	Becker-Hayden	312 $\frac{1}{2}$

The Finals

Each pair would play nine 28-board matches, one against every other contender. The dimensions of the victory point scale were exactly twice those of the qualifying round: 84 victory points available in each match, 42-42 for a tie, the first 28 IMPs of winning margin worth 1 victory point each, the next 28 worth half a victory point each. It would take a win of 56 IMPs to register a blitz. Carryover from the qualifying round was half a match: i.e. the leading qualifiers, Feldesman-Freeman, started 42 victory points ahead of the last qualifiers, Becker-Hayden, with the other scores factored accordingly. There was one significant change in the scoring: with only five results on each board, it would be impractical to exclude the top and bottom scores

from the computation of the datum. Instead, special provisions were made if the top or bottom score exceeded the others by more than 800 points.

Murray and Kehela started against Kaplan and Kay. There were fireworks on board 17.

Dealer North

Neither vul.

Board 17

♠ 10 9 8 4 2

♥ 9 3

♦ 8 6

♣ 9 4 3 2

♠ A 6
♥ K 8
♦ A 7 3 2
♣ K J 10 8 7



♠ —
♥ A Q 10 7 6 4 2
♦ 10 5
♣ A Q 6 5

♠ K Q J 7 5 3
♥ J 5
♦ K Q J 9 4
♣ —

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kay	Murray	Kaplan	Kehela
	pass	1♥	2♠
3♣	4♠	4NT	5♦
5NT	pass	6♣	6♠
pass	pass	7♣	pass
pass	7♠	dbl	all pass

Describing this auction in the *Bridge World*, Kaplan noted that five notrump showed three aces. The -700 save was a 9-IMP pickup for Murray-Kehela: three East-West pairs played heart or club grand slams, while one North-South pair bought the deal at six spades doubled. Murray-Kehela went on to a narrow 5-IMP win.

The 1960s was a time of lively discussion, sometimes heated, about the merits of having an opening bid of one of a major promise a suit of five or more cards. The new “scientific” systems incorporating the five-card major approach, had been explained in two influential books: *Bridge is a Partnership Game* (1958) by Roth, and Kaplan’s *The Kaplan-Sheinwold System of Winning Bridge* (1963). The go-as-you-please four-card major approach worked better on board 5 of the second round:

Dealer North

N-S vul.

Board 5

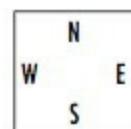
♠ A J 8 6

♥ A K J 5

♦ A J 3

♣ J 7

♠ K 4
♥ 6 4
♦ K 10 9 7 4
♣ A Q 4 3



♠ Q 10 7 2
♥ 7 2
♦ Q 8 5
♣ K 8 6 2

♠ 9 5 3
♥ Q 10 9 8 3
♦ 6 2
♣ 10 9 5

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Rapée	Murray	Lazard	Kehela
	1♥	pass	pass
dbl	re dbl	1♠	2♥
all pass			

Murray took his eight tricks for +110. At Roth's table:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Miles	Roth	Kantar	Root
	1♦	all pass	

One diamond went down three, -300 to North-South. Kaplan-Kay also played one diamond, Kay holding it to down two.

From time to time there was some badinage, most of it good-natured, between Murray, the proponent of the free-and-easy bidding style, get in quick and get out before you get caught, and Roth, the noted champion of sound initial actions, forcing bids and long sequences. The February 1967 ACBL *Bulletin* reported a conversation between Kaplan and Roth:

During the trials in Pittsburgh, a greatly agitated Al Roth gave his views on the Canadians' bidding methods to Edgar Kaplan.

“You may admire their contracts and results,” admonished Edgar, “but never, *never under any circumstances* inquire how they got there!”

Charles Goren reported the following conversation, about board 10 of the second round, for *Sports Illustrated*:

“This one gave me a problem,” said Eric. “I picked up:

♠ A Q 9 3 ♥ 10 8 7 3 ♦ A J 8 6 ♣ 4

“What do you open?” he asked Roth.

“You can’t open,” said Roth.

“Well,” said Murray, “I opened a heart.”¹

Roth winced.

“Then Sami said two diamonds,” continued Murray.

“Don’t tell me you bid two spades on that rubbish,” said Roth.

“No, I didn’t think my hand was that good,” said Murray. “I said three diamonds. Sami tried four clubs, and I almost cuebid my spade ace, but instead I said four diamonds, and we played it at five diamonds.” Roth looked even more unsettled.

Here are all four hands (rotated for convenience):

Dealer North

Both vul.

Rapée

♠ K J 8 5
♥ J 9 5 4
♦ 7
♣ Q J 5 2

Murray

♠ A Q 9 3
♥ 10 8 7 3
♦ A J 8 6

♣ 4



Lazard

♠ 10 7 2
♥ A 6 2
♦ Q 4 2
♣ K 9 8 3

Kehela

♠ 6 4
♥ K Q
♦ K 10 9 5 3
♣ A 10 7 6

Opening lead: ♠5

Kehela played the hand well. He won the spade finesse, entered his hand with the ace of clubs and ruffed a club on the table. If he could find the queen of diamonds he had a good play for 12 tricks, but he saw a surefire line to guarantee 11. He led a heart from dummy, and, when East played low, South's king won. He ruffed another club on the table and again came back with a heart.

This time East took his ace. He did not want to lead a diamond away from his queen, so he led a spade to dummy's ace. Kehela ruffed a spade, the last club was trumped in dummy, and the last spade was played. There was no point in East ruffing, so he discarded a heart as Kehela ruffed low. A diamond was led to the ace, and when a heart was led from the board East was caught in a trump coup — no matter which card he played, Kehela would make the last two tricks.

Murray had hardly finished explaining it when Roth said, "I know that hand. We played it, and what I don't understand is how anybody can play bridge with somebody who bid that hand the way you did."

"Oh," said Murray. "Well, what did you play the hand in?"

"Two diamonds, making seven," said Roth, as he stalked away.

Murray and Kehela were the only ones to reach five diamonds. Freeman managed to make three notrump when the defense slipped. Making the vulnerable game was worth 8 IMPs.

In the third round, Murray-Kehela won by 19 IMPs over Lawrence and Stansby to move up to fifth. Next they played Meyer Schleifer and Hermine Baron. Schleifer had a formidable reputation as a rubber bridge player ("He was great," Sami confided to me) but didn't play as much tournament bridge. Hermine Baron, with Dorothy Hayden the only two women in the trials, was a regular high finisher in the McKenney, the ACBL yearly masterpoint race. The match finished in a dead tie, and Murray-Kehela remained in fifth.

Round 5: Wednesday, November 16, 1:00 p.m.

The fifth round saw Murray and Kehela playing in the grandstand against rivals Becker and Hayden. The wild match featured seven slam deals.

Dealer North

N-S vul.

Board 5

♠ 6

♥ A J 10 6 5

♦ A 7

♣ A K 8 6 5

♠ K J 8 7

♥ —

♦ Q J 10 5 4 2

♣ J 7 3



♠ 10 9 4 3 2

♥ Q 9

♦ K 8 6 3

♣ 4 2

♠ A Q 5

♥ K 8 7 4 3 2

♦ 9

♣ Q 10 9

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kehela	Becker	Murray	Hayden
	1♥	pass	4♦ ¹
dbl	4NT	5♦	pass ²
pass	6♣ ³	pass	6♥
7♦	pass	pass	7♥
all pass			

1. Splinter.
2. 1 or 3 aces.
3. Grand Slam Force asking South to bid seven with two of the top three heart honors.

Writing in the *Kibitzer*, Kehela criticizes his own seven diamond call, noting that bidding six spades instead would pave the way for East to bid seven spades over seven hearts. North-South could then in theory continue to seven notrump, but in practice they would double seven spades and probably beat it five tricks, 900 points.

Try your hand at this one:

Dealer West
Neither vul.
Board 17

♠ A J 8
♥ A K 10 4 3 2
♦ J 10
♣ 9 6

♠ K Q 9 5
♥ 6
♦ A Q 4 3
♣ A K 7 3

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Becker	Murray	Hayden	Kehela
pass	1♥	pass	2♠
pass	3♠	pass	3NT
pass	4♥	pass	4NT
pass	5♥	pass	6♠
all pass			

Opening lead: ♣Q

Kehela won the opening lead in hand, crossed to the ace of hearts, and ran the jack of diamonds. West took his king and played another club, to his partner's ten. What next?

Counting four trump tricks, three diamonds, the ace-king of hearts and the ace-king of clubs, declarer needs one more trick, and the obvious plan is to ruff a club in dummy. West follows when you lead a club. Do you ruff high or low?

You might as well ruff high and avoid a possible overruff, because even if you were to ruff low successfully, there is no way to pick up fourth ten of spades without destroying a trick. Kehela ruffed the third club high and East followed. What next? If spades are 3-3, you can draw trumps, return to the ten of diamonds to cash the ace of hearts, then return to hand with a ruff to make the ace and queen of diamonds. If spades are 4-2, though, you will need the ten to fall (unless you plan to finesse), and you will need to cash the heart and diamond winners from dummy before drawing trump. That's the best line, and what Kehela tried to do, but Becker ruffed the king of hearts. His hand was:

♠ 7 4 2 ♥ 7 ♦ K 9 7 5 2 ♣ Q J 8 5

The Canadians lost by 20 IMPs, falling to seventh with four rounds to go. But the field was so congested that a big win over Mathe-Hamman brought them up to fourth. With three rounds to go, the leaders were:

Kaplan-Kay	342
Rapée-Lazard	331
Roth-Root	320
Murray-Kehela	278
Kantar-Miles	276

Round 7: Thursday, November 17, 1:00 p.m.
Murray-Kehela vs. Kantar-Miles

Murray and Kehela had played well and in good luck and had a fair lead by the time board 21 arrived. As dealer, vulnerable against not, Murray held:

♠ K 6 ♥ 2 ♦ K Q J 8 2 ♣ J 6 5 3 2

He passed, as did Kantar, and Kehela opened three clubs in third chair. Miles doubled for takeout. Expecting his partner to be on lead against some major-suit contract, Murray bid three diamonds. The bidding now took a surprising turn. Kantar cuebid four diamonds. Kehela raised to five diamonds and Miles doubled. It may seem odd to play in your own five-card suit when holding five-card support for partner's vulnerable preempt, but Murray passed and no one had anything else to say. The full deal was:

Dealer North	♠ K 6
N-S vul.	♥ 2
Board 21	♦ K Q J 8 2
	♣ J 6 5 3 2
♠ A J 9 5	♠ Q 10 7 4 3 2
♥ A 9 8 5 4 3	♥ Q J 10 7 6
♦ A 9 3	♦ 5
♣ —	♣ Q
	♠ 8
	♥ K
	♦ 10 7 6 4
	♣ A K 10 9 8 7 4

N
W E
S

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Miles	Murray	Kantar	Kehela
	pass	pass	3♣
dbl	3♦	4♦	5♦
dbl	all pass		

Opening lead: ♥Q

Miles had perhaps been hoping for two or three ruffs and a large penalty against his vulnerable opponents. Kantar understandably failed to find the club lead and Miles faced greatly diminished prospects upon winning the first trick. Desperate to get some points, he underled the ace of spades. Murray put

up the king, drove out the ace of trumps, and scored +750 for a 14-IMP pickup, the most permitted on a single board.

The defenders had already lost the board in the bidding, but Miles pointed out that a switch to a small trump at Trick 2 would have left his options open. If declarer plays a second round of trumps, East can discard a low spade to deny the king, and West can then settle for down one. Declarer, if alive to what is going on, might foil that by playing dummy's spade after winning the trump shift in dummy. Then West would have to make his decision without seeing an informative discard.

Kehela wrote up board 26 for *The Kibitzer*:

After reading the account of the trials in last month's issue several people said to me: "That's all very well, but didn't you do *anything* clever?" As editor, I have hitherto modestly refrained from publicizing my magnificent feats at the bridge table, but I feel that the time has come to reveal, once and for all, what a truly great player I am.

The following hand is from our crucial 7th round match against Kantar and Miles — at the time we were 4th and they 5th.

As a rule they like to play an active game and this time was no exception. With both sides vulnerable I held as South:

♠ — ♥ 1072 ♦ K10987542 ♣ 76

and the bidding went:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Miles	Murray	Kantar	Kehela
		1♥	pass
2♣	dbl	redbl	?

The stand-out bid at this stage is clearly five diamonds. Not me. If over five diamonds they bid six clubs, I reasoned, I

would like to be able to double for an unusual lead, but partner, the clod, may mis-read the situation and think that I was making a normal penalty double of a sacrifice. The answer came to me in a flash — I would bid diamonds at a modest level — if the opponents then reached a slam they would be doing so voluntarily, and my subsequent double could not be mis-construed. Over my two diamonds West leapt to five clubs and East raised to six. Beautiful — everything was going according to plan. I doubled and all passed. Murray obediently led the spade queen, and the full hand turned out to be:

Dealer East	♠ QJ875
Both vul.	♥ A86
Board 26	♦ AQJ3
	♣ 3
♠ 10962	♠ AK43
♥ —	♥ KQJ9543
♦ 6	♦ —
♣ AQJ109542	♣ K8
	♠ —
	♥ 1072
	♦ K10987542
	♣ 76

I ruffed dummy's ace and returned a trump. Miles won in dummy, ruffed a heart, ruffed his diamond, ruffed another heart and played out his trumps, arriving at this position:

Dealer East	North
Both vul.	♠ J87
Board 26	♥ A
	♦ —
	♣ —
Declarer	
♠ 1096	
♥ —	
♦ —	
♣ 2	
	Dummy
	♠ K43
	♥ K
	♦ —
	♣ —
	Hero
	Immortal

On the lead of the last club Murray resigned. Observe that it would not have helped for Murray to lead a small spade initially, for Miles would have undoubtedly read the position and played low from dummy.

Entering 1540 on his score-card, Miles observed to nobody in particular that six diamonds was only one down, whereupon Kantar said, sadistically, that he would have probably bid seven clubs over six diamonds. Murray, invisible behind a cloud of smoke, was beyond words.

Matters were not improved when we discovered how the other pairs had fared. Stansby bid and made a peaceful six clubs. Becker played six hearts doubled, losing the ace of hearts and a spade ruff for down one. Kaplan opened the East hand two clubs and wound up in seven clubs doubled which is makeable from his side by ruffing out the ace of hearts. Unfortunately for him he attempted a ruffing finesse instead and was one down. To top it off Mrs. Baron was permitted to play the North-South cards in five diamonds doubled by Mathe-Hamman, and made six when East played the ace on a low spade lead from dummy.

Surprisingly my partner failed to appreciate the essential brilliance of my performance. He nodded vaguely when I attempted to explain my diabolical reasoning, but his heart wasn't in it — perhaps he was influenced by the fact that we lost 14 IMPs on the hand. Resulter!

On the second last board of the match, neither side was vulnerable as Kehela picked up:

♠ Q 9 7 4 ♥ Q 6 3 ♦ Q J 4 ♣ J 9 5

Murray opened two clubs in fourth chair. After a pass on his right, Kehela had his first problem: whether or not to offer a positive response on this collection of queens and jacks. The problem with giving a negative of two diamonds with this possibly useful hand is that it may make it difficult to catch up: there may be no convenient way to show extra values later. Kehela made a positive response of two notrump. With the opponents remaining silent, Murray bid three diamonds, giving Kehela his next problem. He had excellent support for diamonds, but should he raise with no ace and no king? He elected to rebid three notrump, which Murray raised to six, concluding the auction. Miles led the ten of diamonds and this is what Kehela saw:

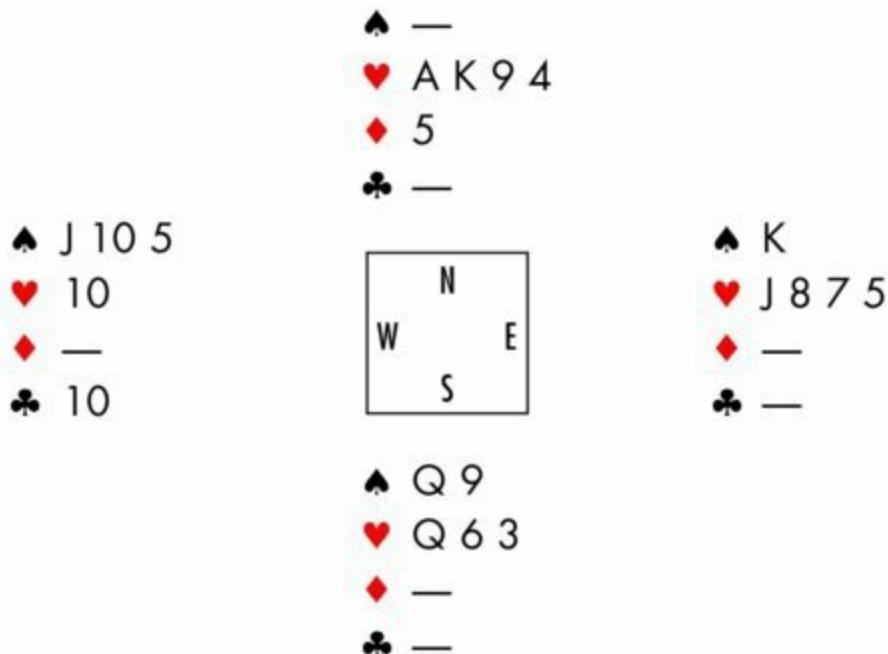
♠ A 6
♥ A K 9 4
♦ A K 8 7 5
♣ K Q

♠ Q 9 7 4
♥ Q 6 3
♦ Q J 4
♣ J 9 5

Kehela took the first trick in hand and led a club. Miles went right in with the ace and shifted to a spade. How do you play?

There are eleven top tricks. The twelfth will have to come from hearts or spades. Hearts could be 3-3, and the presence of the nine gives the extra possibility of a finesse. Could West hold the king of spades? Would he ever underlead it in this situation? Well, yes, he might. Suppose declarer had a similar hand with the jack of spades added. Now he might want to test the hearts, falling back on a spade finesse if the hearts fail to split. A spade shift by West would force declarer to take a position on the spade suit before discovering how the hearts lie.

However, unless you can read his mind, it can't be better than even money that West has the king of spades. The best line is to play for hearts to split, with the extra chance that the opponent who guards hearts also holds the king of spades, in which case he can be squeezed. Kehela took the ace of spades at trick 3, unblocked the king of clubs and came to hand with a diamond. Then he cashed the jack of clubs, throwing a spade, and ran the diamonds. The position was something like this:

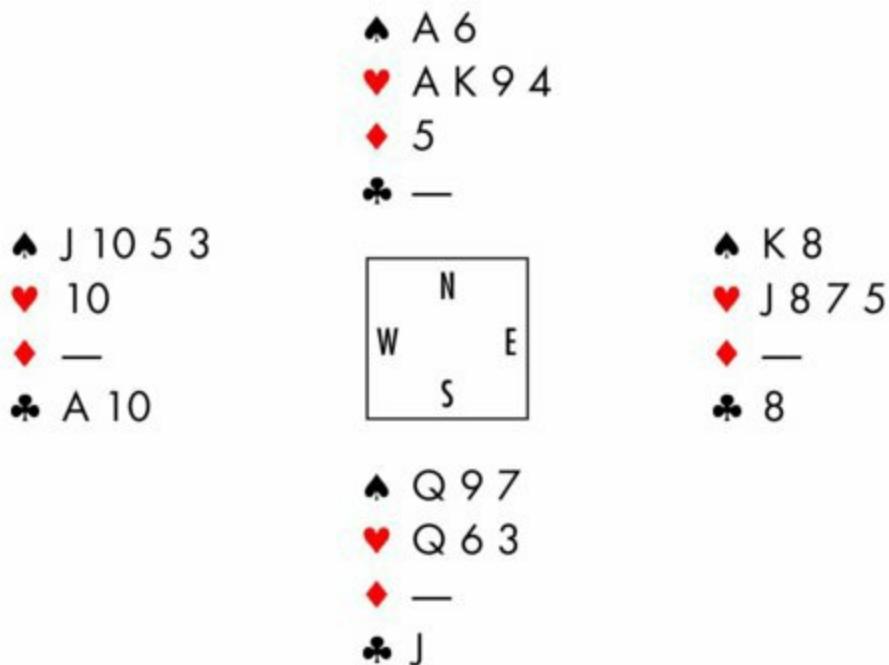


East had no answer to the last diamond. His original hand was:

♠ K 8 2 ♥ J 8 7 5 2 ♦ 6 3 ♣ 8 7 4

Obviously an initial spade lead beats six notrump. Was there any other chance?

Suppose West refuses to take the first round of clubs. Declarer plays a second round and West ducks again. Now declarer runs the diamonds and comes to the following position:



The last diamond now squeezes East; he will probably discard a club. Now ace and a heart to the queen exposes the position in that suit. As the cards lie, declarer can now throw East in with either major, endplaying him in the other. It is better to play spades, just in case East has blanked his king of spades to keep a club.

Alternatively, after throwing a spade on the last diamond, declarer might plan to take three rounds of hearts ending in hand. Then, if hearts fail to break, he can hope that the ace of clubs and king of spades are in the same hand, and that he reads the position correctly. If he adopts this line, declarer will go down. Everyone else stopped in game on these cards, and making six notrump was worth 9 IMPs. Murray and Kehela went on to win the match 41-8, translating to $73\frac{1}{2}$ victory points. After seven rounds, the standings were:

Roth-Root	393
Kaplan-Kay	353
Murray-Kehela	351 $\frac{1}{2}$
Rapée-Lazard	342
Lawrence-Stansby	337
Becker-Hayden	303
Feldesman-Freeman	300 $\frac{1}{2}$
Kantar-Miles	286 $\frac{1}{2}$
Schleifer-Baron	283
Mathe-Hamman	162

Thursday, November 17, 8:00 p.m.

Round 8: Murray-Kehela vs. Feldesman-Freeman

Murray and Kehela were now in a qualifying spot, but with both Rapée-Lazard and Lawrence-Stansby hot on their heels. Next up was a meeting with their last year's Bermuda Bowl teammate, Phil Feldesman, and his new partner, Richard Freeman. On one of the early boards, Murray held:

♠ J 10 5 3 ♥ J 9 4 ♦ A K 9 ♣ K 6 4

With neither side vulnerable, Kehela dealt and opened one notrump. What would you do, after the next hand passed?

It is perhaps a complicated question, and with highly scientific methods one might be able to diagnose the occasional time where it is right to play in four spades. I prefer Murray's practical action: a raise to three notrump. This will usually be the right contract, and bidding it directly avoids giving the defense any gratuitous information. This was the full deal:

Dealer South

E-W vul.

Board 3

♠ J 10 5 3

♥ J 9 4

♦ A K 9

♣ K 6 4

♠ 7 6 4
♥ A 10 3 2
♦ Q 5
♣ Q J 9 5



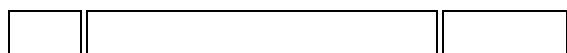
♠ 9 2
♥ Q 7 6 5
♦ J 8 6 4 3
♣ 3 2

♠ A K Q 8
♥ K 8
♦ 10 7 2
♣ A 10 8 7

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Feldesman	Murray	Freeman	Kehela 1NT
pass	3NT	all pass	

Feldesman led the queen of clubs, which allowed Kehela to win in hand and establish his game-going trick by leading back the ten. He later came to a heart trick for an overtrick. Nine tricks are there on a heart lead, also: only a spade or diamond start is troublesome for declarer. One other pair reached three notrump, while three others played in four spades. One North made four spades on a heart lead from the queen; another South went down on a trump lead. Edgar Kaplan was the third declarer in four spades. Sydney Lazard led the three of clubs to the nine and king, and trumps were drawn in three rounds. Now a club went to the eight and jack, and Rapée exited with his low diamond. Kaplan took both high diamonds and played a club to the ace. He then played the ten of clubs to the queen and, instead of ruffing it, discarded his losing diamond. Having no more diamonds, West had to break hearts. Murray-Kehela won 3 IMPs for +430.

On board 21, Feldesman-Freeman was the only pair to bid a six notrump that basically needed a 3-2 spade break with the queen onside — their luck was in. However, Murray-Kehela held on to win 49-40, worth 51 victory points: enough for second place and a shaky hold on a qualifying spot going into the last round. After eight rounds, the standings were:



1.	Roth-Root	415
2.	Murray-Kehela	$402\frac{1}{2}$
3.	Rapée-Lazard	390
4.	Kaplan-Kay	389
5.	Becker-Hayden	351
6.	Lawrence-Stansby	$350\frac{1}{2}$
7.	Baron-Schleifer	345
8.	Feldesman-Freeman	$333\frac{1}{2}$
9.	Kantar-Miles	$322\frac{1}{2}$
10.	Mathe-Hamman	$232\frac{1}{2}$

In the final round the leaders, Roth-Root, were paired against Murray-Kehela, who were lying second. Rapée-Lazard and Kaplan-Kay, virtually tied for the last qualifying spot, were paired against the non-contending pairs Mathe-Hamman and Feldesman-Freeman respectively. The pairs lying fifth and sixth, Becker-Hayden and Lawrence-Stansby, were playing each other. They had to hope for a lop-sided result one way or the other: a near-tie was likely to eliminate both. The pairs lying third and fourth, Rapée-Lazard and Kaplan-Kay, each knew that a large win would vault them past the loser of the match between the leaders and into a spot on the international team. Roth and Root were obviously in the best situation: they could assure themselves a spot by staying ahead of Murray and Kehela: they could afford to lose by 6 IMPs. Any more and they would be at the mercy of the results of other matches. Conversely, Murray and Kehela would be in for sure if they won by 7 or more IMPs, and would have chances if they didn't.

Friday, November 18, 1:00 p.m.

Round 9: Murray-Kehela vs. Roth-Root

As the final round progressed, several things became clear. Becker-Hayden, lying fifth, were doing exceptionally well and still had a chance. Kaplan-Kay were also doing very well and were likely to qualify, while Rapée-Lazard were doing badly and were likely to need help to stay ahead of both Becker-Hayden and the loser of the Roth-Murray match. That one was going very well for the Canadians: they were likely in, while Roth-Root were in danger of falling from first all the way out of a qualifying spot.

The third-last deal of the tournament was critical:

Dealer East

Both vul.

Board 26

♠ Q 6 5 2
♥ J 9 7 3
♦ 9
♣ K 5 4 3

♠ K 10 9 4 3
♥ K 5
♦ A 4 2
♣ A 10 7

N
W E
S

♠ —
♥ A 4 2
♦ K Q 8 6
♣ Q J 9 8 6 2

♠ A J 8 7
♥ Q 10 8 6
♦ J 10 7 5 3
♣ —

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kehela	Roth	Murray	Root
		pass	pass
pass	1♠	pass	2♣
pass	2NT	pass	3♦
pass	4♣	pass	4♥
pass	5♣	all pass	

Just look at that South hand, judged not to be an opening bid in Roth's methods. However, Root was able to show his distribution and power by bidding clubs and reversing into diamonds, following with a heart cuebid when Roth gave preference to clubs. Once again, though, it proved difficult to bid a small slam that depends on finding a void opposite opener's main suit.

Kehela led the three of hearts, which Root won in hand to run the queen of clubs. When East showed out, Root crossed to the king of hearts, ruffed a

spade, ruffed a heart with the ace of clubs and overtook dummy's ten. Kehela won the king of clubs and played the fourth heart, ruffed by Root. On the run of the trumps, Murray was squeezed between his diamond guard and the ace of spades.

Now, it is always enjoyable to execute a squeeze, but Root must have been wondering whether missing this slam might have cost him a qualifying spot. In fact, if Becker and Hayden had bid it, they would have been in, and Root and Roth out. Only Kantar-Miles bid this slam.

After the end of the match, Kaplan saw Murray looking distressed. "Was it so bad?" he asked. "I think we may have won by too much," replied Murray, wanting Roth and Root for teammates. But Roth and Root survived, while Becker and Hayden took the alternate spot for the second year in a row. Murray and Kehela came first. The final standings:

1. Murray-Kehela 475 $\frac{1}{2}$
2. Kaplan-Kay 460
3. Roth-Root 426
4. Becker-Hayden 422
5. Rapée-Lazard 406

Kaplan was pleased with the team, and bubbled happily in the *Bridge World* that, as opposed to in other years: "We like each other."

¹ One heart is normal Acol on 4-4-4-1 but not everyone, and not Sami, does it on a ten-high suit, or with only 11 HCP.

CHAPTER 8

MIAMI BERMUDA BOWL

MAY, 1967



The 1967 edition of the Bermuda Bowl would be played in Miami Beach, Florida, at the Americana hotel. Four of the five contending teams were returning from the previous year's competition in St. Vincent: Thailand, representing the far East, Venezuela representing South America, North America and Italy's Blue Team. Italy was there as defending champion; the European qualifier, winner of the 1966 European Championships, was France.

This year saw a change in the format of the championship. Whereas other years had seen single-stage, round-robin events, this year there would be a preliminary stage qualifying two teams; these two would then play a 128-board final over the concluding weekend.

In the preliminary stage each team would play three separate 32-board matches against each other team. The IMP score of each match would be converted to victory points on a sliding scale. A victory by 1-3 IMPs is an 11-9 win in victory points; 50 IMPs is required for a 20-0 blitz.

As in previous World Championships, matches were shown to the public via Bridge-O-Rama, the giant board that displayed all the cards, bids and plays. This year the audience would also be able to see live images of the players as they competed, thanks to a new closed-circuit television setup. In early Bridge-O-Rama years, the players were on display in a special, soundproofed room known as the "fishbowl". The practice had been discontinued in recent years; the closed-circuit television was the modern, technological way to give the audience what they wanted: the faces of the players as they struggled through the stresses and strains of competition.

Day 1: Friday, May 26, 8:00 p.m.

The North Americans had their bye on the first evening, so they had a look at their two main rivals going head to head. The Italians were returning intact from their win in St. Vincent. The French were led by their anchor pair, Henri Svarc and Jean-Michel Boulenger. Léon Tintner and Jacques Stetten played all but one set against North America, when they were replaced by Jean-Marc Roudinesco and Jacques Pariente.

Svarc had been on five French European Championships teams dating back to 1954, as well as the 1964 Olympiad team. Boulenger had represented France in the European Championships in 1963 and 1965 and the 1964 Olympiad. Stetten and Tintner had played in France's last Bermuda Bowl appearance, in 1963.

The match got off to an exciting start:

Dealer North

Neither vul.

Board 1

♠ —
♥ A Q 10 5
♦ K Q 7 6 4
♣ Q J 10 4

♠ 10 4 3
♥ J 9 6 4
♦ 10 8
♣ 9 8 3 2



♠ A 8 7 2
♥ 7
♦ A J 9 5
♣ A K 7 6

♠ K Q J 9 6 5
♥ K 8 3 2
♦ 3 2
♣ 5

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Svarc	Belladonna	Boulenger	Avarelli
	2♣ ¹	dbl	2NT ²
pass	3♠	pass	4♥
pass	pass	dbl	all pass

1. Three suits, unknown shortness, 12-16.
2. Asks for shortness.

Avarelli asked for the short suit over his partner's three-suited Roman two club opening, found the heart fit and continued to game. Boulenger understandably doubled, and the focus shifted to Svarc. What would you lead, in his place?

Svarc led a trump. Avarelli took the first trick with the eight and ran the king of spades. Boulenger took his ace of spades and cashed a club, but then found himself unable to prevent declarer from taking ten tricks. Italy scored +590.

A trump lead is often recommended against three-suiter auctions. The fact that at least one hand on the declaring side has no long suit, and 4-4-4-1 is much more likely than 5-4-4-0, suggests that declarer may need to score some tricks by ruffing. Svarc's trump lead could have been successful. I can see two arguments against it, though. The obvious objection is that it may jeopardize a defensive trump trick — a trick in the trump suit or perhaps a diamond ruff or promotion. Secondly, even if trump leads were to prove effective, West does not have a quick entry to play a second round.

In this case, though, the trump lead failed for an entirely different reason: it allowed declarer a cheap entry to hand to work on the spades. This deal is fascinating at double dummy — here is just a sample of what lies beneath the surface. Four hearts goes down on a diamond lead, understandably enough. A club lead works also, provided East cashes the ace of diamonds at Trick 2! He then continues diamonds, threatening a trump promotion. Svarc's actual opening lead of a low trump fails, but the nine or jack would have been just fine.

In the Open Room the 4-4 heart fit was missed, a common problem for natural bidding with these patterns:

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Forquet</i>	<i>Pariente</i>	<i>Garozzo</i>	<i>Roudinesco</i>
	1♦	1♠	dbl
pass	2♣	pass	2♦
all pass			

East led the seven of hearts to declarer's ten. The queen of diamonds held; the low diamond continuation was won by West's ten. Declarer split his honors on the club shift; East won and avoided immediate surrender by returning a low club. But declarer now played a high heart from hand. East delayed the inevitable by discarding, but declarer simply threw him in with a trump, and he was forced to concede the eighth trick in clubs or spades.

Deals like this do not lend themselves to fast play. In addition, there were the requirements of the Bridge-O-Rama presentation. A monitor at tableside with a microphone announced all the bids and plays to the operator of the Bridge-O-Rama control panel, who then pushed the required buttons to transfer the bids and plays to the big board. The second sixteen-board half did not get underway until after midnight, and did not finish until after three in the morning. Adding to the players' discomfort was the glare and heat of the lights needed for the closed-circuit television broadcast. The air conditioning was intermittent at best. The 1967 Bermuda Bowl was off to a grueling start.

Day 2: Saturday, May 27, 1967

North America vs. France

The match against France began badly for the North Americans. On board 3, France gained 17 IMPs when Root went down in a slam that might have been made. On the next board, Kehela held:

♠ A Q 8 5 3 ♥ Q 9 8 3 ♦ A 6 ♣ Q 3

With both sides vulnerable the bidding went one diamond from Boulenger on his left, pass from Murray, one spade from Svarc on his right. Kehela passed, and Boulenger's rebid of one notrump was passed back to him. What would you do?

Kehela doubled, suggesting a good hand with spade values. This was the full deal:

Dealer East

Both vul.

Board 4

♠ 10 7 6 4
♥ A J 6
♦ 9 4 2
♣ A 10 6

♠ A Q 8 5 3
♥ Q 9 8 3
♦ A 6
♣ Q 3



♠ K J
♥ K 5 2
♦ K Q 8 7 5
♣ 9 8 2

♠ 9 2
♥ 10 7 4
♦ J 10 3
♣ K J 7 5 4

Murray took out one notrump doubled to two clubs, and Svarc produced a sharp double. The play did not go well for declarer and the French scored a three-trick set for +800. The chronicler in the *Bridge World* called Kehela's reopening double "questionable", saying that he would prefer better intermediates in spades. I'm sure Kehela would have preferred to have them, too, but he wasn't dealt them. The result looks unlucky to me. The French at the other table did not have the opportunity to get into trouble as Roth and Root, following the policy of sound first and second-chair openings, never bid on the East-West cards. Stettin's fourth-chair opening of one spade was passed out, making one for 13 IMPs to France.

Things continued to go badly. This was the final board of the set:

Dealer West

E-W vul.

Board 16

♠ K 10
♥ 9 7 5 4
♦ J 6 5 3 2
♣ K 8

♠ Q 9 4
♥ A Q 10 8 3
♦ A 9 8 7
♣ 3



♠ A 8 7 3
♥ K J 6
♦ Q 10
♣ Q 10 7 5

♠ J 6 5 2
♥ 2
♦ K 4
♣ A J 9 6 4 2

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Boulenger	Murray	Svarc	Kehela
1♥	pass	1♠	2♣
2♠	pass	3NT	all pass

Kehela led a low club and the defense continued clubs, declarer winning the fourth round. How would you play as declarer?

One line of play is to run the hearts. If the overcaller, South, has both side kings, he will come under pressure. He will have to either unguard one of the kings, or come down to two doubleton kings, whereupon he can be endplayed. Svarc chose a different line. After pitching a spade, then a diamond, and then another spade from dummy, he advanced the queen of diamonds from hand. When Kehela covered with king, Svarc took dummy's ace and played another diamond, making three notrump when the jack turned up in Murray's hand. This was a good line, essentially succeeding whenever the diamond honors are split.

In the other room, the sound opening bid style, combined with an eccentric negative double, led to a poor result:

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Roth	Tintner	Root	Stetten
pass	pass	1♠	2♣
dbl	all pass		

Root won the opening spade lead and returned a trump to dummy's eight. Stetten played a diamond to his king. Roth took that and underled his hearts. It was suggested at the time that Root could now have defeated two clubs by playing another trump, but in fact with the queens of spades and diamonds lying as they do declarer can always make his contract. In fact Root played a second heart and declarer ruffed hearts in hand and a spade in dummy, eventually scoring seven trumps and the king of spades.

That was +180 for France to go with +600 in the Open Room, for 13 IMPs. The score after half the match was: France 79, North America 14.

Kaplan and Kay came in for Roth and Root, while Murray-Kehela played against Roudinesco and Pariente on Bridge-O-Rama. Kehela describes the action on board 22:

Dealer East		♠ A Q J 3
E-W vul.		♥ 7
Board 22		♦ A K Q 9
		♣ 9 8 7 2
	♠ K 10 7 5	♠ 8 2
	♥ Q 2	♥ A K J 9 8 5
	♦ J 8 7 4 2	♦ 3
	♣ Q 6	♣ A K 10 5
	♠ 9 6 4	
	♥ 10 6 4 3	
	♦ 10 6 5	
	♣ J 4 3	

N
W E
S

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Roudinesco	Murray	Pariente	Kehela
		1♥	pass
1♠	dbl	pass	1NT ¹
pass	pass	2♥	pass ²
pass ³	dbl ⁴	pass	2♠ ⁵
dbl ⁶	pass ⁷	pass	redbl ⁸
pass	pass ⁹	pass	

Opening lead: ♦4

1. Theoretically I should have a better hand for this bid, but the alternative choice, two clubs, goes down 900.
2. Emphatically, and starting a conversation with the recorder to indicate my complete lack of interest in the proceedings.

3. At this point East-West have missed a game, but —
4. — my tormentor came to the rescue.
5. Confidently, hoping to escape a double.
6. Thunder.
7. Happily.
8. You got us into this mess, now get us out.
9. Not bloody likely!

Partner put down the dummy with the virtuous air of a man who had done his duty, and there I was, playing two spades redoubled in the World Championship — on television.

I won the diamond in dummy (I would have been much better off to duck it to my ten, but I was not thinking clearly yet¹) and led a heart. East put up the king and played king and ace of clubs, dropping West's queen. West ruffed the third round of clubs and led a diamond, East ruffing dummy's king for the defenders' fifth trick, and returning the club ten in this position:

<table border="0"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>A Q J 3</td></tr> <tr><td>♥</td><td>—</td></tr> <tr><td>♦</td><td>Q 9</td></tr> <tr><td>♣</td><td>9</td></tr> </table> <table border="0"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>K 10 7</td></tr> <tr><td>♥</td><td>Q</td></tr> <tr><td>♦</td><td>J 8 7</td></tr> <tr><td>♣</td><td>—</td></tr> </table>	♠	A Q J 3	♥	—	♦	Q 9	♣	9	♠	K 10 7	♥	Q	♦	J 8 7	♣	—	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		<table border="0"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>♥</td><td>A J 9 8 5</td></tr> <tr><td>♦</td><td>—</td></tr> <tr><td>♣</td><td>10</td></tr> </table> <table border="0"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>9 6 4</td></tr> <tr><td>♥</td><td>10 6 4</td></tr> <tr><td>♦</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>♣</td><td>—</td></tr> </table>	♠	8	♥	A J 9 8 5	♦	—	♣	10	♠	9 6 4	♥	10 6 4	♦	10	♣	—
♠	A Q J 3																																										
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By this time I had got hold of myself, and discarded a diamond, with the result that the defence could take no more tricks. East continued with a high heart ruffed in dummy, a diamond was ruffed and over-ruffed, spade finesse, and dummy's remaining diamond was ruffed with my last trump. A heart at the twelfth trick couped West. Down one, 200 to France.

Flushed with success I started to point out to Eric that they were cold for four hearts (duly bid by Kaplan and Kay in the Closed Room) but he was too busy explaining to the French how they could have got me for a thousand.

Round 3: North America vs. Thailand

Boonsupa, Gaan, Gimkiewicz and Nandhabiwat were returnees from the previous year in St. Vincent. Making their Bermuda Bowl debut were Shen and Sitajitt. In the Closed Room Kaplan and Kay took on Gimkiewicz and Shen, playing Acol, while Murray and Kehela faced the Bangkok Club pair, Nandhabiwat-Gaan. The Thais were fast and enterprising. They competed vigorously and kept Kaplan and Kay out of a cold slam, then were unlucky when Murray found the lead to beat a slam that made in the other room. The match was close going into the last board of the first set.

Dealer West

E-W vul.

Board 16

♠ AJ 8 7
♥ K J 5
♦ 10 7 6
♣ Q 10 5

♠ 4 2
♥ 10 7 6 3
♦ A 9 8 3
♣ K 9 8



♠ 6 5 3
♥ A 8 4
♦ Q J 5 2
♣ J 6 2

♠ K Q 10 9
♥ Q 9 2
♦ K 4
♣ A 7 4 3

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kehela	Nandhabiwat	Murray	Gaan
pass	pass	1♠	pass
2♣1	pass	2NT	pass
3♠	pass	3NT	all pass

1. Drury.

Opening lead: ♦2

The combination of diamond weakness and slow tricks in hearts and clubs makes three notrump definitely the second-best game. However, Murray

played to give the defense a problem. North won the ace of diamonds and returned the three, South not unblocking. Now Murray led a heart to the king and ran the spades, in this order: king, jack, ace, queen. North, needing to find two discards, threw the eight of diamonds and the eight of clubs, while South erred by blanking the ace of hearts. Murray exited with a heart: South took the ace and cashed two diamonds, but then had to break clubs. Murray guessed correctly, putting in the ten, and thereby made three notrump. In the contract of four spades played in the other room, declarer misguessed the clubs for one down. That was 12 IMPs to North America, for a lead at the half of 55-20.

Roth and Root replaced the Canadians for the second half, and North America went on to a 19-1 VP win. The spectators, however, were following the other match, where underdog Venezuela defeated Italy by a single IMP. Clearly, no team could be taken for granted at any time.

Day 3: Sunday, May 28, 1967

Round 4: North America vs. Italy

Finally, on the third day of the tournament, the favorites met. On the first board, Murray held:

♠ 7 ♥ Q 5 4 3 2 ♦ J 3 2 ♣ J 9 5 2

He passed and heard one diamond on his left, three hearts from partner, four hearts on his right. Murray leapt to six hearts. Belladonna now bid six spades, a natural bid showing five or more spades, longer than the diamonds or equal in length. Kehela and Avarelli passed, and the spotlight was on Murray once again. What would you do? This was the full deal:

Dealer North

Neither vul.

Board 1

♠ K 6 5 2
♥ —
♦ K 8 7 5
♣ A 8 7 6 3

♠ 7
♥ Q 5 4 3 2
♦ J 3 2
♣ J 9 5 2



♠ A Q 10 9 8 3
♥ J
♦ A 10 6 4
♣ K 10

♠ J 4
♥ A K 10 9 8 7 6
♦ Q 9
♣ Q 4

Murray went quietly, letting Belladonna play six spades. A save in seven hearts would be down 900, a 2 IMP gain against 980, unless Avarelli took the push to seven spades. But who knew what East-West could make? Murray's jacks, combined with Kehela's queens, were just enough to take one trick. The Romans had been made to guess and guessed right. It's a bad sign when the opponents can settle in the perfect spot by introducing a new suit at the six-level. In the Open Room, Forquet held Murray's cards and in a marked contrast in style, took no action after his partner's two heart overcall:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kay	<i>Forquet</i>	<i>Kaplan</i>	<i>Garozzo</i>
3♥	pass	1♠	2♥
4♠	pass	3♠	pass
5NT ¹	pass	4NT	pass
6♠	all pass	6♥	pass

1. One ace and a void.

The first IMPs of the match exchanged hands on the third board, where both West players were doubled for penalty at the one-level:

Dealer South

E-W vul.

Board 3

♠ A J 10 7

♥ Q J 10 2

♦ Q 10 9 8

♣ 5

♠ K
♥ A 8 7 4 3
♦ K 3
♣ Q 8 7 4 3



♠ 8 6 5 4 3
♥ K 5
♦ J 7 6
♣ J 10 6

♠ Q 9 2
♥ 9 6
♦ A 5 4 2
♣ A K 9 2

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Avarelli	Murray	Belladonna	Kehela 1♣
1♥	dbl	all pass	

Opening lead: ♣5

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kay	Forquet	Kaplan	Garozzo 1♦
1♥	dbl	pass	pass
2♣	pass	pass	dbl
all pass			

Opening lead: ♣5

The suit chosen for the opening bid had a significant effect on later bidding. Kay had bid over a Blue Team one diamond that promised at least three. With his empty hearts, he quite naturally ran to the unbid club suit. Avarelli, having bid over a natural one club, stuck it out.

Against one heart doubled, Murray led his singleton club, his partner's suit. Kehela took the first trick with the king and played a spade to Murray's ace. Murray shifted to the queen of trumps. Declarer won with the ace and

played a club. Murray discarded a diamond and Kehela took the ace. Now came a series of punches: a spade ruffed by declarer, a club ruffed by Murray, a third spade ruffed by declarer. When declarer now led the queen of clubs, Murray pitched another diamond, and he pitched a third diamond on the fifth club, which was ruffed by Kehela. Now Kehela played ace and a diamond for Murray to ruff, but declarer's little trump was good for the sixth trick. Both the World Championship report and the *Bridge World* suggested that the opening club lead was an unfortunate choice, but declarer can always make six tricks if he plays carefully. The best try might be a trump. Suppose North leads the queen of hearts. Declarer can win that in hand with the ace and lead a club to the jack and king. South plays another heart and now declarer must find the play of a low club from dummy, planning to finesse against the nine. An original spade lead is no better.

Regardless of the merits of the singleton club lead in the Closed Room, it was deadly in the Open. Garozzo played three rounds of trumps. Kay played well to lead towards his king of diamonds; he would have lost it if he instead went after hearts. As it was, he was down two for -500, against only +200 for North America in the Closed Room, for 7 IMPs to Italy. After 16 boards, the score stood at Italy 31, North America 14.

Pabis-Ticci and D'Alelio came in for Belladonna-Avarelli, while the North Americans stood pat. On the third board, with only the opponents vulnerable, Kehela held as dealer:

♠ J 10 ♥ A K Q 8 7 5 4 ♦ J 9 8 4 ♣ —

He opened four hearts and Murray bid four notrump, Blackwood. Kehela showed an ace with five diamonds and Murray bid five notrump. In the classic form of the Blackwood convention, as played by Murray and Kehela, this guaranteed that the partnership had all the aces and simultaneously invited seven and asked for kings.

It seemed to Kehela that his strong trumps might well be enough for a grand slam, but there was a complicating factor. Recently the partnership had agreed that a direct raise of a four of a major opening to five asked for trump solidity. (A natural way to play that: opener passes with two trump losers, bids slam with one trump loser, and cuebids or bids five notrump with solid trumps.) So perhaps Murray needed more than solid hearts. Kehela bid six

diamonds, showing one king, and Murray bid six hearts. After some more thought, Kehela passed. This was the full deal:

Dealer West

E-W vul.

Board 19

♠ A K 7 4 3

♥ 9 3

♦ A K 7

♣ A 5 2

♠ 9 6 5 2

♥ J

♦ 5 2

♣ K Q 9 7 4 3

♠ Q 8

♥ 10 6 2

♦ Q 10 6 3

♣ J 10 8 6



♠ J 10

♥ A K Q 8 7 5 4

♦ J 9 8 4

♣ —

Six hearts was not in difficulty, and Kehela made an overtrick by ruffing out the spades. In the Open Room, the Italians had exactly the same auction until D'Alelio chose to continue to seven on the South hand. Seven hearts is a reasonable contract. It would have failed on a diamond lead, but Kay had no reason not to lead a club, and D'Alelio made thirteen tricks the same way Kehela had: 11 IMPs to Italy.

Some other things went wrong as well for the North Americans, and in the end Italy won the match 66-36 in IMPs and 17-3 in VPs.

Round 5: North America vs. Venezuela

Venezuela's two front-line pairs were returning from last year in St Vincent: David Berah and Robert Rossignol, and Roberto Benaim and Francis Vernon. These pairs played fairly natural, but sophisticated, methods. The third pair, Edgar Loynaz and Roberto Romanelli, played Schenken Club.

Murray-Kehela sat out the first half as Venezuela moved out to a 33-21 lead. For the second half, Murray and Kehela came in for Kaplan-Kay, who had played all day. The North Americans recovered to post a narrow victory, 72-68, which translated to 12-8 in VPs. Meanwhile, however, France

picked up 18 out of 20 against Thailand, to add to their lead over the rest of the field. After completion of the first round robin, the standings were:

1. France 64
2. Italy 57
3. North America 35
4. Venezuela 25
5. Thailand 19

North America was more than a full match behind Italy, who rated to be difficult to catch, and even further behind France. There was a rumor that the ACBL's publication plans for the World Championship book were on hold, in view of the possibility that the finals would be an all-European affair. But there was a lot of bridge left to play before then.

In a change from previous years, the order of opponents and bye rounds changed from one round robin to the next. Tomorrow was a critical day, as North America would play first France, then Italy.

Day 4: Monday, May 29, 1967.

Round 6: North America vs. France

Murray and Kehela went into the Closed Room to take on Stetten and Tintner, with the match to be shown on Bridge-O-Rama. Part way through the first set, both sides were vulnerable when the bidding went pass, pass to Murray who held:

♠ — ♥ A K Q J 9 8 5 4 2 ♦ J 6 4 ♣ 3

Murray opened the bidding with four hearts. Tintner, on his left, doubled, and Stetten removed to four spades. What would you do now?

It is a widely held principle that a preemptor should not bid again, uninvited. The idea is that the preemptor has told his story and that his partner should be in charge. The prohibition against bidding is even stronger when an action would be in front of partner, who, after all, may be itching to

double the opponents. Some modern theorists advocate that an uninvited double by a preemptor should mean “I really want to bid again, but if you want to insist on defending you may pass.” Murray, the epitome of practicality, saw a hand worth nine tricks in hearts and close to worthless on defense, so he bid five hearts. This was the full deal:

Dealer South

Both vul.

Board 7

\spadesuit — \heartsuit A K Q J 9 8 5 4 2 \diamond J 6 4 \clubsuit 3 \spadesuit J 8 7 5 4 \heartsuit 10 6 3 \diamond K 5 \clubsuit 9 5 2	N W E S	\spadesuit A 10 6 3 \heartsuit — \diamond A Q 10 8 3 2 \clubsuit A K Q \spadesuit K Q 9 2 \heartsuit 7 \diamond 9 7 \clubsuit J 10 8 7 6 4
---	-----------------	---

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Stetten	Murray	Tintner	Kehela
pass	4 \heartsuit	dbl	pass
4 \spadesuit	5 \heartsuit	dbl	all pass

East played two rounds of clubs. Murray ruffed and played six rounds of trumps. East pitched down to a doubleton diamond, which looks like an error. Murray then established a long diamond to escape for one down. At the other table:

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kay	Svarc	Kaplan	Boulenger
pass	4 \heartsuit	4NT	pass
5 \clubsuit	pass	5 \diamond	all pass

Five diamonds was cold. The best lead for the defense is a double dummy low spade — do you see how to make it then? Declarer ruffs a heart to strip South of his singleton, then runs the trumps. On the last one, South has to pitch a club to keep spades guarded. Declarer now cashes his remaining clubs before endplaying South in spades. There was no trouble on the actual lead of South's singleton heart, so North America scored +600, less 200 in five hearts doubled, for a gain of 9 IMPs.

At the half Murray and Kehela moved into the Open Room to play against Svarc and Boulenger. Near the end of the match came a difficult three notrump (rotated for convenience):

Dealer West

Both vul.

Board 29

♠ K

♥ 9 4

♦ A Q J 10 8 5

♣ 10 9 6 4

♠ A J 3

♥ K 8 3

♦ 9 4 3

♣ A Q 3 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Svarc	Murray	Boulenger	Kehela
pass	3♦	pass	3NT
all pass			

Opening lead: ♣K

How would you play?

Kehela took the king of clubs with the ace, East playing the five. Seeing that the contract was secure if West had the king of diamonds, Kehela guarded against a singleton king offside by leading to the ace. He continued with the queen, won by East's king as West followed. East returned the queen of hearts, which held the trick as West played the two. Next came the six of hearts. What do you do now?

After ten to fifteen minutes (reports varied), Kehela played low. The full deal was:

Dealer West

Both vul.

Board 29

♠ K
♥ 9 4
♦ A Q J 10 8 5
♣ 10 9 6 4

♠ 9 8 6 4 2
♥ A 10 2
♦ 7 2
♣ K J 7



♠ Q 10 7 5
♥ Q J 7 6 5
♦ K 6
♣ 8 5

♠ A J 3
♥ K 8 3
♦ 9 4 3
♣ A Q 3 2

Kehela's play limited the French defenders to three hearts and the king of diamonds — making three notrump. So how did he find it? Couldn't East have had AQJxx, or AQ10x, or any number of other holdings including the ace?

"It was a big position to take," Sami told me when I asked him about the deal. "But it just seemed to me that the deuce was likely to be the highest card Svarc could afford. Even with ten third, he might well have encouraged."

There were also inferences from the unusual opening lead. Would Svarc have led an unsupported king of clubs if he had an alternative like jack fourth of hearts? What do you make of Svarc's lead, anyway? I think it was well reasoned. It is hard to argue with a spade lead, but suppose you decide to try to find length in partner's hand. Clubs, with the ace of hearts as an entry, must be a better chance than hearts. In the other room:

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kaplan	Tintner	Kay	Stetten
pass	3♦	pass	3NT
all pass			

Opening lead: ♠8

Declarer took the spade lead in dummy, and with only eight sure tricks played a club to the queen and king. Kaplan, West, shifted to the two of hearts to the jack and king. When East came in with the king of diamonds, he lead a low heart which Kaplan won with the ace to return the ten, overtaken by Kay for down two. That looks like good play all around.

Kaplan-Kay and the Canadians took a 33-IMP lead into halftime. Keeping the same lineup, North America played France almost level and the final score was 83-51, for a 17-3 win. Captain Rosenblum gave Murray-Kehela the night off as North America defeated Italy 58-37, for 16 out of 20 VPs. The standings board showed North America just 5 VPs behind Italy and actually 1 VP ahead of France, but the French had a match in hand, having already had their bye for the second round robin.

Day 5: Tuesday, May 30, 1967

The North Americans had their bye in the afternoon. Thailand led France with four boards to go, but the French scored on those boards and won 15-5. Italy blitzed Venezuela.

In the evening session, North America won a close battle with Venezuela. Murray-Kehela played throughout, first with Kaplan-Kay, then with Roth-Root. Meanwhile Italy defeated France 18-2. That was good for the North Americans, *if* France was the team they were hoping to catch, but that was not so clear.

Day 6: Wednesday, May 31, 1967

Round 10: North America vs. Thailand

North America, with Murray-Kehela as anchor pair, won 17-3 over Thailand. But they lost ground to France, who blitzed Venezuela. This round concluded the second round robin, and the standings were:

Italy	111
France	104
North America	97
Thailand	53

The third and final round robin started with North America taking on Italy. Kaplan-Kay and Roth-Root built a 38-1 lead with four boards to go in the half. But then Roth-Root conceded two penalties against Roman auctions and missed a vulnerable game on the last board. The lead dwindled to 8 IMPs. Murray-Kehela came in to play with Kaplan-Kay for the second half. On board 26 Garozzo held, with both vulnerable:

♠ — ♥ 5 2 ♦ K Q 10 6 5 4 3 2 ♣ K 9 7

He opened three diamonds as dealer. (The Italians have often held better suits and more tricks for their preemptive bids than the North Americans. Kaplan opened this hand four diamonds.) Kehela overcalled three spades and Forquet doubled for penalty. Normal expert practice is never to pull such a double. Having opened a preempt, one is expected to let partner make the decision. Garozzo, however, not only pulled the double, he jumped to five diamonds! This was the full deal:

Dealer East

Both vul.

Board 26

♠ 9 6

♥ A 8 7

♦ A 9 8 7

♣ 6 5 4 3

♠ Q 10 7 3

♥ K Q 9 4

♦ J

♣ A Q 10 8

♠ —

♥ 5 2

♦ K Q 10 6 5 4 3 2

♣ K 9 7

♠ A K J 8 5 4 2

♥ J 10 6 3

♦ —

♣ J 2



Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Forquet	Murray	Garozzo	Kehela
		3♦	3♠
dbl	pass	5♦	pass
pass	dbl	all pass	

There was no defeating five diamonds. Had Garozzo passed Forquet's double, the fate of three spades would depend on the lead. On a minor suit lead it's one down, but a high heart lead would allow it to make.

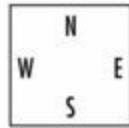
On a board towards the end of the match, it proved difficult for natural bidders to find the best trump suit:

Dealer South

Neither vul.

Board 27

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



Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Forquet	Murray	Garozzo	Kehela
			1♦
pass	1♥	2♣	3♦
4♣	4♥	pass	5♦
pass	pass	dbl	all pass

That was one down. Kehela might have bid two spades at his second turn, but 7-4's usually belong in the long suit. And a bid of four spades over four hearts would surely be ambiguous at best. The deal was no trouble at all for the Romans at the other table, who opened one spade and raised to four, simultaneously finding their best spot and shutting out East-West, who have a

reasonable save in clubs. Declarer made an overtrick for an 11-IMP pickup. Italy won the match 76-58, taking 15 out of 20 VPs.

Day 7: Thursday, June 1, 1967

France started the day with a 2-VP lead over North America as well as a match in hand. But Italy blitzed France after taking an 81-1 halftime lead, while North America thrashed Thailand 127-14, also a blitz. Then in the evening, Thailand defeated France 88-80, while North America routed Venezuela 124-15 for another blitz and a perfect day. The cumulative totals board read:

Italy	146
North America	142
France	111

France and Italy, however, each had two matches to play while North America, with a bye in the last round, had only one.

Day 8: Friday, June 2, 1967

At last came the showdown with France, but with the North American victories of the day before, the situation was not nearly so grim as it had been earlier. If North America could take 5 or more VPs from the match with France, they would be able to relax, with a playoff spot secure. If they got fewer than 5 VPs, France would have a chance to overtake the idle North America by scoring a big win over Venezuela. Murray-Kehela got to rest during the first half.

France raced to a 19-0 lead after four boards. But then the tide turned. Kay made a complicated six hearts, defeated by Root in the other room, and the match was about level. Things continued to go North America's way, and they led at the half, 56-27.

Murray-Kehela came in to play with Kaplan-Kay. The French were in a desperate position when the following deal was played:

Dealer West

Neither vul.

Board 24

♠ Q 10 8 3

♥ J 10 6 3

♦ J 8 6

♣ 9 3

♠ 9 2

♥ A 9

♦ Q 7 3

♣ A J 6 5 4 2



♠ A J 6 5

♥ K Q 8 7 5 2

♦ 5

♣ Q 10

♠ K 7 4

♥ 4

♦ A K 10 9 4 2

♣ K 8 7

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kehela	Svarc	Murray	Boulenger
1♣	pass	1♥	2♦
pass	pass	2♠	pass
3♣	pass	3♥	pass
4♥	all pass		

Opening lead: ♦A

At Trick 2, Boulenger shifted to the club king. Murray took the ace, unblocking the queen from hand, and advanced the nine of spades, covered by the ten, jack and king. Boulenger continued the attack on clubs, Murray winning in hand and playing ace and a spade, ruffing in the dummy. After cashing the ace of hearts, he led the jack of clubs from dummy in this position:

<table border="0"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>Q</td></tr> <tr><td>♥</td><td>J 10 6</td></tr> <tr><td>♦</td><td>J 8</td></tr> <tr><td>♣</td><td>—</td></tr> </table> <table border="0"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>—</td></tr> <tr><td>♥</td><td>—</td></tr> <tr><td>♦</td><td>Q 7</td></tr> <tr><td>♣</td><td>J 6 5 4</td></tr> </table>	♠	Q	♥	J 10 6	♦	J 8	♣	—	♠	—	♥	—	♦	Q 7	♣	J 6 5 4		<table border="0"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>♥</td><td>K Q 8 7 5</td></tr> <tr><td>♦</td><td>—</td></tr> <tr><td>♣</td><td>—</td></tr> </table> <table border="0"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>—</td></tr> <tr><td>♥</td><td>—</td></tr> <tr><td>♦</td><td>A 10 9 4 2</td></tr> <tr><td>♣</td><td>7</td></tr> </table>	♠	6	♥	K Q 8 7 5	♦	—	♣	—	♠	—	♥	—	♦	A 10 9 4 2	♣	7
♠	Q																																	
♥	J 10 6																																	
♦	J 8																																	
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♦	A 10 9 4 2																																	
♣	7																																	

Svarc had to ruff, or Murray could pitch his losing spade. If he ruffed low, Murray would overruff and claim, so Svarc ruffed with the jack. Murray discarded his losing spade, and Svarc played the last spade. Murray ruffed with the eight and claimed when Boulenger could not overruff. In the closed room, the same end position was reached, and declarer guessed to ruff the spade high, playing for the remaining trumps to split, and so went one down. The defense had been the same except that Kay had led a low club, instead of the king. So another line for Tintner would have been to play four rounds of trumps, conceding the last one, and then run the club suit, but he did not know for sure who had the king of clubs. This deal shattered the French hopes. North America cruised to a 94-52 win, ensuring a berth in the final against the Blue Team.

[1](#) Ho, ho. -RH

CHAPTER 9

THE FINALS US. ITALY

SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 1967



First Quarter

Pabis-Ticci and D'Alelio had played well through the qualifying phase, and Perroux rewarded them with a start in the Open Room against Kaplan and Kay, while Murray and Kehela took on Garozzo and Forquet in the Closed Room. The match started badly for North America when Murray and Kehela stayed out of a close four hearts that D'Alelio made when Kay unluckily attacked with a club lead from the king. Last year against Italy it seemed all the close games went down. This year, Italy made one on the first board. Ten IMPs to Italy. After a push on the second board, North America ran into difficulty against the Roman Club. Kaplan held:

♠ A Q 3 ♥ 8 ♦ K 7 6 3 2 ♣ A J 4 2

After one club on his left and a negative one diamond on his right, he bid one notrump for the minors. Kay held:

♠ J 9 8 4 2 ♥ K 9 6 2 ♦ J 9 ♣ 10 9

He took one notrump out to two clubs and was left to play there, down 300. In the Closed Room the natural bidding went one club, pass, one heart to Garozzo, who doubled for takeout. Forquet competed to two spades and pushed the Canadians to three hearts, one down. Next Kaplan-Kay played the wrong game, down 300, while Garozzo scored up three notrump. Then came the first of a series of slam decisions:

Dealer North

N-S vul.

Board 5

♠ K 9 8 7

♥ 10 3

♦ A 6 5 4

♣ A 7 6

♠ Q J 6 5 3

♥ 7 6

♦ 9 8 7 3

♣ 10 3



♠ 10 4 2

♥ A 9 2

♦ K Q J 10

♣ J 8 2

♠ A

♥ K Q J 8 5 4

♦ 2

♣ K Q 9 5 4

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Forquet</i>	<i>Murray</i>	<i>Garozzo</i>	<i>Kehela</i>
	pass	pass	1♥
pass	1♠	pass	3♣
pass	3♦	pass	3♥
pass	4♣	pass	5♣
pass	5♦	pass	5♠
pass	5NT	pass	6♣
all pass			

There were no problems in the play. Pabis-Ticci and D'Alelio stopped in five, so that was 13 IMPs to North America. After a partscore deal came this hand:

Dealer South

Both vul.

Board 7

♠ A 10 7

♥ 9

♦ 10 9 7

♣ A K Q 10 6 2

♠ Q 8 4

♥ K Q J 8 3

♦ 6

♣ J 9 4 3



♠ 9 3

♥ 10 7 6 4 2

♦ A 5 2

♣ 8 7 5

♠ K J 6 5 2

♥ A 5

♦ K Q J 8 4 3

♣ —

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Forquet	Murray	Garozzo	Kehela
			1♦
pass	3♣	pass	3♠
pass	4♣	pass	4♠
pass	4NT	pass	5♦
pass	6♦	all pass	

Opening lead: ♥K

Kehela took the king of hearts with the ace, ruffed a heart and drove out the ace of trumps. He was then able to claim, drawing trumps and discarding three spades on the top clubs. At the other table:

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kay	Pabis-Ticci	Kaplan	D'Alelio
			1♦
1♥	3♣	3♥	3♠ ¹
pass	4♥	pass	5♦
pass	5NT	pass	6♦
pass	6♦	all pass	

1. Five or more spades; diamonds may be shorter.

Opening lead: ♥K

In the inferior slam of six spades, D'Alelio needed to pick up the queen of spades. He played the overcaller to have it, leading low to the ten. (This would have looked very bad if East had the singleton queen. But if it is West that has the singleton queen, cashing the king blocks the trumps, leading to defeat if East has a small singleton diamond.) Two lucky IMPs to Italy. Then came a delicate partscore. Murray held:

♠ K 9 8 6 5 ♥ 9 8 2 ♦ K 2 ♣ 9 5 4

With no one vulnerable, Forquet on his right opened the bidding with one heart. Murray passed and Garozzo responded one notrump, which Kehela doubled. After a pass from Forquet, Murray bid two spades and everyone passed. The opening lead was the four of hearts, and this is what Murray had to work with:

♠ J 7 2
♥ A 10 7
♦ A 8 7 5
♣ A Q 10

Opening lead: ♥4

♠ K 9 8 6 5
♥ 9 8 2
♦ K 2
♣ 9 5 4

How would you plan the play?

Murray ducked the first heart to Forquet, who returned a high heart to dummy's ace, Garozzo following with the three. Now Murray played three rounds of diamonds, ruffing, and exited with his third heart, on which Garozzo threw a club. Forquet won this and, not enjoying being on play, led another heart. Murray and Garozzo shed clubs while dummy ruffed. Murray now led a fourth round of diamonds. When Forquet discarded, Murray ruffed and then crossed to dummy's ace of clubs for his seventh trick. He now exited with a club, sure to come to an eighth trick with jack and one trump opposite king third and the opponents on play. This was the full deal (rotated for convenience):

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

Pabis-Ticci played the same contract in a straightforward manner, starting with a trump to the king. He lost two trumps, two hearts and two clubs, for one down.

Soon there was another slam hand for Murray-Kehela — the third in the first ten boards.

Dealer East

Both vul.

Board 10

♠ A Q J 4 2

♥ A Q 6

♦ 5

♣ K Q 7 3

♠ K 9 3

♥ 2

♦ J 8 2

♣ A J 6 5 4 2



♠ 10 8 6 5

♥ 7

♦ Q 10 7 6 4 3

♣ 9 8

♠ 7

♥ K J 10 9 8 5 4 3

♦ A K 9

♣ 10

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Forquet	Murray	Garozzo	Kehela
		pass	2♥
pass	2♠	pass	3♥
pass	4NT	pass	5♦
pass	6♥	all pass	

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kay	Pabis-Ticci	Kaplan	D'Alelio
		pass	1♦
pass	2♣	pass	2♥
pass	2♠	pass	3♥
pass	4NT	pass	5♦
pass	6♥	all pass	

None of the three slams was exceptionally hard to bid, but none was automatic, either, and to get all three right was definitely promising. Aggressive action by Murray led to another good result here:

Dealer North
Both vul.
Board 13

♠ A 9 4
♥ Q 3 2
♦ 9 6 4
♣ Q 5 4 3

♠ Q J 10 7 2
♥ 10 9 5 4
♦ Q
♣ K 10 2



♠ K 6 3
♥ A J 6
♦ A J 8 7 2
♣ 9 6

♠ 8 5
♥ K 8 7
♦ K 10 5 3
♣ A J 8 7

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Forquet	Murray	Garozzo	Kehela
1NT	pass dbl	1♦ all pass	pass

Having passed as dealer, Murray came in with a takeout double on the second round against the limited Italian sequence. Kehela preferred to defend and Murray led the queen of spades. Forquet took the second spade with the ace and played the nine of diamonds to the queen and ace. The seven of diamonds was taken by Kehela's ten as Murray threw the four of hearts. A club to the ten enabled Murray to dislodge declarer's last spade stopper. Kehela took the next diamond with the king and played the jack of clubs. Forquet read the situation correctly, playing low to block the suit. Murray overtook the jack, cashed his spades, and played a club to his partner's ace for a penalty of 500. The match was now a dead tie.

Then Kaplan and Kay had a bidding disaster, climbing all the way to a virtually hopeless six clubs while Garozzo-Forquet played three notrump with nine top tricks. But then an unusual action by Garozzo got the Italians overboard:

Dealer South

N-S vul.

Board 15

♠ A K 9 6

♥ J 7 6 3

♦ 8 7

♣ A 7 4

♠ 8 5 3

♥ 4

♦ A K J 9 4 3

♣ Q 5 2



♠ 10 2

♥ Q 9 8 5

♦ 5 2

♣ K J 9 8 6

♠ Q J 7 4

♥ A K 10 2

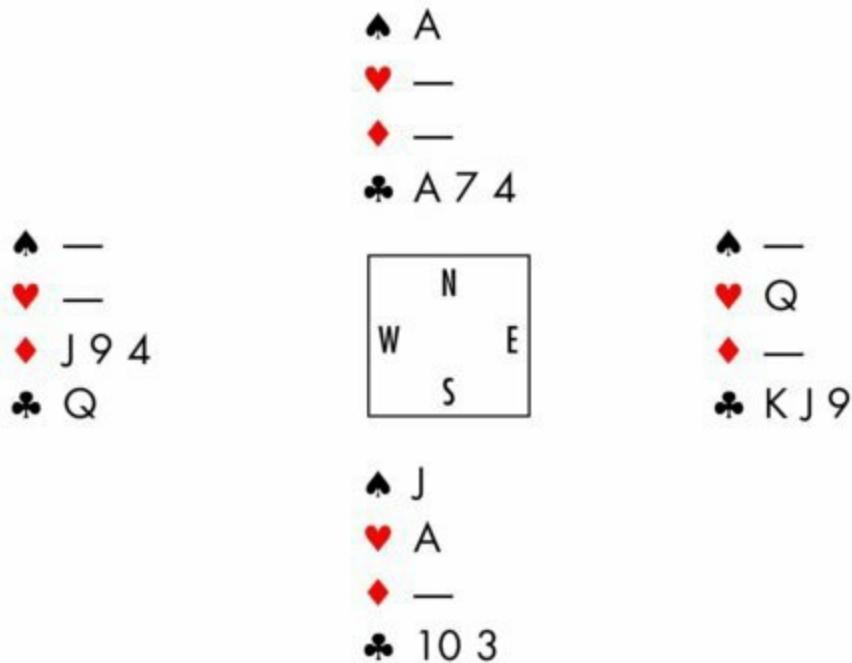
♦ Q 10 6

♣ 10 3

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Forquet	Murray	Garozzo	Kehela 1♠
2♦	3♦	4♣	pass
5♣	pass	pass	dbl
all pass			

Kehela was on his way to four spades, which will fail unless the defense slips. But Garozzo inserted an uncharacteristically aggressive bid of four clubs, with a moderate suit and no fit. He was probably hoping to direct a lead, but Forquet raised and Kehela doubled.

Kehela led the king of hearts and shifted to the queen and another spade. Murray took the spade and forced dummy with a heart. Declarer played ace and king of diamonds and ruffed a diamond, North discarding a heart. A heart ruff and spade ruff led to this position:



Garozzo now ruffed the queen of hearts in the dummy. If Murray overruffs this, it may be his last trick. Instead, he threw the ace of spades. Now there was no way for Garozzo to shut out Kehela's ten of trumps.

There were strange goings-on in the Open Room, as well:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kay	Pabis-Ticci	Kaplan	D'Alelio 1♣
3♦	all pass		

Kay's three diamonds won the contract when Pabis-Ticci, with no attractive bid (double would be for penalties), chose to pass. Then, after winning the first trick with the king of spades and shifting to a trump, he failed to hold up the ace of clubs, and Kay wound up with an overtrick. The +130, together with +500 from the Closed Room, meant 12 IMPs to North America.

Murray and Kehela, who apart from the first board had had an excellent set, misstepped at the wire:

Dealer West

E-W vul.

Board 16

♠ Q J
♥ A K Q 10 8
♦ A 2
♣ K 9 8 5

♠ A 9 8 2
♥ 7 2
♦ 5 4 3
♣ A J 10 4



♠ 10
♥ J 9 6 4 3
♦ J 8 7
♣ Q 7 6 2

♠ K 7 6 5 4 3
♥ 5
♦ K Q 10 9 6
♣ 3

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Forquet</i>	Murray	Garozzo	Kehela
pass	1♥	pass	1♠
pass	2NT	pass	3♦
pass	3♥	pass	4♦
pass	4♠	pass	4NT
pass	5♥	pass	5♠
all pass			

Opening lead: ♣A

The lead and the 4-1 trump break spelled one down. In the other room:

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kay	Pabis-Ticci	Kaplan	D'Alelio
pass	1♣	pass	1♠
pass	2♥	pass	3♦
pass	3NT	all pass	

Opening lead: ♠10

Three notrump was not as safe as four spades, but it made easily. On the strength of this last board, Italy led after the first sixteen, 57-48.

Roth and Root came in for Murray and Kehela. North America had bad and good luck when Kaplan and Kay bid this pair of hands to four hearts:

♠ 9 2
 ♥ K Q J 9
 ♦ 9 8 7
 ♣ A K J 7

♠ 6 4
 ♥ A 7
 ♦ A K J 10 6 2
 ♣ 9 8 4

Four hearts has a number of things in its favor, but immunity to a 6-1 heart break is not among them. The good luck was that the five diamond contract reached by Avarelli and Belladonna failed when Root cashed two spades and waited for his queen third of diamonds. North America won the set 32-18, to lead by 5 at the one-quarter mark.

Second Quarter

Italy won a big swing with daring bidding by Forquet combined with a slice of good luck:

Dealer North

N-S vul.

Board 37

♠ A 7
 ♥ A K 9 7 6 5
 ♦ K 5
 ♣ 10 8 7

♠ J 9 6 4 3
 ♥ Q 10 2
 ♦ Q 6 3
 ♣ Q 4



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

♠ K Q 10
 ♥ J 8 4 3
 ♦ A 9 8 7
 ♣ 6 5

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kehela	Pabis-Ticci	Murray	D'Alelio
	1♥	2♣	2♥
pass	4♥	all pass	

Opening lead: ♣A

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Forquet	Roth	Garozzo	Root
	1♥	3♣	4♥
5♣	5♥	all pass	

The result in the Closed Room seems normal. In the Open Room, Garozzo chose to emphasize his good suit and playing strength by making a jump overcall, and Forquet cooperated with a hair-raising raise to five clubs. That put Roth squarely on the spot. There was no way to tell that so many tricks could be taken on defense, and he very reasonably bid five hearts in an attempt to score a vulnerable game. The defense played three rounds of clubs, Forquet overruffing dummy's jack on the third for a one-trick set.

The Blue Team members were very adept at exploiting favorable vulnerability in competitive situations. They favored light overcalls — getting in quickly and then getting out before getting caught. They didn't make outrageous preempts in the American style, but that conservatism allowed active raises like Forquet's here. For the risk of a 2-IMP loss (-700 vs. -620) Forquet set his opponents an intractable problem and walked away a 12-IMP winner. Under today's scoring table, of course, four down doubled is 800, and that changes the odds.

Near the end of the set there was a deal that showed conclusively, not that players need reminding, just how capricious a game bridge can be.

Dealer North

Both vul.

Board 45

♠ K 10 6

♥ Q 3

♦ A J 10 5 2

♣ 9 8 7

♠ Q J 8 7 4 3

♥ K 10

♦ 8 6

♣ A J 4



♠ 9

♥ J 8 7 6 5 4 2

♦ K 3

♣ 10 5 3

♠ A 5 2

♥ A 9

♦ Q 9 7 4

♣ K Q 6 2

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Forquet	Roth	Garozzo	Root
	pass	pass	1♣
1♠	1NT	2♥	2NT
pass	3NT	all pass	

Opening lead: ♥2

The American auction had put the heart bidder on lead, but he didn't have the king. Root played low from dummy. Forquet won the first trick and cleared hearts. When the diamond finesse lost, Root was down four, -400.

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kehela	Pabis-Ticci	Murray	D'Alelio
	pass	pass	1♣
1♠	2♦	pass	2NT
pass	3NT	all pass	

Opening lead: ♠Q

No lead was likely to defeat declarer from this side of the table, and D'Alelio wound up with eleven tricks, for a gain of 14 IMPs. Italy won the set 47-29, to lead by 13.

For the second half Kaplan and Kay played North-South in the Closed Room against Avarelli and Belladonna, while Murray and Kehela took on Forquet and Garozzo. (Forquet was West for 6 sessions, North once and sat out once. Since Murray preferred to sit North or East, when the pairs met Forquet was always on Murray's right.) The IMPs went back and forth, and the exchanges were about even when the last board arrived:

Dealer West

E-W vul.

Board 64

♠ 5 4

♥ A 9 4 2

♦ Q 6 3

♣ 9 7 6 4

♠ J 9
♥ Q 10 7
♦ K 10 9 7 5
♣ A K J



♠ A Q 10 8 6 2
♥ K 8
♦ J 8 4 2
♣ 8

♠ K 7 3
♥ J 6 5 3
♦ A
♣ Q 10 5 3 2

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kehela	Forquet	Murray	Garozzo
1♦	pass	1♠	pass
1NT	pass	3♦	pass
3NT	all pass		

Opening lead: ♣6

Kehela took the queen of clubs with the ace and led the jack of spades to the five (count) and queen. Garozzo had a difficult problem. His partnership's normal opening lead practice was lowest from length when holding jack or higher, and otherwise second or third best. So the clubs could be running, but there is no hurry to take them since South has both spades and diamonds stopped. Declarer's play of the queen of spades, when he was known to hold more than a singleton, perhaps suggests that he intends to switch to diamonds if the queen of spades is allowed to hold. In practice Garozzo took the queen

of spades with his king and shifted to a low heart. Kehela put in the ten, which was allowed to hold, and played back a heart, arriving at ten tricks.

If the queen of spades had been allowed to hold, Kehela would have had to guess what to do next. The winning line is to continue spades: the defense is helpless with the ace of hearts in the North hand. But declarer might well instead go after diamonds, after which the defense can prevail by plugging away at clubs.

One further point about the defense is that South, having taken the queen of spades with the king, might have shifted to the heart jack instead of a low one. That wins by force if declarer has queen-nine third. The defense was under the spotlight at the other table as well:

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Avarelli	Kaplan	Belladonna	Kay
1♣ ¹	pass	2♠ ²	pass
3♦ ³	pass	4♦	all pass

1. Several possibilities, usually 12-16 balanced.
2. Game forcing, five or more spades with at least two top honors.
3. Balanced, 14-16, lacking spade support.

Opening lead: ♦A

Upon winning the ace of diamonds, Kay shifted to a heart. Kaplan found the essential defense of taking the ace and leading back a diamond, treating his queen like so much scrap paper. Kay ruffed and scored the setting trick with the king of trumps. With a pickup of 12 IMPs here, North America outscored Italy 50-40 over the last sixteen boards. The overall score as the first day's play came to a close was Italy 162, North America 159.

Third Quarter

Sunday, June 4, 1967

The North Americans started the day full of hope — down only three IMPs. Captain Rosenblum returned to his starting lineup of Kaplan-Kay, Murray-

Kehela. It turned out to be a frustrating set for North America, where they lost 36 IMPs and could manage to win only 14. Ten came as a surprise, when Avarelli held

♠ A J 10 ♥ J 10 8 7 6 ♦ 8 4 ♣ K Q 9

Belladonna showed opening values with longer hearts than diamonds, and Avarelli judged to raise only to three, missing a vulnerable game. But Italy scored half a dozen significant swings. The Italian approach to defensive bidding was to make a takeout double whenever the high card values were present, without being overly concerned about support for unbid suits. This led to two significant swings. On the first, Kehela held, with just his side vulnerable:

♠ 9 8 7 6 ♥ J ♦ K Q 4 ♣ J 6 5 4 2

Murray dealt and opened one heart, and Avarelli doubled. It was not the Canadians' style to go out of the way to bid a suit on four small, and opener frequently would raise a response on three trumps. So Kehela passed. This was the deal:

Dealer East

E-W vul.

Board 70

♠ 4 3

♥ 9 7 3 2

♦ A 6 5 3

♣ Q 9 7

♠ 9 8 7 6

♥ J

♦ K Q 4

♣ J 6 5 4 2



♠ A Q 10 5

♥ A K 8 5

♦ 10 9 8 2

♣ 8

♠ K J 2

♥ Q 10 6 4

♦ J 7

♣ A K 10 3

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kehela	Belladonna	Murray 1♥	Avarelli dbl
pass	1♠	pass	1NT
all pass			

Opening lead: ♥J

One heart was the normal Colonial Acol opening on 4-4-4-1, short in clubs. North Americans would prefer a pass on the South hand, but the Italians prefer a distributionally carefree takeout double. Belladonna's one spade was a negative showing short spades, and Avarelli's one notrump stole the pot. Declarer was allowed to win the first trick with the queen of hearts. He returned a heart to the nine and king. When East shifted to a low spade, declarer won the jack, played ace and a club to the queen, and established a heart by leading low towards the ten. That was seven tricks: a spade, two hearts, a diamond and three clubs. At the other table:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Forquet	Kaplan	Garozzo 1♠	Kay dbl
3♠	all pass		

Opening lead: ♣K

Three spades was unbeatable — 6 IMPs to Italy. On the very next board Forquet held, with both vulnerable:

♠ 6 ♥ 8 7 6 3 ♦ 9 6 ♣ A K 8 7 5 2

He passed in second position, and the bidding proceeded one spade, double, four spades. Forquet doubled, and this was the full deal:

Dealer South

Both vul.

Board 71

♠ A K 8 3

♥ A 10 5

♦ 5 3 2

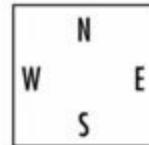
♣ J 4 3

♠ 6

♥ 8 7 6 3

♦ 9 6

♣ A K 8 7 5 2



♠ 9 4

♥ K 9 2

♦ A K 8 7

♣ Q 10 9 6

♠ Q J 10 7 5 2

♥ Q J 4

♦ Q J 10 4

♣ —

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Forquet	Kaplan	Garozzo	Kay
pass	1♦	dbl	pass
dbl	all pass		4♦

Opening lead: ♦A

Forquet's double turned out very well as the defense started with the ace-king of diamonds and a diamond ruff, and later took the king of hearts for +200.

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kehela	Belladonna	Murray	Avarelli
			pass
pass	1♣	pass	1♦
pass	2♦	pass	3♦
all pass			

Opening lead: ♣A

Avarelli ruffed the opening lead, drew trumps and soon had ten tricks, for +170. The Romans had missed an excellent game, but they gained 9 IMPs. Italy won the low scoring set 36-14, stretching their lead to 25 IMPs.

Roth and Root came in for Murray and Kehela. The match continued with another series of small boards and pushes. On board 86, Root and Roth found a good save in six spades, conceding 700 against a vulnerable six diamonds. But D'Alelio found it, too. Finally, an opportunity arose when Kaplan opened one club on a flat hand with only 11 high card points, but three quick tricks. Kay responded one diamond and, after Kaplan's raise, bid Blackwood and settled in six notrump. How would you play it, on the lead of the seven of hearts?

♠ 4 3
♥ 10 6 2
♦ A 5 4 3
♣ A K 10 9

♠ K J 9 8
♥ A K Q J
♦ K Q 7
♣ 8 5

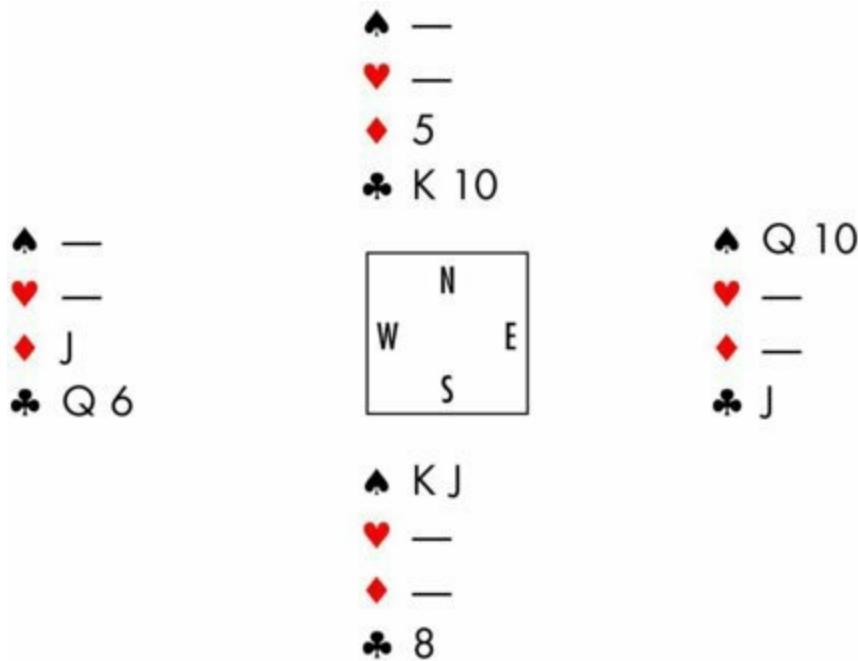
With only nine top tricks, it is clear that some good fortune is required, and the best hope is that some of that good fortune is in spades. Declarer can play low to the jack, hoping to find ace and queen onside, or low to the nine, hoping for queen and ten onside. Barring other considerations, the better line is low to the nine, because it will bring in all three required extra tricks if East has queen-ten third. Low to the jack, in contrast, means finding a twelfth trick in the minors.

Kay won the heart lead and took the rest of the hearts, throwing a club from dummy. West had a doubleton and threw, in order, the spade deuce and the club deuce. Leaving the club entries intact for a possible squeeze, Kay crossed to the ace of diamonds and played a spade to the nine, to which West played the five. How would you continue?

If, as it might appear, all three spade honors are onside, there is very little hope. A 3-3 diamond split will not help, because the tricks cannot be untangled: a high diamond in hand is needed as entry for a second spade

trick. It would have been something to play for before cashing all the hearts, but it is pointless now.

The better hope is that West has held up the ace of spades. Now the question is: who has the six? If West has it, then the queen-ten of spades are bare, and a club to dummy and a spade down will bring in the suit. Alternatively, if the six of spades is on the right, then the play is to duck a spade to West's ace. That will establish an eleventh trick, with chances for a twelfth. Suppose West wins the ace and plays a club. Declarer wins dummy's ace and cashes the diamonds. If they are 3-3, well and good. If East has two, then he has to throw a club, and the position will be something like:



South leads the king of spades and West has to surrender.

This would have been the winning play. Instead, quite reasonably, Kay crossed to a club before playing the second spade to his eight. After Pabis-Ticci won the ace, the squeeze would still operate if he made the mistake of playing a diamond. But he correctly returned a club, destroying the communication, and Kay was one down. The full deal was:

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

Six hearts might have succeeded with one spade ruff and the same double squeeze. There is also the possibility of ruffing two spades, but entry management is a problem. Of course, to play in hearts requires that someone bid hearts, and one heart looks like the right response on the South hand.

On the last hand of the third quarter, D'Alelio declared six notrump on this layout:

Dealer North	♠ A K Q J 5 4 2
E-W vul.	♥ 4 2
Board 96	♦ 6 5
	♣ 6 2
	♠ 10 7 3
	♥ A K Q
	♦ A Q 2
	♣ K 9 7 4

Suppose the opening lead is a low heart. How would you play? There are two reasonable lines. One is to cross on a spade and play a club to the king, just as though you had king-queen-ten. That lands the slam if the ace is onside, or if

West ducks, or if he wins but fails to return a club and the king of diamonds is onside. The alternative line, if you fancy your chances of reading the cards, is to run the hearts and spades, planning to take a diamond finesse unless you see something better. We will never know what D'Alelio would have done, for Kay, not unreasonably, led the ace of clubs from:

♠ 9 ♥ J 8 6 5 3 ♦ 9 7 ♣ A J 10 8 5

It was another frustrating set for North America, who could manage only 11 IMPs to Italy's 31, and trailed by 45 with just 32 boards to go.

Fourth Quarter

Murray and Kehela came in to play in the Closed Room against Forquet and Garozzo, while Roth and Root took on Belladonna and Avarelli. North American hopes rose on the first board where Kehela and Avarelli both played three notrump. Kehela made it when Garozzo and Forquet misguessed the early play, while Root and Roth defended accurately. But things then went badly. Board 100 was a double tragedy, practically eliminating any remaining chance for North America. In the Closed Room, Avarelli opened two clubs, showing three suits, and Belladonna bid two spades, which is for play unless opener is short in spades. After two passes, Root made a balancing double. The Roth-Root agreement was that double was for takeout, but Roth chose to pass and the contract made with an overtrick. In the Open Room, Murray, with two aces opposite an opening bid, doubled Forquet in four clubs. There were chances to beat it, but the defenders missed their way and Forquet made it. 870 in one room and 710 in another added up to 17 IMPs to Italy.

North America needed a big swing to get back into the match. Murray and Kehela stretched to six hearts on the cards below. Try it on the lead of the six of clubs:

♠ 8 7 2
 ♥ Q 10 5 4
 ♦ A 5 4 3 2
 ♣ Q

♠ A K Q 3
 ♥ A 9 3 2
 ♦ Q 8
 ♣ A K 9

There is a certain trump loser and, barring an unlikely singleton king of diamonds, a loser there as well. Kehela spotted the best chance, an endplay against an opponent who had king and one trump and the king of diamonds. If that opponent was West, he could thwart declarer by brilliantly unblocking the king of trumps under the ace; to make that difficult, Kehela immediately crossed to hand with the ace of trumps at Trick 2. When only small cards appeared, he set about stripping the hand, cashing the black ace-kings, discarding a diamond and a spade. He then led the queen of spades, hoping for the best. But East ruffed with a small trump and the slam was down.

There was more to come. East returned the six of diamonds. Perhaps he had been endplayed? Kehela put up the queen, but West produced the king and declarer finished two down. The final straw for Kehela was seeing East's cards. On a good day, he would have held

♠ J 9 4 ♥ K 7 ♦ K 10 9 7 6 ♣ J 4 2

and been endplayed with the king of hearts. On this, the worst of all days, East held

♠ J 9 ♥ J 8 7 ♦ J 10 9 7 6 ♣ J 4 2

That's right — not only were the trumps playable for one loser, but the king of diamonds was singleton. Lord, why do we play this game?

The rest did not matter. Murray-Kehela bid an excellent six clubs and made it to win 12 IMPs. Later they reached a thin three notrump needing to

play QJ1075 opposite A643 for no losers. The king was onside — but fourth. On the last board of the segment, Roth-Root missed a vulnerable three notrump made by Garozzo. The score of the disastrous segment was 72-31 for Italy, giving them the almost insurmountable lead of 86 IMPs with 16 boards to play. Rosenblum went back to his original lineup. D'Alelio and Pabis-Ticci came in for Italy, as did a new partnership, which would be heard from again: Belladonna-Garozzo.

There was no chance to pick up 86 IMPs. Belladonna induced a phantom save by driving to game: 6 IMPs to Italy. Garozzo found a defense missed by Kaplan-Kay: 10 IMPs more. A daring D'Alelio save won 3 IMPs. North America won 10 when the unfamiliar Belladonna-Garozzo partnership played in the wrong game. And then it was over. Italy won the last segment 37-12, winning the 128-board match 338-227.

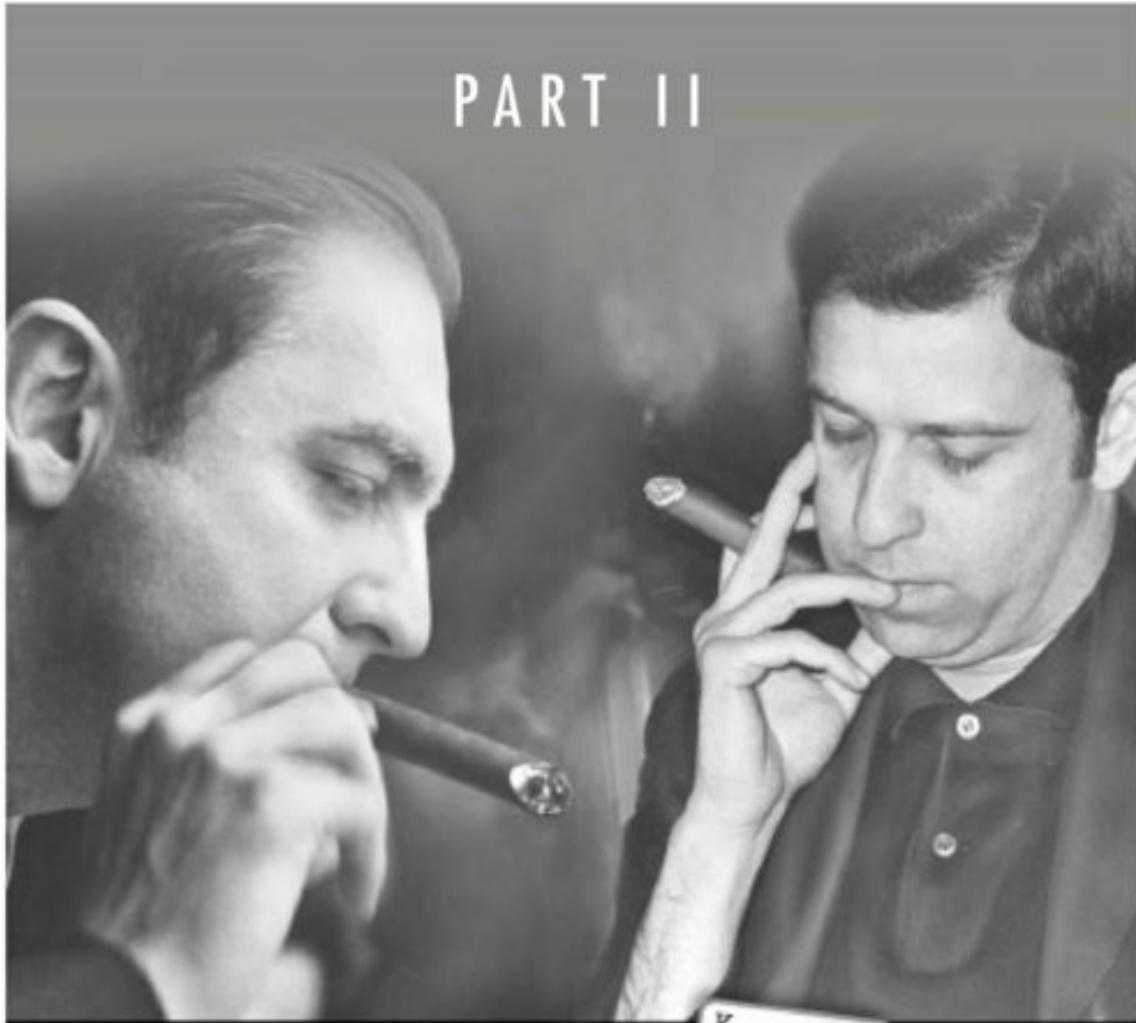
Kehela summed up the match for the August 1967 *Kibitzer*:

The 1967 World Championship followed the pattern set in 1957, Italy winning their ninth consecutive Bermuda Bowl. North America were runners-up for the eleventh time.

A disastrous start against France, and stubborn resistance from Venezuela — who finished last — put us in jeopardy of not reaching the finals, but we rallied in the stretch to outlast the French who were our chief rivals in the qualifying round (nobody doubted that Italy would qualify).

The final match against Italy was a 128 board affair played in eight sessions over two days. At the half-way mark we were only 3 IMPs behind, but the Italians had played poorly, and had we seized our opportunities we could have had a commanding lead. We had no further chances. The next day the Italians played as only they can, and with 32 boards to play we were faced with a deficit of 45 IMPs. Desperate efforts to retrieve the situation made matters worse, and the final margin was 111 IMPs to Italy.

PART II



THE TRUE
NORTH STRONG
AND FREE



CHAPTER 10

PLAYING FOR CANADA



“Eric, you guys will be sending a team to represent Canada in Turin, won’t you?”

Alvin Landy, head of the ACBL, had called to talk about the inaugural World Bridge Olympiad, planned for the spring of 1960.

“We want to come, Al,” said Eric, “but we’re not organized yet. How do you think we should select a team?”

In those days there was no Canadian Bridge Federation, no precedent for picking players for international competition. Canadians played in ACBL-sponsored tournaments. The only international competition was the Bermuda Bowl.

“Oh, I don’t know,” replied Landy. “Why don’t you pick the team?”

“Uh, Al, I’m afraid that might be perceived in some quarters as a bit undemocratic.”

Pause. “I see, Eric. How about basing it on masterpoints?”

Eric thought about Kehela, the recent arrival from England — with almost no masterpoints. “We might not get the best team that way,” he said, calculating quickly.

But Landy had a different suggestion. “Suppose we take the top three masterpoint holders,” he proposed, “and let them each choose one player.”

Yes, that would be better, thought Murray. That way he could pick Kehela, and the rest would sort itself out.

Percival Edward (“Shorty”) Sheardown of Goderich, Ontario was a legend in Canadian bridge. After majoring in classics and languages in university, he became one of the leading players in the 1930s, winning the Chicago (now the Reisinger) in 1936. On returning from the Second World War, where he served six years as an intelligence officer, he resumed his career as a player and became proprietor of the St. Clair Bridge Club. (Sheardown died

in 1993 at the age of 82. He was inducted into the ACBL Hall of Fame in 2005.) Instead of the more usual team alignment of three pairs, the Canadians lined up in threesomes, with each player able to play with either of the other two. Shorty's partners were "the two Bruces". Bruce Elliott was a terrific card player, one of Canada's all-time greats despite having to overcome the restrictions of cerebral palsy. The prodigy of the team was Bruce Gowdy, who won the Spingold in 1949 at the age of nineteen. (At the time of writing, he is still the youngest player to win a major ACBL knockout.) Joining up with Murray and Kehela was Murray's old mentor, Harry Bork.

The first World Bridge Olympiad was held in Turin, Italy, running from April 27 to May 4, 1960. The location was the elegant, and elegantly named, *Societa Promotrice delle Belle Arti*. Twenty-nine teams showed up for the Open Series (there was also a Ladies' event), from twenty-five countries. Every member country of the World Bridge Federation was entitled to send a team. In addition there was provision for extra teams from countries with a large number of registered players. The formula, abandoned after the first year, awarded the United States four teams and Sweden two; everybody else had to make do with one.

The twenty-nine teams were seeded into groups of ten, ten and nine. Each group was to play a round robin of 40-board matches, scored at IMPs¹ and converted to victory points. A win by 6 or more IMPs earned the maximum four victory points. A lesser win, known as a "winning draw", earned three, while a dead tie scored two, a losing draw one, and a full loss zero. The two highest-ranking teams from each group qualified for the six-team round robin final.

Canada was in a ten-team group that also included the very strong British squad consisting of Reese, Schapiro, Gardener, Flint, Rose and Swimer. Also in the group was the American team identified as Vanderbilt 1: Crawford, Silodor, Kay, Stone, Becker and Rapée. These six had won the Vanderbilt in 1959, and then again the following year, without Becker and Rapée. These latter two teams had to be reckoned the favorites to qualify. Of the others, perhaps Switzerland, Brazil and Canada had the best chances.

Early on Canada met Great Britain. Murray and Kehela sat down to play the former world champions, Reese and Schapiro. The following deal was later written up by the bemused declarer.

Dealer South
Neither vul.

♠ 6
♥ K J 10 6 3
♦ A 7 4
♣ A Q J 4

♠ K 10 4
♥ A 9 4
♦ Q 8
♣ K 8 6 5 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kehela	Schapiro	Murray	Reese 1♣
pass	2♥	2♠	pass
4♠	5♣	all pass	

Opening lead: ♠3

Murray took the opening lead with the ace and shifted to the six of diamonds. Reese tried the queen; when it was covered by the king he won in dummy with the ace and cashed one high trump in dummy, on which Murray showed out.

At some point, declarer needs to take a position in hearts. If he draws all the trumps and then fineses hearts through East, he will be relying on a 3-2 break as well. The solution is to take a spade ruff in dummy first, to increase the winner count to ten. Then a simple heart finesse will be enough. As a preliminary move, Reese conceded a diamond to establish communications. The defense played another diamond, ruffed by declarer, who then trumped a spade in the dummy and played dummy's last two trumps, arriving at this position, with dummy on lead:

♠ —
 ♥ K J 10 6 3
 ♦ —
 ♣ —

♠ K
 ♥ A 9 4
 ♦ —
 ♣ K

Declarer had to both find the queen of hearts and get to his hand to draw West's last trump. The play so far suggested that East had length in hearts, so Reese chose to play him for the queen. It made no sense to cash the king of hearts, since if West had a singleton queen there would be no entry to draw his trump. So Reese played a heart to the nine, concluding a well-played hand. However, the deal turned out to be:

Dealer South
 Neither vul

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

Upon winning his singleton queen of hearts, Kehela forced out declarer's last trump and made his trump and long diamond for down three. At the other table Canada played in six clubs and made it.

Canada lost heavily on the following hand.[2](#)

Dealer East

Both vul.

Board 10

♠ A 9

♥ J 10 7 5

♦ Q 8 6 5 4

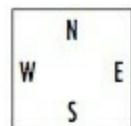
♣ J 6

♠ 8 7 4 2

♥ 3

♦ A 7 2

♣ A K 10 9 2



♠ K Q J 6 5 3

♥ A 6

♦ K 9 3

♣ 7 4

♠ 10

♥ K Q 9 8 4 2

♦ J 10

♣ Q 8 5 3

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Gardener	Murray	Rose	Kehela
		1♠	pass
2♣	pass	3♠	pass
4NT	pass	5♦	pass
6♠	all pass		

Rose made the slam by establishing dummy's clubs; 1430 to Great Britain. At the other table, Elliott and Sheardown faced some vigorous competition:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Elliott	Reese	Sheardown	Schapiro
		1♠	1NT
4♠	dbl	pass	5♥
pass	pass	dbl	all pass

The result was down three, 800 to Canada, for a swing of 6 IMPs (on the old scale) to Britain. This deal caused a great deal of bad feeling. Some of the players were suspicious of Reese and Schapiro's actions, feeling that they were too risky to have been made without illicit knowledge. Alan Truscott used this deal in 'The Past History' chapter of *The Great Bridge Scandal* as evidence that Reese and Schapiro signaled the number of hearts they held.

Some background information might be useful in understanding the bidding. European and British experts for the most part did not use the weak jump overcall favored by many of the Americans. Their jump overcalls were

intermediate or strong or, in the case of the Romans, two-suited. This approach left no bid for a weak hand with a long suit. Some experts were known to occasionally psyche a one notrump overcall with such a hand, and some partnerships had an explicit agreement. Playing “Gardener” (after Nico Gardener, who was playing at the other table), a one notrump overcall is one of two hands: either a normal one notrump overcall, 16-18 points and a balanced hand, or a weak hand with an escape suit. Responder can ask which it is by bidding two clubs. The convention was also known as the Comic Notrump Overcall or the *Sans Atout Comique*. Reese wrote about the convention and frequently played it with Schapiro, but according to Truscott it was not part of their announced methods at the time.

If you believe that Reese and Schapiro each knew how many hearts the other held, then the vulnerable one notrump overcall becomes less remarkable, whether it was ‘Gardener’ or not. Reese’s double might have been made in full knowledge that Schapiro would run, and perhaps the opponents would be inhibited from going on to five spades. And of course Schapiro’s rescue to five hearts becomes a marked move. If you don’t believe they had illegal knowledge, then perhaps the one notrump bid and double are simply arrogant, and the pull to five hearts desperate.

Reese, of course, was an institution in London and there are many stories about him. One has to do with a test of his legendary powers of concentration. An attractive young lady, wearing no clothes, was reportedly enlisted to walk around the table where Reese was playing, then sit down and watch. Schapiro was wagering against all comers that Reese would take no notice. Fifteen minutes went by, at which point the lady left and Schapiro collected his winnings. It’s plausible, I suppose, in the decadent world of London’s gentlemen’s clubs. There was some later speculation, perhaps on the part of some of the aggrieved losers, that Reese and Schapiro had staged the incident and split the proceeds.³

Great Britain went on to win the match by a wide margin, taking all four available victory points. Later, Canada’s encounter with the Crawford team provided Murray with one of his favorite stories. Murray held:

♠ J x x x ♥ K 10 9 x x ♦ x x ♣ x x

Kehela passed as dealer and Crawford opened one diamond. Intuiting that it was time to introduce a diversion, Murray doubled for takeout. Stone on his left redoubled, which came back to Murray who ran to one heart. Stone jumped to two notrump, raised to three. Kehela led the eight of hearts, and this was the full deal:

Dealer West

<table border="0"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>Q 10 x</td></tr> <tr><td>♥</td><td>A x</td></tr> <tr><td>♦</td><td>K J 10 x</td></tr> <tr><td>♣</td><td>A 10 9 x</td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td>♠</td><td>K x x</td></tr> <tr><td>♥</td><td>8 x x</td></tr> <tr><td>♦</td><td>Q x x</td></tr> <tr><td>♣</td><td>Q x x x</td></tr> </table>	♠	Q 10 x	♥	A x	♦	K J 10 x	♣	A 10 9 x			♠	K x x	♥	8 x x	♦	Q x x	♣	Q x x x		<table border="0"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>J x x x</td></tr> <tr><td>♥</td><td>K 10 9 x x</td></tr> <tr><td>♦</td><td>x x</td></tr> <tr><td>♣</td><td>x x</td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td>♠</td><td>A x x</td></tr> <tr><td>♥</td><td>Q J x</td></tr> <tr><td>♦</td><td>A 9 x x</td></tr> <tr><td>♣</td><td>K J x</td></tr> </table>	♠	J x x x	♥	K 10 9 x x	♦	x x	♣	x x			♠	A x x	♥	Q J x	♦	A 9 x x	♣	K J x
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♣	K J x																																					

Dummy played low and Murray inserted the nine, losing to declarer's jack. Stone crossed to dummy and took a finesse through Murray. Kehela won the trick with the queen that he wasn't supposed to have and played another heart to dummy's ace. Stone then took another finesse through Murray. Kehela produced a second queen that he couldn't possibly have. A third heart allowed Murray to cash out the suit, whereupon Stone started screaming "This idiot. This moron. Who would ever dream that anyone would make such an ignorant bid?" At this point, Murray tells us, the whole room rose up and started chanting, "Stone go home. Stone go home."

I have come to accept that on occasion Eric uses hyperbole as a humorous, vibrant way to deliver the essential truth of a matter, and it really is of no import if somewhat less than the entire room rose up to ask Stone to leave. Certainly Stone was an object of widespread resentment, for being from a country granted four teams, for having accused some members of the Italian team of cheating in Lake Como in 1958, and now for his histrionics.

Canada defeated the Crawford team and was in contention for a playoff spot. Great Britain had run away with first place in their group, remarkably

taking every single available victory point, with full wins against all nine of their adversaries. Second place was up for grabs, and for Canada it rested on their performance against Switzerland, led by the great Jean Besse. Switzerland triumphed, and the Crawford team took the second qualifying position. The final scores were:

Great Britain	36
U.S. Vanderbilt 1	24
Canada	21

Canada officially finished seventh overall. Kehela always wanted to get away as soon as possible after losing. (He and Eric left the summer nationals in Los Angeles so quickly one year that they missed out on being congratulated on their Life Master Pairs victory; a recount had put them 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ matchpoints ahead of Jimmy Cayne and Chuck Burger.) Murray stayed and watched the finals, securing a front-row seat on occasion by volunteering to be a recorder. The finals were run as a round robin of 60-board matches scored on the same victory point scale as the preliminary round. Great Britain and France ran neck and neck. Going into the last round they were in a dead tie for victory points. Britain built a big lead against their American opponents, the team designated as “Spingold 2”, and France performed strongly against Italy. The conditions called for ties to be broken by IMP quotient, so every IMP was potentially crucial. In the last 20-board set, the British lead dwindled and they finished with a winning draw. The French, whose match was delayed about two hours by Bridge-O-Rama problems, were oblivious to the British result and fought for every IMP, finishing with a resounding 109-52 win to take the title.



“We were always down, having to fight our way back.” I was back at Sami’s apartment, listening to him recall past battles. “The Pittsburgh trials were the most dramatic. You remember how they were in two stages, and we nearly

didn't make it out of the qualifying? It seems it was always like that, never easy." I asked Sami what Eric was like when things were going badly.

"He has such concentration," Sami said. "A tremendous will to win. He takes losing almost personally — an affront. I'm not like that. Do you know what happened in the 1964 trials?" I shook my head. "You have no record of the 1964 trials? Let me see if I can remedy that." Sami disappeared and returned a few minutes later with a stack of *Kibitzers*. A young George Mittelman and Dianna Gordon are on the top cover, fresh from their Mixed Pairs gold medal in Biarritz. "These are irreplaceable," says Sami, who then gives me the customary admonition to guard them with my life. We leaf through them as Sami tells me about the trials to pick a Canadian team for the second Bridge Olympiad, in New York, 1964. "We played Cohen and Gold in the last round, and we weren't necessarily in even if we won. We needed help from one of the pairs that wasn't going to make it."

Murray and Kehela survived the trials, qualifying to play for Canada along with Ralph Cohen, Sam Gold, Ron Forbes and Jack Howell. The site was the Americana Hotel in New York, and play started on Friday the first of May, 1964. Twenty-nine countries from all parts of the world took part in the Open division. In these dreary times of English-language hegemony, I find Tannah Hirsch's observation amusing:

The Brazilians, who spoke no English, and the Australians, who spoke no Portuguese, discussed their conventions in Hungarian! Chile and Israel exchanged pleasantries in German.

In times past, the language of world diplomacy was French, and Murray was eager to demonstrate his command of Canada's other official language. As Al Lando, nonplaying captain for the Canadian side, observed in his tournament report:

One of the highlights of the tournament was the Murray Two Diamond Convention. Before each match the players were allowed five minutes to discuss the conventions used by their opponents in order to obtain some explanation. Eric had practiced for weeks

explaining the Murray Convention in French and every opponent was subjected to a five minute French narrative before play could begin. There were those who suggested that he was carrying things a bit too far when he insisted on explaining it in French to Britain, the U.S. and Australia. However it has become quite an effective device in the Murray-Kehela bidding mechanism — the bid was used five times and resulted in only three bidding misunderstandings. Most important was the fact that they played no three-nothing diamond fits, a notable improvement on some of their previous experiences.

Conditions called for a round robin of 18-board matches, scored at IMPs and converted to victory points. Twenty-nine countries meant twenty-nine rounds. They were spread over ten days, with two afternoon matches and one in the evening. The four top teams would then meet in one-day, 60-board semifinal matches. The winners would proceed to the finals while the losers played off for the bronze medal.

As anyone who has taken part in a world tournament will suspect, not everything went smoothly. Lando's report continued:

As is the case with most teams in just about every field of endeavour, we had a few minor problems involving two or three of the players. This would never do! I immediately proceeded to introduce several new problems and saw to it that they involved all the players. By the time the Olympiad rolled around, not only did they hate me, but they also hated their partners, wives, children, dogs and, I might add, the game of bridge.

The event had its lighter moments although I must admit that I was not particularly amused at all times. By the third day I was convinced that the World Bridge Federation had staged the whole affair in order to provide me with an ulcer and that Murray was part of the conspiracy.

Although I had little enough to do, one of my duties was to see that we had a four man team ready to start each match. Murray,

who played all but two sessions, had acquired a habit of disappearing at precisely five minutes before each session was scheduled to start. As a result, you could set your watch by the sight of me, in a state of panic, running in and out of all the washrooms enquiring whether anyone had seen a huge blonde man with a cigar.

Murray and Kehela were notorious for their cigars. Nowadays, bridge tournaments, like chess tournaments, are mostly smoke-free, at least in North America. But in the sixties, smoke was an occupational hazard for the tournament bridge player, and there was much acrimonious conflict between smokers who wanted to pursue their habit and non-smokers who wanted to breathe clean air. Undoubtedly, there was an aspect of gamesmanship, too. The whole ritual of smoking can be used to contest ‘ownership of the table’. Several minutes can be spent retrieving a cigar box, selecting a cigar, unwrapping it, inspecting it visually, tactiley and nasally, and finally cutting it. Then one has to procure a match and strike it before setting about lighting the cigar properly, which requires rotating it in one’s fingers while puffing repeatedly. Once the cigar has been satisfactorily lit, which may take several attempts, one may enjoy the first full inhalation, savoring the taste before blowing smoke out over the table and returning to the task of considering the bridge problem.

Europeans have always been more inured to smoking at the bridge table than North Americans. One story, recounted in a tournament bulletin, goes like this:

Back in the 1964 Olympiad, Murray and Kehela were about to start a match against France. Just before play was to begin, Murray withdrew one of his big black stogies from an inside pocket, turned to his RHO and asked, “Do you mind, sir?”

“Mais non, monsieur,” replied the Frenchman.

Then Murray turned to his LHO, repeated the query and received the same reply.

Kehela was next. He produced an equally formidable cigar, asked both opponents in turn whether they objected, and both again said they did not.

Murray and Kehela stared at each other, muttered, “It’s no use,” and returned the cigars to whence they came, and got on with the match.

As the round robin progressed, three teams were playing well and looked likely to qualify: Italy, Great Britain and the United States. After seven of the ten days, Canada was well back. But then they went on a streak, putting together win after win. By the time the twenty-ninth and final round came around, the top three had qualified and Canada and Switzerland were battling for the last playoff spot. In the last match, the exhausted, four-man Swiss team faltered while Canada took six out of seven victory points from the United States, clinching the final spot. The final standings were:

1.	Great Britain	160
2.	Italy	153
3.	United States	147
4.	Canada	145
5.	Switzerland	140
6.	Australia	125

The semifinal pairings were decided by lot: Canada met the U.S., while Britain played Italy. Canada got off to a slow start in the 60-board match, being penalized 5 IMPs for lateness. (Murray had the start time wrong, breezing into the playing area as Kehela was frantically making out a convention card with Ralph Cohen. Kehela recalls, with a touch of asperity: “Murray would always come in at the last minute. He never shuffled any boards. He never looked at the opponents’ convention card — he would just ask me ‘Is there anything I should know about?’” (i.e. it was Kehela’s responsibility to notice anything unusual that the opponents were playing, prepare a defense, and let Eric know.) Early on came this board:

Dealer East

Both vul.

♠ Q 10 8 6

♥ Q 8 4

♦ J 10 7 3

♣ 7 3

♠ J 9 7

♥ A 6 5 3 2

♦ Q 9

♣ 10 9 2



♠ A 5 4 2

♥ —

♦ A K 8 6 5 4

♣ Q J 8

♠ K 3

♥ K J 10 9 7

♦ 2

♣ A K 6 5 4

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Jordan	Murray	Robinson	Kehela
		1♦	1♥
pass dbl	2♥ all pass	dbl	4♥

Jordan's queen of diamonds held the first trick, and he continued with the nine, covered by the ten and king. Kehela ruffed and attacked spades, leading the king. When that held, he continued with a spade to the ten and ace. Robinson, reluctant to play either the ace or a low diamond, switched to a club. That was all Kehela needed. He took the ace and king of clubs and ruffed a club. He then cashed the queen of spades, shedding a club, and arrived at the following position:

<table border="0"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>♥</td><td>Q 4</td></tr> <tr><td>♦</td><td>J 7</td></tr> <tr><td>♣</td><td>—</td></tr> <tr><td>♠</td><td>—</td></tr> <tr><td>♥</td><td>A 6 5 3 2</td></tr> <tr><td>♦</td><td>—</td></tr> <tr><td>♣</td><td>—</td></tr> </table>	♠	8	♥	Q 4	♦	J 7	♣	—	♠	—	♥	A 6 5 3 2	♦	—	♣	—	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		<table border="0"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>♥</td><td>—</td></tr> <tr><td>♦</td><td>A 8 5 4</td></tr> <tr><td>♣</td><td>—</td></tr> <tr><td>♠</td><td>—</td></tr> <tr><td>♥</td><td>K J 10 9</td></tr> <tr><td>♦</td><td>—</td></tr> <tr><td>♣</td><td>6</td></tr> </table>	♠	5	♥	—	♦	A 8 5 4	♣	—	♠	—	♥	K J 10 9	♦	—	♣	6
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Kehela led the eight of spades and ruffed it, and Jordan could only make his ace of trumps. That was +790. Canada bought the deal for four diamonds in the Open Room, down two vulnerable, so the pickup was 11 IMPs.

Murray tried a small competitive maneuver on board 29. With both sides vulnerable, Jordan dealt and opened one diamond, and Murray held

♠ A Q J 6 ♥ J 10 6 3 2 ♦ J ♣ J 8 5

Most players would pass, surely, and perhaps Murray would as well, some other time. At this particular time, he said double. Robinson redoubled, Kehela bid one spade, and Jordan passed. Not content to leave well enough alone, Murray raised to two spades. This created an awkward situation for the Americans. Robinson raised to three diamonds. Jordan had some extra values, but with three little spades had no obvious place to go, and the U.S. rested in three diamonds. This was the deal:

Dealer North

Both vul.

♠ 8 3 2
♥ A 8 7
♦ A Q 4 2
♣ A 3 2

♠ 10 9 7 5
♥ K Q 9
♦ 10 9 7 6
♣ 10 7

N
W E
S

♠ A Q J 6
♥ J 10 6 3 2
♦ J
♣ J 8 5

♠ K 4
♥ 5 4
♦ K 8 5 3
♣ K Q 9 6 4

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kehela	Jordan	Murray	Robinson
	1♦	dbl	re dbl
1♠	pass	2♠	3♦
all pass			

Three diamonds made with an overtrick. In the Open Room, Cohen and Gold had an unobstructed sequence to three notrump, making four for a win of 11 IMPs.

It had been a gallant run by the Canadian team but they fell short, losing to the United States by the score of 133-117. That set up a U.S.-Italy final while Canada and Great Britain played off for the bronze medal. Here is a deal from that match:

Dealer North

E-W vul.

Board 25

♠ A Q 9 3

♥ Q

♦ A 9 6 5

♣ K 10 8 5

♠ J 8 7 5

♥ A 10 9 4 3

♦ Q 2

♣ 7 2



♠ 6

♥ K J 5 2

♦ 10 8 7 4 3

♣ Q J 3

♠ K 10 4 2

♥ 8 7 6

♦ K J

♣ A 9 6 4

WEST

Konstam

pass

all pass

NORTH

Murray

1♦

3♠

EAST

Tarlo

pass

pass

SOUTH

Kehela

1♠

4♠

Opening lead: ♣7

Kehela took East's jack with the ace and led a heart. West went in with the ace to play another club, taken by dummy's king. Now Kehela played a diamond to the king, the jack of diamonds to the queen and ace, and a small diamond ruffed with the deuce, overruffed by the five. Konstam was now on lead in this position:

	♠ A Q 9 3	
	♥ —	
	♦ 9	
	♣ 10 8	
♠ J 8 7		♠ 6
♥ 10 9 4 3		♥ K J 5
♦ —		♦ 10 8
♣ —		♣ Q
	N	
	W E	
	S	
	♠ K 10 4	
	♥ 8 7	
	♦ —	
	♣ 9 6	

It takes a little bit of study to see how a heart at this point defeats the contract. If declarer sets up his club trick, a third round of hearts leaves declarer with no way to draw the jack of spades. At the table, West in the above position played the eight of spades. Kehela was then able to win the ten, concede a club, ruff the diamond return with the king and claim, drawing trumps. The bidding at the other table was:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Cohen	Reese	Gold	Schapiro
	1♦	pass	3♠
pass	4♠	all pass	

The explanation for the rather odd bidding is that Reese and Schapiro were playing the Little Major: one diamond showed either spades or a strong notrump; three spades was a limit raise. (Tannah Hirsch reported that a New York waiter was familiar with the methods, informing patrons: “We have a Little Major kitchen here. Order pastrami, and you get a corned beef sandwich.”)

The defense started with ace and another heart, ruffed. South came to his hand with the ace of clubs, East splitting with the queen, and ruffed another

heart. The hand can now be made by setting up the club trick, but declarer drew two rounds of trumps and had to go one down.

Great Britain defeated Canada 108-97.

1 One IMP in the pre-1961 scale is worth about two present-day ones.

2 A column by B.J. Becker gives the dealer as North.

3 This story has acquired a life of its own. Sami later told me what actually happened, which is somewhat less entertaining. No money changed hands, and the young woman sat quietly at Reese's side for maybe five minutes, properly clothed from the waist down.

CHAPTER 11

TEAM CANADA AND THE SPINGOLD TROPHY



In the summer of 1964, Canadians were in an uncharacteristically upbeat mood. The Stanley Cup was firmly in the hands of the nation's two hockey powerhouses, the Toronto Maple Leafs and the Montreal Canadiens. E. P. Taylor's splendid three-year-old thoroughbred, Northern Dancer, had just swept the Kentucky Derby, Preakness and Queen's Plate. Parliament was absorbed with Prime Minister Pearson's desire to find a new flag, one that could be Canada's own, replacing the borrowed Union Jack and Red Ensign.

In the world of contract bridge, Canada's team had done the country proud in New York, proving worthy competitors to, if not quite the equals of, the big three of Italy, the United States and Great Britain. Eric Murray and Sami Kehela were gaining a reputation as one of the world's most formidable pairs. And for the very first time, America's Summer Nationals were coming north of the border, to Toronto's Royal York Hotel.

The origins of this annual summer event can be traced back to 1930, when the victors were Josephine and Ely Culbertson, Theodore Lightner and Waldemar von Zedtwitz. In 1938 it became the Spingold Master Knockout Teams, named in honor of Nathan Spingold, patron of the arts, motion-picture executive and passionate bridge player. It remains to this day one of the most coveted titles in bridge.

Canadians were hoping their own could snatch some silverware from the established U.S. stars. They had a near miss when Percy Sheardown and Bruce Elliott, leading with a round to go in the prestigious Life Master Pairs, were caught at the wire by B.J. Becker and Dorothy Hayden. Still, a second-place finish in such an event was something the country could feel good about. Could there be more good news in the premier event, the teams of four?

The 1964 competition saw an entry of 108 teams, a new record. The format was double knockout: teams were eliminated on their second loss. The first

three rounds would be evening affairs, beginning Wednesday, July 29. After that, play would be afternoons and evenings until a winner was decided.

There had been some discussion about Murray and Kehela playing on a team with Kaplan-Kay and Jordan-Robinson. That would have been a terrific team, but Sami thought that they should play on a Canadian team for the first Nationals on Canadian soil. "Besides," he told me, "we played regularly with Sheardown and Elliott, and they were great teammates." Canada had other hopes besides the foursome of Murray, Kehela, Sheardown and Elliott. There were several strong Canadian teams, and Bruce Gowdy's team could be counted as Canadian: his teammates Ray Jotcham, Fred Hoffer and Marvin Altman were all from Montreal, even if Altman had left for Connecticut.

The Murray team won their first seven matches, including a win over Gowdy by 12 IMPs. The eighth-round match between the two undefeated teams, Murray and Crawford, was shown on Vugraph, with Murray prevailing by 7 IMPs. This earned them a bye into the semifinals, while six once-defeated teams fought it out for the other three berths.

The semifinals were on Monday. Murray's opponents were the team led by Dan Rotman (Charles Peres, Monroe Ingberman, Charles Coon, E. J. Smith Jr. and Charles Burger). In the following deal, Murray faced his old partner, Charles Coon.

Dealer North
N-S vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Rotman	Murray	Coon	Kehela
	pass	2♦	pass
pass	dbl	pass	2♠
dbl	all pass		

Opening lead: ♥Q

Kehela won the opening lead in dummy to avoid having the ace ruffed later. He followed with a low club towards his hand. Unsure of the position, Coon went in with the ace and shifted to the jack of diamonds. Kehela decided that it was unlikely Coon would do this holding the king, which in any case figured to be part of West's double. So Kehela played low, and took the king with the ace. He then unblocked the queen of clubs and led the queen of spades from hand. West took the ace and led a heart for his partner to ruff. The ten of diamonds came back, covered and ruffed. But the defense could make only one more trump trick, as declarer could ruff one losing diamond and pitch the other on the king of clubs. Making two spades doubled, +670, for an 11-IMP pickup against three diamonds by East down three in the other room. Murray cruised to a 119-IMP victory.

Meanwhile, the other semifinal was nearing a dramatic finish. Bruce Gowdy's team led by 12 IMPs with one board to go against the defending team of Clifford Russell, Harry Harkavy, Edith Kemp, Albert Weiss and Waldemar von Zedtwitz. Twelve IMPs is a large amount to be gained in any one deal, but as the Bridge-O-Rama crowd watched excitedly, the last deal was explosive.

Dealer South
Both vul.

♠ A 4 2
♥ Q 5
♦ A Q 10 6
♣ 10 8 6 3

♠ K 9 8 3
♥ 7 4
♦ K 7 4
♣ J 9 7 4



♠ J 6 5
♥ A 2
♦ J 9 8 5 3 2
♣ Q 2

♠ Q 10 7
♥ K J 10 9 8 6 3
♦ —
♣ A K 5

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Jotcham	Kemp	Gowdy	von Zedtwitz
			1♥
pass	2♦	pass	2♥
pass	2♠	pass	3♣
pass	3♥	pass	6♥
all pass			

The audience — in fact everyone but the players — knew that the match had come down to this deal. The Canadians had stopped in game in the other room, so if von Zedtwitz could make his audacious slam, his team would pick up 13 to win by a single IMP. While Jotcham pondered his lead, the Vugraph audience speculated. Was there any way to make the slam? What if Jotcham led a diamond? Then declarer might finesse the queen. He could then throw a club and a spade on the two diamonds, and concede the ace of trumps. On any return but a spade, he could cash the ace and king of clubs and run the trumps, arriving at this position:

<table border="0"> <tr><td>♠ A 4</td></tr> <tr><td>♥ —</td></tr> <tr><td>♦ 10</td></tr> <tr><td>♣ 10</td></tr> </table> <table border="0"> <tr><td>♠ K 9</td></tr> <tr><td>♥ —</td></tr> <tr><td>♦ —</td></tr> <tr><td>♣ J 9</td></tr> </table>	♠ A 4	♥ —	♦ 10	♣ 10	♠ K 9	♥ —	♦ —	♣ J 9		<table border="0"> <tr><td>♠ J 6 5</td></tr> <tr><td>♥ —</td></tr> <tr><td>♦ J</td></tr> <tr><td>♣ —</td></tr> </table> <table border="0"> <tr><td>♠ Q 10</td></tr> <tr><td>♥ 8 6</td></tr> <tr><td>♦ —</td></tr> <tr><td>♣ —</td></tr> </table>	♠ J 6 5	♥ —	♦ J	♣ —	♠ Q 10	♥ 8 6	♦ —	♣ —
♠ A 4																		
♥ —																		
♦ 10																		
♣ 10																		
♠ K 9																		
♥ —																		
♦ —																		
♣ J 9																		
♠ J 6 5																		
♥ —																		
♦ J																		
♣ —																		
♠ Q 10																		
♥ 8 6																		
♦ —																		
♣ —																		

On the next-to-last heart, West would throw a club. Declarer would have a decision to make. He would need West to hold the king of spades and one of the minor-suit jacks (West would have gotten rid of the king of diamonds, the card he was known to hold). If declarer read the ending correctly, he would throw the ten of diamonds from dummy. Then the last heart would squeeze West.

At last the monitor picked up the board's nine of spades, indicating that that had been Jotcham's opening lead. This put a new light on things. Von Zedtwitz played low from dummy and took East's jack with the queen. He then cashed the ace of clubs and played a heart to dummy's queen and Gowdy's ace. Gowdy returned the six of spades, covered by the seven and eight and won by dummy's ace. Now von Zedtwitz played very craftily. Abandoning the ace of diamonds in dummy, he proceeded to run the heart suit, hoping for a discarding error. Gowdy, East, made two helpful discards: the nine of diamonds, suggesting an even number, and the queen of clubs, making it clear that West had to look after clubs. Jotcham could see that there was no hope if declarer had a diamond, so he threw all of his, coming down to the good eight of spades and the jack-spot of clubs. Von Zedtwitz then cut his losses by endplaying West with the eight of spades, for one down.

So for the first time in its history, the Spingold Trophy would leave the United States. It was just a matter of which Canadian team would win it, a matter to be decided Tuesday. Another reward for Canada: since coming either first or second in the Spingold meant qualification for the trials to select North America's Bermuda Bowl team, all eight players in the finals were entitled to go to the trials in Dallas.

In the final, by a curious coincidence, Murray was once again in the passout chair after a weak two diamond bid. This time he held, as East:

♠ Q 9 7 5 2 ♥ A Q J 10 5 ♦ Q 8 2 ♣ —

South's opening bid of two diamonds was followed by two passes. Some action was clearly called for, but what? A bid of either major risked losing a fit in the other, and a cuebid of three diamonds was surely an overbid. Murray settled on a double. While this action would not meet general expert approval today, takeout doubles for Murray and Kehela have always been much more about unbid majors than unbid minors. And then everybody passed! This was the deal:

Dealer South		♠ A J 8 6
Both vul.		♥ 9 8 4
Board 10		♦ —
		♣ K 9 7 6 3 2
♠ K 4		♠ Q 9 7 5 2
♥ K 3 2		♥ A Q J 10 5
♦ A 10 6 5		♦ Q 8 2
♣ J 10 5 4	N W E S	♣ —
		♠ 10 3
		♥ 7 6
		♦ K J 9 7 4 3
		♣ A Q 8

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kehela	Gowdy	Murray	Jotcham 2♦
pass	pass	dbl	all pass

Kehela led a club, ruffed by Murray. The ace of hearts was followed by a heart to the king and another club ruff. Declarer ruffed the next heart and led the king of trumps, pinning East's queen. Kehela took the ace of trumps and shifted to the king of spades, later promoting his six of trumps on a third round of spades for three down, +800. This was worth 12 IMPs when Sheardown and Elliott conceded 200 in four clubs doubled in the other room. Murray and Co. were now up 25-15 and led from that point on, winning the 36-board match by 36 IMPs. The Spingold Trophy was theirs.

I had noticed in my research that Murray and Kehela often made takeout doubles with minimal, or even non-existent, support for an unbid suit. I asked Sami if it always worked as well as it had here.

“No,” he said, laughing. “Murray usually had support for unbid majors, but not necessarily for unbid minors. We played the old style where an overcall tended to deny a good opening bid. Maybe it would be harder to bid that way today, when people are so active — like one diamond, double, three diamonds on a queen. It was easier to extricate ourselves back then. We played responsive doubles, for the minors, after one of a major, double and a raise to two. We played negative doubles after a one spade overcall of one of a minor, or a two spade overcall of one of a minor, or one diamond, two clubs — like B.J. Becker.”

It may seem strange, looking from today’s viewpoint, but in the sixties some partnerships eased into negative doubles gradually. The early Blue Club, for example, employed negative doubles only after a one spade overcall of one diamond.

In 1979, the *Dorbitzer*¹, an eight-page insert in the *Kibitzer*, ran back-to-back interviews with Kehela and Murray.

DOR: Did you have a bridge idol in your youth?

SRK: Yes, in my formative years I would have to say it was Terence Reese.

On Monday May 24, 1965, the *New York Times* carried front-page coverage of the accusations of cheating directed at Terrence Reese and Boris Schapiro of Great Britain. The pair, for years considered possibly the best in the world, stood accused of illegally communicating to each other the number of hearts held, by means of finger signals, at the World Championships in Buenos Aires.

The accusations rocked the bridge world. Bridge had not been front-page news since Culbertson's day; the Buenos Aires affair had all the salacious ingredients a newspaperman could want. The *Bridge World* ran two full articles on the scandal; in contrast, Kenneth Konstam for *Bridge Magazine* maintained a dignified silence. Kehela was in Buenos Aires as deputy captain and coach of the North American team, and wrote the following for the August, 1965 *Kibitzer*.

THE AFFAIR

The charges against Terence Reese and Boris Schapiro are being investigated in England by a tribunal headed by the Conservative M.P. Sir John Foster, his assistant, and two "assessors" whose duty it is to examine the evidence provided by the hand-records. It is expected that a verdict will be reached sometime in August.²

The extraordinary publicity that has accompanied the case has rendered its history familiar to most readers. Though there appears to be a strong case against the British pair, I for one do not consider it to be conclusive. The Italians are of the same persuasion, and significantly enough, when the World Bridge Federation met in Buenos Aires to consider the charges, their captain abstained from voting.

Other evidence aside, I doubt that the charges will be borne out by an examination of the hands. Reese and Schapiro did not perform any magic with the heart suit, nor were their general results of a caliber to indicate any evidence of collusion. On the other hand, consider a couple of examples where they would certainly have done better if they had known each other's heart holding.

Britain vs. North America.

Deal No. 74.

Both Sides Vul., Dealer East

♠ 1062		
♥ AQ83		
♦ 732		
♣ AJ9		
♠ A74		♠ K53
♥ J9		♥ 10652
♦ KJ10		♦ A984
♣ K10763		♣ 52
	■	
♠ QJ98		
♥ K74		
♦ Q65		
♣ Q84		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Reese	Becker	Schapiro	<i>Mrs. Hayden</i>
		pass	pass

1♣ pass 1♥ all pass

This inelegant contract was two down. West's pass is questionable in any circumstance, and is ludicrous if East is "known" to have only four hearts. For his part, East would have scarcely bid the suit if he "knew" that his partner had only two cards in it.

The clue on the next hand is perhaps even more revealing. It is from Britain's match against Italy.

Both Sides Vul., Dealer South

		♠ 8765	
		♥ K5	
		♦ 8542	
		♣ A105	
♠ 10			♠ A92
♥ A82			♥ 93
♦ AQ97			♦ KJ1063
♣ J8764			♣ KQ3
	■		
		♠ KQJ43	
		♥ QJ10764	
		♦ —	
		♣ 92	

In the Open Room the bidding was keenly contested:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Avarelli	Rose	Belladonna	Gray
			1♠
dbl	3♠	4♠	pass
5♣	pass	pass	5♠
pass	pass	5NT	pass
6♦	all pass		

A heart lead defeats the contract, but North led a spade. Unfortunately for Avarelli, however, his partner, at a crucial stage, played a card from dummy before it was called, and this resulted in a one-trick set.

In the Closed Room the bidding was:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Reese	Forquet	Schapiro	Garozzo
			1♠
pass	2♠	pass	4♠
all pass			

Declarer made ten tricks for a gain to Italy of 11 IMPs, notwithstanding the calamity in the other room. Reese and Schapiro, favorites to make six diamonds, were never in the bidding.

I happened to be present at the conclusion of the session when scores were being compared, and in discussing the hand Reese defended his first-round pass on the grounds that he did not like making takeout doubles of one spade on marginal hands unless he had attractive heart support, for under the stress of competition, one's partner was often forced to introduce a shaky four-card suit at an uncomfortable level. It seems to me that if Reese had known — as it is alleged — that his partner had only two hearts and therefore would not respond in that suit, he would have had no qualms about doubling, for in all other respects his hand was well suited for immediate action.

Irrespective of its official disposition, the affair in Buenos Aires is likely to remain unresolved for some time, perhaps forever.

Kehela appeared as a witness for the defense in the Foster inquiry. His testimony merited a chapter in each of the two compelling books written about the affair: *Story of an Accusation* by Terrence Reese and *The Great Bridge Scandal*, by Alan Truscott.

In the summer of 2005, a story was broken more or less simultaneously by the *Daily Telegraph* and the *IBPA Bulletin*. David Rex-Taylor, a former

publisher of Reese's books, reported that Reese had told him the truth behind the Buenos Aires affair, on condition that he not release it until both Reese and Schapiro were dead, and no earlier than 2005. The story was — and I had heard similar rumors years before in Toronto — that Reese and Schapiro did indeed send the signals about the heart suit, but didn't receive them! It had been intended as a stunt to show how easy it was to cheat in a World Championship, and was to be written up by Reese in a book shortly afterward.

Murray, Kehela, Sheardown and Elliott, having won the 1964 Spingold, went to Chicago the following summer to defend their title. One hundred and twenty-eight teams entered the event, a new record. Following a new format, the field was divided into eight 16-team sections for a three-session qualifying round. Each section played a round robin of 6-board matches, scored at IMPs and converted to victory points. The top four teams in each section proceeded to the single knockout phase. Matches were 64 boards until the semifinals and finals, which were 72. As they had in 1964, Murray and Co. rolled along, undefeated. Here is a deal from one of the earlier rounds. How would you play four spades on the lead of the king of hearts?

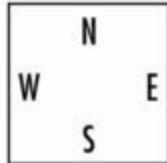
♠ Q 9 6 2
♥ A 10 5 4 3
♦ 8 2
♣ K Q

♠ A J 10 8 7 5
♥ 7
♦ A J 9
♣ 9 6 2

Kehela took the first trick with the ace of hearts and carefully played the king of clubs, going after the necessary two minor suit ruffs in dummy. Barring a wildly unlikely minor-suit ruff, this guarantees the contract. The full deal was:

♠ Q 9 6 2
 ♥ A 10 5 4 3
 ♦ 8 2
 ♣ K Q

♠ K 4 3
 ♥ K Q J 9 6
 ♦ K 10 5
 ♣ 10 5



♠ —
 ♥ 8 2
 ♦ Q 7 6 4 3
 ♣ A J 8 7 4 3

♠ A J 10 8 7 5
 ♥ 7
 ♦ A J 9
 ♣ 9 6 2

If you carelessly play a trump from dummy at Trick 2, as happened at the other table, you go down. When West gains the lead in diamonds, he can play trumps, limiting dummy to one ruff.

In the semifinal, the Canadians met the team of Schenken, Leventritt, Mathe, Hamman, Sheinwold and Weiss. Take Murray's seat for this ambitious slam:

Dealer North
E-W vul.

♠ A 4
♥ Q 5 3
♦ A 10 6 5
♣ K Q 6 4

♠ K 7 6 5
♥ A 9 8
♦ 2
♣ A J 8 7 5

Kehela

1♦
2NT
5♣
pass

Murray

2♣
3♠
6♣

Opening lead: ♥2

Plan the play.

The obvious problem is to avoid two heart losers. If the lead is from the king, it would be convenient to go up with the queen in dummy. It is more likely, though, that the lead is from the jack or ten. In that case, it is necessary to play low, and take a later finesse against West's honor.

Suppose we win the ace of hearts in hand. We now need to deal with the two losing spades in hand. Assuming the hearts play for one loser, all will be well if trumps are 2-2, so we might play king of clubs and a club to the jack. If trumps turn out to be 3-1, we then play three rounds of spades, ruffing the third. We follow with the ace of diamonds and a diamond ruff to get back to hand to ruff the fourth spade. Another diamond ruff brings us back to hand to draw the last trump. The problem now is that we have no more trumps. When we go to build a second heart trick, the defense may have a diamond or spade winner to cash.

Foreseeing these difficulties, Murray made the brave play of taking East's ten of hearts with the ace at Trick 1 and immediately returning the eight of

hearts, running it when West played low. East won with the king and returned a third heart to dummy's queen. Now Murray cashed one high trump from dummy and played three rounds of spades, ruffing low. He then took the ace of diamonds, ruffed a diamond and claimed. The full deal was:

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

How would you play the slam on the lead of the ten of trumps?

The best single-dummy line is to reverse the dummy, ruffing diamonds in hand, and play for the king of hearts onside. Start by winning the ace of trumps in hand. Play a diamond to the ace and ruff a diamond. Now lead a heart up. Suppose West goes in with the king and plays another heart. Win that with the queen and take the slight risk of ruffing a third round of diamonds with the eight. If that holds, you can cross to the ace of spades, ruff the last diamond with the jack, draw trumps and claim.

At double dummy, declarer can succeed on the actual layout against any lead, by means of a curious squeeze-endplay against East. Check it out.

At the half, the Canadians led by a single IMP. The third quarter saw that lead swell to 57, and in the end they prevailed by 50. Their opponents in the final were Kaplan-Kay and Hayden-Becker, who had beaten Al Roth's team. The match was shown on Bridge-O-Rama to a packed hall of spectators. Early on, Murray had to play a difficult slam:

Dealer North

Both vul.

♠ 8
♥ A K 2
♦ K Q 9 8 4 2
♣ A K 8

♠ J 7 4
♥ 9 7 4 3
♦ J 7 6 5
♣ 9 4



♠ Q 9 6 3
♥ 10
♦ A 10 3
♣ Q J 10 5 3

♠ A K 10 5 2
♥ Q J 8 6 5
♦ —
♣ 7 6 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	Kehela		Murray
	1♦	pass	1♠
pass	3♣	pass	3♥
pass	3NT	pass	4♥
pass	6♥	all pass	

Opening lead: ♣9

Murray took the king in dummy and led the king of diamonds, ruffing East's ace. He then played the two top spades and ruffed a spade low in dummy, leading to (approximately) this position:

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

Murray now cashed the ace of clubs and queen of diamonds (throwing a club), and ruffed a diamond in hand. Another spade was ruffed with the king, a diamond ruffed with the jack, and the last spade ruffed with the ace. He still had the queen of hearts in hand for his twelfth trick. The contract in the other room was three notrump making four, so that was 13 IMPs to the Canadians. They were leading 37-12 when this board came up:

Dealer South

E-W vul.

Board 10

♠ Q 9 7 2

♥ J 6

♦ Q

♣ A K Q 10 9 8

♠ A 4 3

♥ A Q 9 8 3

♦ A 7 6

♣ 6 3

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	Murray		Kehela
pass	2♣	pass	1♥
pass	3♠	pass	2NT
all pass			3NT

Opening lead: ♦5

Dummy's queen of diamonds wins the first trick. Plan the play.

It is dangerous to play clubs from the top, because if the jack does not fall, there is no sure entry back to the table for the rest of the clubs. A better idea is to play a low club right away; in fact, that would guarantee the contract. However, it is likely to give up at least one IMP in overtricks, and it is not unknown for matches to be decided by a single IMP. Kehela found a pragmatic line. He led the jack of hearts to Trick 2. When East failed to produce the king, Kehela overtook with the ace and played a club to the eight. East was able to win the trick with the jack, but nine tricks were now assured. (Another good line is to play a spade to the ace at Trick 2, followed by a club finesse.) Playing clubs safely turned out to be necessary when the full deal was:

♠ Q 9 7 2 ♥ J 6 ♦ Q ♣ A K Q 10 9 8 ♠ 10 8 5 ♥ K 10 2 ♦ K 10 9 5 3 2 ♣ 7	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ K J 6 ♥ 7 5 4 ♦ J 8 4 ♣ J 5 4 2 ♠ A 4 3 ♥ A Q 9 8 3 ♦ A 7 6 ♣ 6 3
	N										
W		E									
	S										

At the other table, after the same start, South raised three spades to four at his third turn. North returned to the safety of his long suit and played in five clubs. The opening lead was the four of diamonds. How would you play?

Declarer took the opening lead with the ace and took the three top clubs. Then he ran the jack of hearts to the king. West switched to a spade, declarer's queen being covered by the king and ace. Now declarer tried to run the hearts. He was able to get two losing spades away, but East ruffed the fourth round and cashed the jack of spades to defeat the contract by one trick. Do you think declarer could have made it?

Declarer undoubtedly took the best single-dummy line of play, but it is interesting to see how the hand could have been made. After taking the top three clubs, declarer plays a fourth round, making sure to keep all of dummy's hearts and at least one little spade. Now a low spade from East is ineffective, as declarer can run it to the queen and develop the hearts. A better try is the king of spades, a Merrimac coup. But it is not quite good enough. Declarer takes the king with the ace and plays a low heart, and West has no answer. If he takes the king, declarer's losing spades go on the hearts. If he withholds his king of hearts, declarer switches back to spades, losing just a spade and a club.

On another deal from the final Murray held:

♠ J 10 7 ♥ 9 6 5 3 2 ♦ 9 5 ♣ 8 7 3

With both sides vulnerable, the dealer on his left opened three clubs. Kehela doubled for takeout. After a pass on his right, Murray bid three hearts, raised to four by Kehela. Double, said right hand opponent. The opening lead was the ace of clubs, and this is what Murray saw (rotated for convenience):

♠ A 5 3 2
♥ A K J
♦ A K 8 7 2
♣ 5

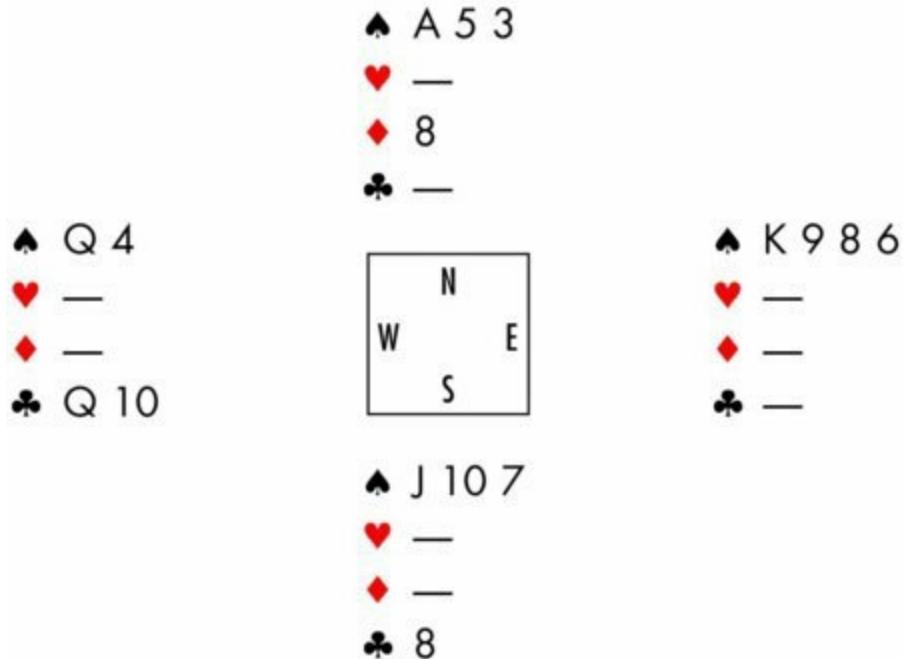
♠ J 10 7
♥ 9 6 5 3 2
♦ 9 5
♣ 8 7 3

East followed to the first trick with the jack. West continued with another club, ruffed in dummy as East contributed the king. Murray took dummy's ace of hearts, on which the ten fell from West. How would you play now?

Murray played three rounds of diamonds, ruffing the third in hand as all followed. He crossed to the king of hearts as left-hand opponent pitched a club. Now Murray played a good diamond. East had started with:

♠ K 9 8 6 ♥ Q 8 7 4 ♦ Q J 10 ♣ K J

He chose to ruff the fourth diamond low. Murray overruffed and put East on play with a trump. That led to this position:



East led a spade to the ten, queen and ace. Murray cashed the good diamond, pitching his club loser, and led a spade towards his jack for the game-fulfilling trick. There was nothing the defense could have done. If East, in the four-card ending above, leads the king of spades, declarer simply lets him hold it. Four hearts doubled and made for +790 was a pickup of 7 IMPs when Sheardown and Elliott lost the obvious five tricks in four clubs doubled.

Murray, Kehela, Sheardown and Elliott went on to win the final by 91 IMPs — an overwhelming margin achieved against formidable opposition. It was the first time in the 32-year history of the Spingold Trophy that a team had successfully defended its title from the year before, and no four-man team has done it since.

The second-place finishers could be consoled by one thought: they, along with the winners, would be going to the International Team Trials in San Francisco.

¹ Apparently, a *dorbitzer* is a junior kibitzer.

² Legal proceedings move at their own pace. The verdict was in fact reached in August, the ninth, but of the following year. — RH

CHAPTER 12

DEAUVILLE, 1968



Deauville is a little town on the north coast of France, where the Seine empties into *La Manche*, the English Channel. It was the ideal site for the third World Bridge Olympiad and the French Bridge Federation had done everything possible to make it a splendid event for all concerned. The playing site was the spectacular casino, a white palace with breathtakingly high ceilings and plush carpets, overlooking the beach. When not actually competing, players would be able to stroll along the striking boardwalk, visit the many picturesque shops, or take in attractions like the magnificent Pompeian Baths. The two main hotels, the Royal and the Normandy, were all decked out and ready. But who could have foreseen what was to happen to France in the May of 1968?

After months of conflict with student radicals, the authorities closed the University of Paris at Nanterre on May 2. Students at the Sorbonne protested immediately; officials responded by calling in the police to arrest the leaders. Students and their supporters, numbering over 20,000, marched in protest. They were met by police wielding batons and launching teargas canisters. Public outcry led to a general strike on May 13, and over a million protesters marched through Paris.

Workers began to occupy factories and at the peak of the rebellion ten million, roughly two thirds of the labor force, were on strike. The government was close to collapse. De Gaulle went on radio on May 30 (the national television service being on strike) to announce the dissolution of the National Assembly, with new elections to be held June 23. He then temporarily took refuge at a German air force base.

Charles Solomon and Julius Rosenblum were stationed in Florence, attempting to determine whether the Olympiad should be cancelled, held in Deauville as planned, or moved to Lausanne, Geneva, Miami or Montreal. In late May planes were still not flying in and out of Paris. The decision was

announced on June 1, four days before the scheduled start of the Olympiad. It would take place in Deauville, one day late to allow for disrupted travel. Al Lando, captain of the Canadian team, describes their attempts to get there:

How our travel agent managed it is a mystery but all Geneva arrangements were cancelled and our Deauville reservations were confirmed. The players were notified and Sunday evening we were on our way.

At our first stop in Montreal we were told that “due to a mechanical deficiency” we would have to change planes. For those who do not fly very often I should explain that “mechanical deficiency” means the airplane is broken.

It took an hour to transfer passengers and luggage. We then stayed on the ground for another hour while they “corrected an electrical malfunction”. This, too, means that the airplane is broken.

Except for a few “minor turbulences” we had a relaxed flight to Brussels arriving 8:00 a.m. Monday morning. There a bus awaited to take us to Paris. Since travel in and around Paris was still uncertain we decided that our best bet would be to go directly to Deauville if possible.

It took us only three hours and about fifty telephone calls (including a couple to Geneva and London) to charter a bus. We then started on a nine-hour bus ride that made us wish we were back on the broken airplanes. The bus had neither shock absorbers nor springs. Every bump we hit (and it seemed that we hit every one between Brussels and Deauville) literally sent us hurtling a foot or so into the air. And at top speed, naturally (there are no speed limits on European highways).

At about 1:00 p.m. we reached the town of Vallenciennes and stopped to lunch at a restaurant in the town square. When we finished we found that the bus, which was parked against the curb on a decline, refused to start! It was only a 55-seater and so the driver suggested that the men get out and push while he tried to start the motor.

The scene which followed was right out of one of those European cinema verité movies. The eight of us (Murray, Kehela, Sheardown, Elliott, Charney, Crissey, Lebovic, and Lando) were having some ‘difficulty’ getting the bus moving. In point of fact the only thing we started were eight hernia conditions. But within moments the waiters and maitre de had left the restaurant and were pushing along with us. Shopkeepers and passers by joined in. Heads emerged from windows all over the town square, urging us on. Incredibly, the bus started and we drove off amid the cheers of the townspeople. Our morale, which earlier had reached its nadir, received a much needed boost from this episode. At 8:00 p.m., 22 hours after our departure from Toronto, we arrived at Deauville. Some other teams had already arrived but several, who had not received the final WBF notification in time, were at or en route to Geneva. The start of the Olympiad was delayed for one day to allow the ‘stragglers’ time to get to Deauville. Poland, who had withdrawn because of passport difficulties and China, who have yet to be heard from, were the only teams that failed to show up. But most of those who did were able to relate their own Odyssey similar to ours.

Lando had invested a great deal of effort in getting Canada’s team, and in particular its two star players, ready for this Olympiad. A newspaper article from one of Sami’s scrapbooks recalls the aftermath of a small misunderstanding in the bidding:

When Kehela, as dummy, laid out his cards, Murray made a face. Highly annoyed, Kehela said afterwards he’d never play bridge with Murray again. Murray responded airily that since Kehela hadn’t played bridge with him so far, it would constitute no change.

Al Lando, who is the nonplaying captain of Canada’s team, says that all it required to effect a shaky reconciliation between Kehela and Murray was four people working independently of each of them for six months, placating, soothing, cajoling, fawning.

“And lying,” adds Lando. “Don’t forget lying.”

Eric Murray on captains: “The captain is the most important member of the team, because he can kill you.”

There were thirty-three countries represented in the Open division of the 1968 Deauville Olympiad. Each team would play a twenty-board match against each other team over a thirty-five round schedule; everyone had three bye rounds. The top four finishers in the round robin would meet in semifinal matches, with the first-place team playing the fourth-place team and the second- and third-place teams playing each other. The winners of the semifinals would meet in the finals, while the losing teams would play off for the bronze medal.

Canada started inauspiciously with a -3 to 20 loss to France. In another first-round match-up, Egypt was to play Israel. Egypt defaulted to Israel on instructions from its government, but Sharif, the captain of the Egyptian team, played one symbolic deal against the Israeli players as a gesture of good will.

A lot can happen over thirty-five rounds. After an opening-round disaster, Canada won its next eight matches, including the one against the U.S., before losing badly to Australia. But then they won four matches, lost a close match to Italy, and then won another four, culminating in a blitz over Mexico. And suddenly Canada was in first! But losses to Belgium and the Netherlands dragged them down again.

In the next round against Portugal, Murray and Kehela got off to a terrific start. In the first five boards, they bid and made a grand slam and a small slam, both unbid at the other table. Unfortunately, the pair that missed those slams was playing for *Iceland*; the boards had been passed incorrectly, and five new boards had to be played.

Three matches a day of high-pressure bridge was taking its toll on the players. Australia was in second place after twenty-seven rounds when Dick Cummings was hospitalized. With Cummings out of action for four rounds, Australia slipped back to sixth. And then the Canadian team suffered a scare:

Reuters News Agency and the New York Times

Player treated for exhaustion

Canadian team wins semi-final place in bridge contest

... At one stage yesterday, Canada's success was jeopardized by the collapse of one of the team. Sammy Kehela, 34, of Toronto, who has played three rounds a day almost every day since the tournament opened, collapsed from exhaustion, but was able to continue playing after treatment by Dr. Marcus Schrage, a member of the Irish team. "It's a wonder to me that more players have not been affected by the rigorous playing schedule," Dr. Schrage said.

With one match to go, Italy and the United States were assured of playoff spots, while the Netherlands and Canada needed some points to stay ahead of Australia and Switzerland. The standings were:

1.	Italy	456
2.	U.S.A.	453
3.	the Netherlands	444
4.	Canada	439
5/6.	Australia	426
5/6.	Switzerland	426

The Dutch won their last-round match against Lebanon 16-4, securing third place, while Canada managed a 12-8 win over Kenya to grab the last playoff spot. The final top six places were:

1.	Italy	474
2.	U.S.A.	473
3.	Netherlands	460
4.	Canada	451

5.	Australia	444
6.	Switzerland	434

Going into the playoffs, two pairs had particular reason to be tired. Murray and Kehela had played all 640 boards (plus the extra five against Portugal!) for Canada. Kreyns and Slavenburg played every deal for the Netherlands.

In the previous Olympiad, four years earlier, the semifinal pairings had been determined by lot; this time the first place team would automatically be paired with the fourth, and the second with the third. So Murray and Kehela would once more do battle with the Blue Team, heading into the Open Room to face Avarelli and Belladonna, while Sheardown and Elliott took on Forquet and Garozzo. The match consisted of four 20-board quarters. Partway through the first, Murray tested his opponents' readiness for psychic maneuvers.

Dealer West

N-S vul.

Board 12

♠ Q 8 4

♥ A J 10 9

♦ A Q

♣ J 9 8 3

♠ A K J 2

♥ Q

♦ K 9 6 5 4

♣ K 6 2

N
W E
S

♠ 6 5 3

♥ 8 2

♦ J 10 7 3

♣ A 10 8 4

♠ 10 9 7

♥ K 7 6 5 4 3

♦ 8 2

♣ Q 7

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kehela	Belladonna	Murray	Avarelli
1♦	dbl	1♥	all pass

This was not a great success, going three down. However, left to their own devices, it seems likely the Romans would have played in hearts themselves, where the nine tricks they are entitled to would yield a score of +140 instead of +150. Italian methods proved effective in the Closed Room:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Forquet</i>	<i>Sheardown</i>	<i>Garozzo</i>	<i>Elliott</i>
1♠	pass	1NT	pass
2♦	all pass		

The canapé one spade opening caught North with an awkward hand: not enough for one notrump, unsuitable for a takeout double. Bidding on the second round against two opponents was not appealing either. Elliott had subminimal values for a balance, and even if he had come up with a bid of two hearts, it might have been hard to stop below game. Two diamonds made two, for 6 IMPs to Italy. Chalk one up to the Italian methods.

The Italian lead was up to 46. Canada desperately needed points, and just in time an exciting slam deal arrived:

Dealer South
N-S vul.
Board 31

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Kehela</i>	<i>Forquet</i>	<i>Murray</i>	<i>Garozzo</i>
			pass
1♣	pass	2♠	pass
3♣	pass	3♠	pass
4♠	pass	4NT	pass
5♦	pass	6♠	all pass

Opening lead: ♥2

Murray played three rounds of hearts, ruffing the third with the queen in dummy. He then crossed to the ace of diamonds and played trumps from the

top. When the ten fell, he had twelve tricks. If the ten of spades had been fourth, there would still have been a chance to throw the losing diamond on clubs. In the Closed Room, there were different problems in a different contract.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
D'Alelio	Sheardown	Pabis-Ticci	Elliott
			pass
1♦	pass	2♠	pass
3♣	pass	3♠	pass
4♣	pass	4NT	pass
5♦	pass	5NT	pass
6♦	pass	6NT	all pass

Opening lead: ♣5

Pabis-Ticci won the opening lead in the dummy, crossed to a heart and led a second round of clubs. If Elliott had followed, a finesse would have guaranteed the contract, but Elliott showed out. Declarer battled on by winning the club, unblocking the queen of spades, crossing to hand with a heart and running the spades. On the last spade, Elliott had to pitch from:

♠ — ♥ Q 2 ♦ K J ♣ —

Reading the situation correctly, Elliott avoided the endplay by discarding the queen of hearts, and declarer was one down.

By the time the last board of the match arrived, Italy had a big lead and was assured of a berth in the finals. In a desperate last-minute effort, Murray-Kehela tried for slam and wound up in five hearts. The contract was apparently doomed by a foul trump split. But Kehela, tipped off by a light-hearted comment from Forquet (Garozzo was not amused), managed to make five hearts, while in the other room Pabis-Ticci had to go one down in six notrump. It was a bittersweet end to the match, which Canada lost 171-120.

Meanwhile, the Dutch had lost a close match to the U.S. 174-142, and would play Canada for the bronze medal. By mutual agreement of the tired warriors (Slavenburg and Kreyns, as well as Murray and Kehela, who had

continued their iron man act through the semifinals), the match was reduced to 40 boards from the scheduled 80. Each side went with four members; it would be Sheardown-Elliott and Murray-Kehela for the Canadians, Slavenburg-Kreyns and the father-son combination of Rebattu-Rebattu for the Dutch. The first big swing came on the second board:

Dealer East

N-S vul.

Board 2

♠ A 9 8 6 3

♥ Q J 10

♦ K J

♣ A 7 4

♠ K Q 7 4

♥ —

♦ 10 9 6 4 3

♣ J 8 6 3

♠ J 10 5 2

♥ 8 7 5 4 3

♦ Q 5 2

♣ Q

♠ —

♥ A K 9 6 2

♦ A 8 7

♣ K 10 9 5 2



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kreyns	Murray	Slavenburg	Kehela
		pass	1♥
pass	1♠	pass	2♣
pass	2♦	pass	3♣
pass	4♥	pass	6♥
pass	pass	dbl	all pass

Opening lead: ♠K

Kehela won the opening lead with dummy's ace, discarding a diamond, and led the queen of hearts. When West showed out, declarer followed with the ace of clubs, felling East's queen, and a low club towards his hand. Slavenburg discarded a diamond, allowing declarer to win the king. Now Kehela carefully cashed the ace and king of diamonds before leading a third round of clubs. West won the trick with the jack, but South had the rest of the tricks on a crossruff.

In the friendly discussion at the conclusion of play, East suggested that the contract might have been defeated if West played low on the third round of clubs, allowing East to ruff and return a trump. But, as Kehela pointed out, in that case declarer can establish the fifth club and draw trumps. The way to defeat the hand was for East to ruff in on the second round of clubs. Now declarer has no answer. "I knew I was right to double!" cried the irrepressible Slavenburg.

Double dummy, declarer can make the hand if he discards a *club* at Trick 1, later ruffing a diamond and taking a finesse against the jack of clubs.

At the half, Canada led 34-19. For the second half, everyone got new opponents, Murray-Kehela taking on the Rebattus. The Netherlands started to pick up IMPs, first pulling even and then building a 48-39 lead with four boards to play. Then Canada picked up a slam swing, luckily avoiding the killing lead when they played the wrong denomination. Then Elliott made a three notrump that could have been beaten, and just like that Canada was up 62-48. The Netherlands needed a swing hand, and got one on the penultimate board. Murray and Kehela bid these hands to slam:

Kehela

♠ A K Q 5
♥ J 7 6
♦ 9 7 6
♣ 9 4 3

pass
1♠
4♣
5♠
pass

Murray

♠ 10 9 8 4
♥ A K 10 4
♦ A
♣ A Q J 2

1♣
3♥
4♠
6♠

But six spades, a fair contract, came home and Canada had the bronze medal.

CHAPTER 13

MIDDLE YEARS



To the public at large, the most famous bridge players are those who have made their names in other fields. Ignaz Paderewski, when not playing the piano or fulfilling his duties as Prime Minister of Poland, was an enthusiastic bridge player. So, too, was Dwight Eisenhower, who found time for a rubber or two before the invasion of Normandy. Today's most famous bridge players are from the world of finance: Bill Gates and Warren Buffet. In the sixties and seventies, the one bridge player recognizable by millions was the film star, Omar Sharif.

David Lean's epic *Lawrence of Arabia* opened in December of 1962. The filming had taken over a year. During a three-month break, Sharif (who later won an Oscar nomination as Best Supporting Actor for his portrayal of Sherif Ali) was advised not to risk travel back home to Egypt, and so found himself with time on his hands in London. He entertained himself playing bridge at the Hamilton Club, and got to know some of the game's stars, such as Boris Schapiro and Bobby Slavenburg. Later, living in Paris brought him in contact with other European players, and when he represented Egypt at the Olympiad in New York in 1964, he met up with members of the Blue Team. Meanwhile, his film career was soaring. By 1965, when Sharif played the title role in *Dr. Zhivago*, he was a media superstar. In the following years, he had to juggle a busy schedule of film commitments and bridge playing.

In the summer of 1968, Sharif and a group of French and Italian experts, collectively known as the 'Circus', went on a barnstorming tour of North America with stopovers in Montreal, Toronto, Los Angeles, Dallas, New Orleans and New York. Playing along with Sharif for the Circus were Giorgio Belladonna and Benito Garozzo of the Blue Team and France's Claude Delmouly and Léon Yallouze.

The dates for the Toronto leg of the tour, Thursday and Friday August 8-9, had been arranged to allow Murray and Kehela time to return home from the

Summer Nationals in Minneapolis, where they were playing in the Spingold. (Sharif and his entourage, being foreigners, would not have been eligible to play.) A logistical problem loomed as Murray and Kehela and their teammates continued to win: the final round of the Spingold was Wednesday, just one day before the start of the exhibition in Toronto. And when Wednesday came, Murray and Kehela were still playing. The final dragged on until 3 a.m. They caught a flight home later that morning, victorious but exhausted. Kehela went straight to the match with the Circus, being held at the Inn on the Park in the northeast of the city; Murray went home to catch a few winks.

The rest of the local side was Sheardown and Elliott, Bruce Gowdy and Donald Cowan. Four matches were to be played, each twenty-four boards, scored at IMPs converted to victory points, with sessions starting at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. The chief commentator was Dick Frey. Murray returned in time for this deal:

Dealer South
E-W vul.

♠ 2
♥ A Q J 3
♦ Q 10 9 5
♣ A Q 10 4

♠ A K 7 3
♥ 8 7
♦ A K J 8
♣ K 8 3

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kehela	Sharif	Murray	Delmouly
			1♣ ¹
pass	1NT ²	pass	2♦
pass	3♦	pass	3♣ ³
pass	4♣	pass	4♦
pass	4♥	pass	4♣
pass	4NT ⁴	pass	5♣
pass	6♣	pass	6♦
pass	7♦		

1. Blue Team club, 17+.
2. Four controls (ace=2, king=1).
3. First of a long sequence of cuebids.
4. Slam try (not Blackwood).

Opening lead: ♥4

How would you play?

The line that suggests itself is to rise with the ace of hearts, play a spade to the ace and ruff a spade, cross to a trump and ruff a second spade. Play the rest of the trumps, throwing hearts from dummy. The position will be:

♠ —
 ♥ Q
 ♦ —
 ♣ A Q 10 4

♠ K
 ♥ 8
 ♦ —
 ♣ K 8 3

Now cash the king of spades. If West happens to hold the king of hearts and a club guard, he will be squeezed. East will be squeezed if he has king-ten-nine of hearts and a club guard. If there is no squeeze, the slam will depend on the clubs playing for four tricks, which is slightly over 50%.

All things being equal, this appears to be the best line. Delmouly is a master, and almost certainly calculated the end position above. But all things were not equal. Why had Kehela, who could have led a safe trump, attacked in hearts? Sharif's bid of four hearts had clearly shown a control. Perhaps Kehela was trying to swindle Delmouly out of taking the heart finesse. After all, without a heart lead declarer could have tested the clubs, with the heart finesse in reserve. Delmouly considered his play to Trick 1 at great length, eventually calling for dummy's queen. Murray took the king for down one. Kehela had

♠ Q J 9 ♥ 10 9 5 4 ♦ 6 4 2 ♣ J 9 7

Toronto won two of the first three matches, but by such narrow margins that the score in victory points was even. But the visitors turned in some sparkling bridge in the deciding fourth match. Have a look at this auction from Belladonna and Garozzo:

Dealer North

Both vul.

♠ J 10 2

♥ J 8 7 3 2

♦ K 7 6

♣ 7 2

♠ A K 7 6 4

♥ A Q 5

♦ 9

♣ J 8 6 5



♠ Q 9 8 3

♥ 9 6 4

♦ A 2

♣ A Q 10 9

♠ 5

♥ K 10

♦ Q J 10 8 5 4 3

♣ K 4 3

In the Closed Room, Sheardown and Elliott doubled their opponents in five diamonds and collected 800, which looked pretty good since only eleven tricks could be made in spades. But in the Open Room:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Garozzo</i>	<i>Murray</i>	<i>Belladonna</i>	<i>Kehela</i>
	pass	1♠	2♦
3♦	4♦	pass	pass
5♦	pass	5NT	pass
6♣	all pass		

The one spade opening was as per Blue Team club. The two diamond overcall and three diamond cuebid seem unexceptional; the vulnerable raise to four diamonds was as per Murray. Garozzo cuebid again and Belladonna bid five notrump, suggesting play in another trump suit. Garozzo cooperated by introducing his four to the jack, despite holding ace-king fifth in his partner's first suit. And right he was. Six clubs was an excellent contract and made, for +1370 and 11 IMPs to the Circus.

The Circus won the fourth match to post a narrow victory.

Stockholm, 1970

Murray and Kehela took a lot of friendly abuse for their simple (some said “Neanderthal”) Colonial Acol methods. Garozzo once picked up their card and, after a brief perusal, wondered aloud “How can they get such good results with such horrible methods?” But their bidding judgment was excellent, and for the most part they avoided the costly errors that frequently plague users of complex methods. Once, however, they got caught being “fancy”. They were playing in the World Pair Olympiad in Stockholm in 1970. They finished a very respectable fifth, in spite of the following deal, reported with glee by Eddie Kantar in the September 1970 edition of the *Bridge World*. Kehela held

♠ J 10 7 6 5 ♥ J ♦ 7 5 ♣ A Q 10 6 2

and heard Murray open two clubs. Kehela decided that the hand warranted a positive response. The question was — in which suit? There are two advantages to starting with clubs. First, they are stronger than the spades, an important consideration when investigating slam. Second, bidding clubs allows an economical rebid in spades, should partner bid a red suit. It’s like opening one club with 5-5 in the blacks. So Kehela bid three clubs. Murray, however, did not cooperate by bidding a red suit — he bid three notrump. So Kehela had to bid a slightly uncomfortable four spades. This elicited a jump to six diamonds from Murray. What could this mean? In a partnership that avoids fancy, ambiguous bids, Kehela decided that Murray must have had solid diamonds all along. So he passed. But Murray’s hand was:

♠ A K 9 4 ♥ A Q 8 5 3 ♦ A K ♣ K 3

He had been fancy, intending six diamonds as a grand slam try with spades agreed, so the partnership missed the slam and played in a cuebid.

For Kantar, writing up this deal was revenge. Murray had been teasing him mercilessly for years about a deal from the Reisinger in Lexington, Kentucky, the final deal in a long, grueling event. Kantar told the full story of the deal in *Bridge Humor* — here is an abridged account:

Dealer South

♠ A Q 5 4
♥ 5 4
♦ Q 10 8 7 6 5 3
♣ —

♠ K J 8 7 6
♥ A K 3
♦ A 4
♣ A K 8

South

(Miles)

2♣
2NT
4♥³
7♣⁵

North

(Kantar)

2♦¹
4♦²
4♣⁴
pass

1. Negative or waiting.
2. Asks for four-card minor (Kantar has forgotten the system).
3. No four-card minor (interpreted as a cuebid by Kantar).
4. Unclear, as the 4♦ bid has never come up before.
5. A strong preference for clubs (to play according to Kantar).

When Miles failed to claim, and was then obviously struggling, Kantar went off to find teammates Murray and Coon.

“Where’s Marshall?” asked Murray.

“He’s still playing the last hand,” replied Eddie.

“What’s he in?” asked Murray, consulting his scorecard.

When Eddie told him, Murray suggested they go over to Miles and tell him it didn’t matter what he did.

“Oh, no,” said Eddie. “He’s trying to get out for five down.”

And Miles did in fact get out for five down when the defense mistakenly let him score a ruff with the eight of clubs.

“Duncan Phillips died this morning,” Sami told me.

I was sorry to hear this; Duncan was one of the most gracious and well-liked members of the Canadian bridge community. I knew also that he had been a teammate of Sami and Eric’s.

“And Mark Molson just last week.” We were all still in shock over that. How could the boyish, good-natured Mark be gone, and just in his fifties? It had been a bad week for Canada’s bridge players.

We talked about Canada’s 1972 Olympiad team. Duncan and his teammates Bruce Gowdy, Bill Crissey and Gerry Charney had won the Canadian team trials. The Canadian Bridge Federation had made the pragmatic decision to hold trials without Murray and Kehela, who would simply be added to the winning team for the Olympiad in Miami. Or perhaps one should say that the winning team would be added to Murray and Kehela, who were expected to play throughout. (This exemption, which neither Murray nor Kehela sought or desired, was also applied in 1976, then never repeated.)

“This was the year of the return of the Blue Team,” Sami reminded me. “The Aces had won the previous two years. The Blue Team was in retirement — they came back for 1972 to play the Aces.”

The Aces team that had won in 1970 and 1971 consisted of Hamman-Lawrence, Jacoby-Wolff and Eisenberg-Goldman. The departure of Billy Eisenberg necessitated a change for 1972: Paul Soloway joined to play with Hamman while Goldman hooked up with Lawrence.

One might be excused for being confused about the methods employed by the two favored teams. While Goldman and Lawrence played what was then known as Eastern Scientific, the other two American pairs played variations of Blue Club: Green Club for Hamman-Soloway, and Orange Club for Jacoby-Wolff. The Blue Team, on the other hand, now played Precision. Avarelli-Belladonna and Garozzo-Forquet played approximately the same Italian Precision; this was convenient, for Garozzo on occasion played with Belladonna. D’Alelio and Pabis-Ticci had their own version, different primarily in that the one diamond response to one club was ambiguous rather than negative.

Play was in the Americana Hotel in Miami Beach. Forty teams had entered the Open Series, resulting in a schedule of thirty-nine rounds, each team playing a match of twenty boards against each other team. When it came time to play, Indonesia had withdrawn. The schedule was not adjusted, since a 40-team round robin and a 39-team one play the same way. Whenever a country would have played Indonesia, they had a bye instead. Three matches were

played each day. As in the last two Olympiads, the four teams with the highest victory point totals would meet in the semifinals.

A feature new to the Olympiad was that boards were duplicated across the field; each match consisted of the same boards. In the first round, Canada met Israel. Both sides were vulnerable when Kehela held as dealer:

♠ A K Q 10 4 ♥ J 8 2 ♦ — ♣ A Q 10 9 2

True to his principles, he opened the bidding with one club. There is, of course, the danger of missing a game, but who passes out one club? Shauffel and Murray both passed, but Frydrich reopened with a double, allowing Kehela to get his hand off his chest with a jump to two spades. Over three hearts from Shauffel, Murray jumped to four spades, ending the bidding. This was the deal:

♠ J 9 8 6
♥ 9 4
♦ 9 8 6 5 3 2
♣ 7

Opening lead: ♥A

♠ A K Q 10 4
♥ J 8 2
♦ —
♣ A Q 10 9 2

Shauffel took the first two hearts with the ace and king before shifting to a trump, Frydrich following. Take over from here. What is your plan?

A crossruff is likely to produce only eight trump tricks and the ace of clubs. It looks better to try to keep control and establish the clubs, and since South must also ruff a heart, it must be right to take a club finesse of some kind. West has shown up with the ace and king of hearts; perhaps East has the king of clubs. Kehela took the trump shift in dummy and played a club to the queen.

Shauffel produced the king and played a second round of trumps, which were 2-2. Kehela took that in hand, cashed the ace of clubs to which all followed, and led the ten of clubs, to which Shauffel played low. Do you run it or ruff it?

To make four spades, you need Shauffel to have started either with king-jack fourth of clubs or king-fourth. There are ten cases of each, so it looks like a toss-up to me. If West happens to have either three or five clubs, you will be one less down if you run the ten. That's what Kehela did, successfully, since Shauffel had:

♠ 7 5 ♥ A K 7 5 ♦ 10 7 4 ♣ K J 6 3

In a later match, Murray held:

♠ A Q 8 5 3 ♥ K 8 ♦ 9 5 2 ♣ A K Q

With both sides vulnerable, he opened one spade in second chair. Kehela responded two hearts and the next hand came in with three diamonds. What would you bid now?

With no bid satisfactory and pass not forcing, Murray made the practical choice of doubling for penalties. This worked out very well, for all passed and the full deal was:

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

That was +800 to Canada. In another match Italy duplicated this result in a remarkable way (as reported in Steve Becker's column of September 23, 2002):

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
3♦ pass	Belladonna dbl	pass	Avarelli pass!

Belladonna took two high clubs on which Avarelli threw the nine-four of spades. Ace of spades and a spade ruff were followed by ace of hearts, heart to the king. Belladonna exited with the third club, and Avarelli made his queen of hearts at the end for three down.

The Aces had been considered co-favorites with the Italians, but when the two teams met in the fourth round the Blue Team won by an astounding score of 63-3. Italy in fact won their first eighteen matches, a remarkable run. The Americans recovered from their poor start, but after eighteen rounds, close to the halfway point in the thirty-nine team round robin, it was Canada that held down second place behind Italy. The leading scores, out of a maximum of 360, were:

2.	Canada	265
3.	U.S.A.	262
4.	Poland	254
5.	France	250
6.	China	244
7.	Australia	238
8.	Turkey	234

As the tournament continued, the Blue Team continued to hold on to first place while the U.S. steadily moved up. It appeared that the rest of the field would fight for the other two playoff spots. On the last day, Canada started against the Netherlands. On the deal below, Kehela found himself in five clubs:

Dealer East

Both vul.

♠ K 4
♥ A Q 10 9 8 7 6
♦ A 7
♣ 7 6

Kehela

♠ —
♥ K 3 2
♦ J 4
♣ A K Q J 10 5 3 2



Murray

♠ A J 10 9 7 5 3
♥ —
♦ K 9 8 6 3
♣ 9

♠ Q 8 6 2
♥ J 5 4
♦ Q 10 5 2
♣ 8 4

There are eight trump tricks, the ace of spades and the king of diamonds to take, given that the ace of diamonds is onside. There is also the prospect of a heart ruff. A trump lead would defeat five clubs, but North led the ace of hearts. Now there was a ruff and the king of hearts as well, so Kehela made an overtrick. That looked like a great result, but Kreyns played six clubs in

the closed room, and got the same lead! That was 13 IMPs to the Netherlands.

At the end of the match Kehela collapsed from exhaustion. He and Murray had played every board of every match, and finally the strain caught up to him. There was no way Murray was going to sit out, though, so he quickly made out a card with Duncan Phillips and went in to play Brazil. The match was a disaster for Canada, who salvaged only 3 out of 20 victory points.

Going into the last round, Italy and the U.S. were assured of places in the playoffs, and three countries were in a fight for the remaining two:

3. China 529
4. France 525
5. Canada 515

Ten victory points behind the last qualifying spot, Canada needed to get 11 more victory points than the French, who were playing Poland, or 15 more victory points than China, who were playing the Swiss.

All Canada could do was try to get the maximum from their last-round opponents, the Philippines, and then hope for the best. Murray would not sit out. With Kehela still unavailable, and the Murray-Phillips experiment unsuccessful, it was time for another new partnership, and Murray entered the fray with Bruce Gowdy.

As it turned out, everything worked: Canada won 20-0 over the Philippines, Poland beat France 11-9, and Switzerland routed China 18-2. That made the final standings:

1.	Italy	631
2.	United States	599
3.	Canada	535
4.	France	534
5.	China	531

In reward for finishing in first place, Italy had the right to choose their semifinal opponents. They chose not to play the United States, but to decide between Canada and France by drawing lots. The unlucky winner of the draw was France; Canada would meet the United States. Richard Brown reported for the CBF bridge digest:

Both semi-finals would be 64-board affairs. The pairings for the first sixteen boards in the Canada-U.S. match provided an interesting lesson in tactics. The open room featured the heavy cigar smoking of Murray and Kehela so the Aces countered with Jacoby, their number 1 smoke blower. This left Bobby Wolff wondering if he would be able to see his own cards amidst the dense clouds of smoke, not to mention the audience watching on closed-circuit TV. The Closed Room looked more like a Japanese wrestling match than a bridge game as Crissey and Charney are very heavyset men and rotund is an appropriate description of both Hamman and Soloway.

Here is a hard-fought board from the second quarter (rotated for convenience):

Dealer West
Neither vul.
Board 30

♠ J 8
♥ 10 3
♦ Q 8 7 5
♣ Q J 7 6 3

♠ 9 5 3
♥ A 7 2
♦ 6
♣ A 10 9 8 4 2



♠ K Q 7 2
♥ Q 9 8 6 4
♦ A 9 4 3
♣ —

♠ A 10 6 4
♥ K J 5
♦ K J 10 2
♣ K 5

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Hamman	Kehela	Soloway	Murray
pass	pass	2♥ ¹	2NT
pass	3NT	all pass	

1. Four spades, five hearts, 12-15.

Opening lead: ♥10

Murray won the opening lead in hand with the jack and cashed the king of clubs, East throwing a heart. He continued with a club and Hamman defended strongly by refusing to split his honors. Had he done so, Murray would have had an easy nine tricks after driving out Hamman's remaining honor. Murray won the eight in the dummy, East throwing a second heart, and led a diamond, misguessing by putting in the jack and losing to the queen. Hamman continued to defend well by passively exiting with a heart. Murray won this in hand and, needing a diamond trick, led the king. Soloway, East, allowed this to win. Murray now led a spade and the defense was finished, unable to avoid setting up Murray's ninth trick in spades or diamonds.

The Aces played very well and won convincingly, 203-85. While they and the Blue Team contested the final (won by Italy), Canada once again went off to play for the bronze medal, this time against France. Some of the exhausted players proposed that the scheduled match be trimmed somewhat, but the French captain insisted that all sixty-four boards be played. Canada was in good form and won 160-87.

Kehela expressed his feelings about playing for Canada in the interview in the *Doritzer*:

DOR: What do you feel is your most significant accomplishment at bridge?

SRK: I've survived twenty years of playing with Murray and retained my sanity! I think the things of which I'm proudest, in my tournament career in any event, are the performances Canada had from 1960 until 1972. In those years we had two thirds and a fourth. We lost to a strong British team in 1964 by one deal, and to a strong American team by about 15 IMPs. Realistically, to finish third or fourth was sensational. During that time I played in three Bermuda Bowls, but never with the same intensity or desire, or will to win. I somehow always felt that playing in the Olympiad for Canada and finishing third meant more than finishing second in the Bermuda Bowl.

CHAPTER 14

LATER YEARS



Monaco, 1976

In 1976 there was both a Bermuda Bowl and a World Olympiad. For subsequent years, the WBF had settled on a four-year cycle. The Olympiad would continue, as it had since its inception in 1960, to be held in leap years. The Bermuda Bowl would be played only in odd-numbered years. The remaining years, even-numbered but not a multiple of four, would have an open pairs, a mixed pairs and a new event, the Rosenblum Teams.

Murray and Kehela were not competing in the Bermuda Bowl, but they were on Canada's team for the Olympiad in Monaco. Bruce Gowdy was back, this time playing with Karen Allison. Don Cowan and Franco Bandoni made up the rest of the team. The number of countries competing was up to forty-five, which made for a long round robin. Given that, and the fact that the Bermuda Bowl would take up another week, it was decided that the teams would forgo the usual playoffs: the round robin would decide all.

On the first board of the match against Norway, Murray held:

♠ A J 5 2 ♥ A 6 3 ♦ J 10 9 3 2 ♣ 5

His left-hand opponent opened two clubs in third position, natural and 11-15. This came back to Murray, who balanced with double. Kehela cuebid three clubs and Murray, with maximal values for a passed hand, returned the cuebid with four clubs. Kehela bid four hearts and Murray corrected to four spades, ending the auction. The opening lead was the king of diamonds, and this is what Murray faced:

♠ K Q 7
 ♥ Q 10 5
 ♦ 8 6 4
 ♣ A K 4 3

♠ A J 5 2
 ♥ A 6 3
 ♦ J 10 9 3 2
 ♣ 5

Lien, on Murray's right, followed with the queen. Breck continued with the ace, his partner throwing a heart, and then led another diamond for Lien to ruff. Now Lien played a trump. Murray drew all the trumps, East having started with five. He then played the winning diamonds, the last one from this position:

♠ —
 ♥ Q 10
 ♦ —
 ♣ A K 4

♠ —
 ♥ A 6 3
 ♦ 10
 ♣ 5

West, who had discarded three clubs, now threw a heart. How would you play?

It seems that West has kept a club guard, his likely pattern being 1-2-4-6. That is confirmed by the bidding, since with 1-3-4-5 he might have opened the bidding with one diamond. So he is now down to a singleton heart, which must be an honor if the contract is to be made. Murray threw dummy's small club and played off the two clubs, East following with a low one and the ten. What should declarer play West for: the king or the jack?

In either case, the defense has erred. A club switch at Trick 4 would have broken the communication needed for the squeeze. Murray figured that East might well have led a heart if he didn't himself hold the king. So he called for dummy's queen and successfully pinned the jack for his contract.

The full deal was:

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

The next round saw Canada playing Great Britain. On board 10, Kehela held:

♠ A 4 ♥ A K 6 3 2 ♦ J 2 ♣ A Q 8 3

He opened one heart in second chair. After a one spade response from Murray, Kehela was a little bit in-between: rather good for two clubs, perhaps not quite enough for three. He settled for two notrump, raised to game by Murray. Not showing the clubs seemed to turn out well when the opening lead was the six of clubs. This is what Kehela had to work with:

Murray

♠ Q 8 7 6 5

♥ 10 4

♦ A K 7

♣ 9 4 2

Rodrigue**Priday****Kehela**

♠ A 4

♥ A K 6 3 2

♦ J 2

♣ A Q 8 3

East played the seven and Kehela won with his eight. What would you go after: hearts or spades?

You have seven tricks. A 3-3 split in the suit you attack will bring you up to nine. Going after spades will also succeed if spades are 4-2 with the king on the left, so that looks better. Kehela cashed the ace of spades and led a spade to the queen, which won. Now it was a simple matter to establish the long spade, with diamonds for entries. He made an overtrick when West persevered with clubs. The full deal was:

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q 8 7 6 5 ♥ 10 4 ♦ A K 7 ♣ 9 4 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ K J 10 2 ♥ 7 ♦ 10 5 3 ♣ K J 10 6 5</p>	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 9 3 ♥ Q J 9 8 5 ♦ Q 9 8 6 4 ♣ 7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ A 4 ♥ A K 6 3 2 ♦ J 2 ♣ A Q 8 3</p>
	N										
W		E									
	S										

The auction at the other table:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Allison</i>	<i>Flint</i>	<i>Gowdy</i>	<i>Rose</i>
1♥ ² pass	dbl 2NT	pass 2♦ all pass	1♣ ¹ 2♥

1. Strong.
2. Takeout of hearts.

Flint and Rose bid conservatively, perhaps allowing for the likely bad splits. In any event, they made just two notrump, so Canada won 11 IMPs for +630 vs. -120.

The following deal arose later in the same match:

Dealer South

Neither vul.

♠ A K J 10 8 6 3
♥ 7
♦ 7 4
♣ J 9 6

♠ 2
♥ 9 5
♦ A Q 10 8 6 3 2
♣ K 8 5



♠ Q 9 5
♥ A Q J 10 6 2
♦ J 9
♣ Q 10

♠ 7 4
♥ K 8 4 3
♦ K 5
♣ A 7 4 3 2

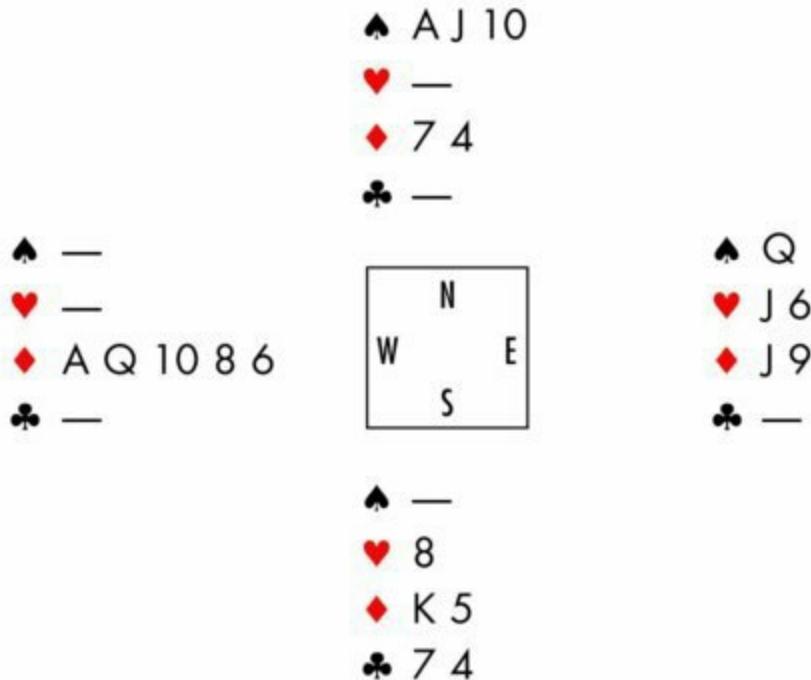
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Rodrigue	Murray	Priday	Kehela
1♦	3♠	4♥	pass all pass

Opening lead: ♠7

Murray won the first trick with the king and shifted to the seven of trumps, declarer playing low. How would you defend?

Kehela played low, essential to keep control and prevent declarer from running the diamond suit. In dummy with the nine, declarer played a club to the queen. Kehela took his ace and returned a club, removing dummy's king. Declarer had no chance now; he played a trump to the ace and finished two down.

An interesting variation arises if declarer inserts a trump honor at Trick 2. Again South must play low. Now declarer is in position to ruff a spade. After a club to the queen and ace and a club back to dummy's king, declarer ruffs a club to hand and plays ace of hearts, queen of hearts. South wins and has to lead in the following position:



South returns the king of diamonds and declarer has to lose a trick. Fauconnier of Belgium and Klinger for Australia found this defense.

The deal is quite interesting at double dummy. As the play went, declarer could have made his contract by finessing the ten of clubs. Only an opening club lead defeats four hearts; in a rather mysterious way it seems to attack declarer's entries to hand.

The Canadians were out of contention at the end, finishing thirteenth in the 45-country field, but fate had assigned them a role in determining the winner. The top three positions, with one round to go and twenty victory points still available, were:

Italy	645
Brazil	634
Great Britain	629

Italy, who could have assured herself of the gold medal with a last-round victory, instead lost 17-3 to Greece and the Canada-Brazil match suddenly became crucial. Even Great Britain had a chance. In the end, Brazil, who had

won a blitz on the second-last round to get into contention, won another to secure the gold medal.

There was some consternation when it was learned that Murray and Kehela had sat out the last match. The explanation surfaced later — Canada was trying to be fair. Earlier, when they had played Italy, the four other members of the team had requested, and been granted, the privilege of playing the Blue Team. After all, it might be their only chance, whereas Murray and Kehela had played them many times. So it was only fair that Brazil should face the same lineup that Italy had.

New Orleans, 1978

For years, Murray and Kehela had put up with not being able to open with a weak two-bid in a major suit. Acol Twos were an integral part of Colonial Acol. However, the two diamond opening was available for redeployment. The Roman Two Diamond experiment had not been an unqualified success, and for a while Murray-Kehela reverted to an Acol two diamonds: strong, forcing one round. But for the Pairs Olympiad in New Orleans in 1978, they unleashed their latest competitive weapon: the Multi.

In the qualifying rounds Kehela had a chance to use the dastardly device when he held as dealer, neither vulnerable, the following hand:

♠ A K Q 10 9 2 ♥ 9 7 5 ♦ J 4 ♣ 7 6

He opened two diamonds. The next hand passed, and Murray responded two spades.¹ This asks partner to pass with spades and find a bid if holding hearts. The next hand overcalled three clubs. Kehela passed and his left-hand opponent bid three notrump. All passed. The convention had done its dirty work; the confused opponents had stumbled into game not knowing that solid spades were out against them. All that remained was for Murray to lead a spade, and he led... a heart. The full deal was:

Dealer West

Neither vul.

♠ 8 7 4 3
♥ A Q 10 6
♦ K 7 5
♣ 8 2

♠ A K Q 10 9 2
♥ 9 7 5
♦ J 4
♣ 7 6



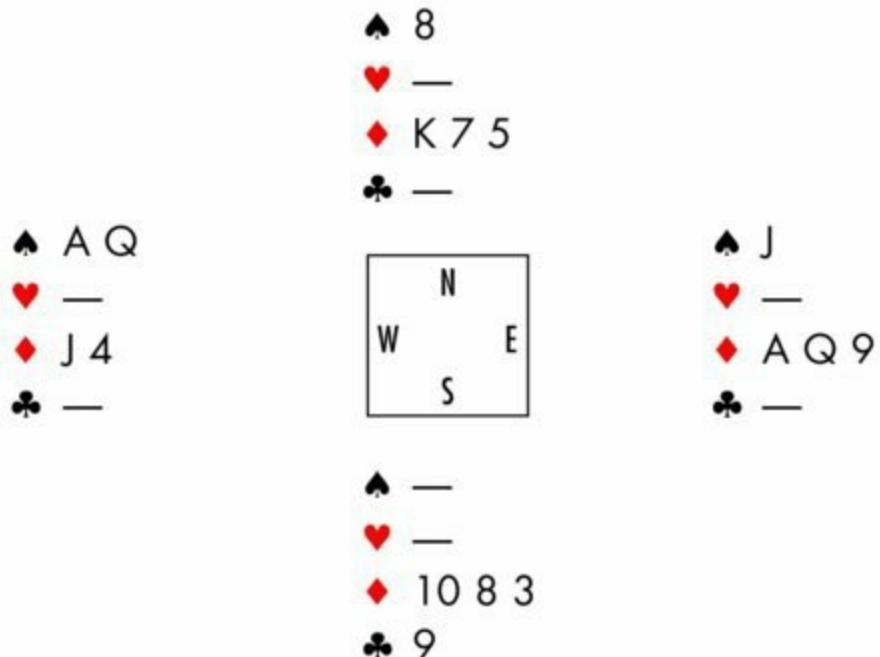
♠ J 6 5
♥ 8 3 2
♦ A Q 9 6
♣ J 10 5

♠ —
♥ K J 4
♦ 10 8 3 2
♣ A K Q 9 4 3

Back to the drawing board?

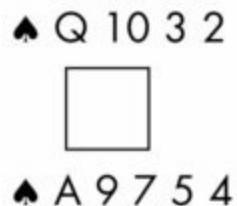
At another table, Joe Amsbury, editor of *Popular Bridge Monthly* and possibly in search of amusing copy, opened the West hand one notrump. He stuck it out when South doubled. North led... a spade!

Jean Besse declared five clubs after West's opening three spade bid had been raised to four. He ruffed the opening spade lead, drew trumps and crossed on a heart to ruff a second spade. He then ran the hearts, coming to this position:



Now Besse ruffed out East's last spade and played a diamond, and the defense had to concede a trick to either dummy's king or declarer's ten. Besse was reportedly disappointed that East hadn't had all the diamond honors, in which case he would have been one-suit squeezed.

Katie Thorpe has been after Murray and Kehela for years to spruce up their system — at least to use Keycard Blackwood. Eddie Kantar recalls (I saw this in *The Best of Eddie Kantar*) a morning poolside chat about this suit, trumps in a slam deal:



How had Sami played it?

"I led the queen," said Sami. This was successful, in that his right-hand opponent had king-jack third, and leading the queen held the losers to one. But Sami was in seven. There were so many who went down in six that one down was worth an average — another good reason to start the suit by leading the queen. (The queen is the right play in seven. The odds of a stiff

jack on the left are the same as the stiff king on the right. The extra chance, or *vigorish*, is that your opponent may fail to cover the queen, playing to give you a guess.)

Over the partnership's many years, Murray and Kehela dabbled with a number of different conventions. Kehela wrote up their trials with one for *Toronto Life*:

Apart from his failure to win the World Championship (in six attempts), Murray's only frustration occurred when he invented a convention. It was called the "Murray two diamonds" and was simple enough: a response of two diamonds to an opening bid of one notrump requested the opener to bid his better major suit, even though it contained only three cards. This permitted the responder to cope with certain weak, unbalanced hands that could not be handled by normal methods. The first time I had occasion to use the convention was on the following hand:

♠ Q 8 6 4
♥ K 9 7 5
♦ —
♣ 10 9 7 4 2

Murray opened with one notrump and I brightly bid two diamonds in order to elicit a major-suit response. My bid was followed by three contented passes, and my partner put down:

♠ A K J
♥ A Q 10 8
♦ Q 5 3 2
♣ J 6

I played with great tenacity to go down only three, but unfortunately four hearts was a lay-down, and after several

mishaps of a similar nature we reluctantly abandoned this admirable convention. Anybody is entitled to a lapse of memory once in a while, but it is a bit embarrassing to regularly forget one's own brainchild.

That was not the only occasion a new convention misfired. Eric gave me this story. “Oh, these guys must have thought we were the worst cheaters! We were having a practice match at the St. Clair and we resolved to try negative doubles. On one hand, Sami passed as dealer and the next hand passed. I opened third in hand with one club, and the next hand overcalled one spade. Sami doubled. The next hand passed. I had some hand with a singleton spade and I passed, forgetting our new convention. So the guy on my left asked about the double. “It’s negative, of course!” I told him. So he passed. Dummy came down with a singleton spade and they went for 800. Sami had forgotten, too!

As we have seen, Eric has a wicked sense of humor and does not exempt Sami from its application. The New Orleans tournament was the first in North America where all bidding was done with bidding boxes. It was my first world tournament, and I remember seeing those shiny laminated cards in the colorful boxes for the first time — it looked a bit like Christmas. Players eventually got used to the new way, but in New Orleans there were a number of accidents. Eric recalls one:

“Well, it really was worth the price of admission. The bidding went three passes to me and I was looking at:

♠ 6 5 3 ♥ J 7 6 5 ♦ 10 7 6 4 3 ♣ 7

It was clear to me that one of those green pass cards was an error. I peered over the tops of my cards at my opponents but neither of them seemed unduly concerned, so I glanced across the table and I could see beads of perspiration forming on Sami’s brow, so I thought I’d think about this for awhile. I started to study my cards and a waterfall was pouring onto the table. Finally I shook

my head and said, “Oh, I’m not going to open this — I don’t have the majors,” and put my hand back in the pocket. Sami cried “I have nineteen points!” to which I responded “Why would you pass with nineteen points?” Sami exploded across the table to grab my cards. But I wouldn’t let him have them. After a brief tussle I spread my cards across the table for everyone to see. He had of course pulled the wrong card. He held:

♠ J 10 9 ♥ A Q 8 ♦ A ♣ A K J 5 4 3

It was in one of the Swiss matches. At the other table they played three clubs one down so we won 2 IMPs. Sami’s not one to hold a grudge — within eight months he was speaking to me again.”

After the Open Pairs came the Rosenblum teams, for which Murray and Kehela joined up with Eric Kokish, Peter Nagy, Gerry Charney and George Mittelman. Here is a deal from a match against the Philippines (rotated for convenience):

Dealer South
N-S vul.

♠ A Q 3
♥ A Q J 10
♦ J
♣ 10 9 8 7 6

♠ K J 10 2
♥ K 4 3
♦ 3
♣ A K J 5 4

South	North
Murray	Kehela
1♣	2♥
2♠	3♣
3♥	3♠
4NT	5♥
6♣	pass

Opening lead: ♠5

Perhaps as declarer you permit yourself a moment to savor your elegant sequence to the excellent slam. However, when you win the opening lead and play a club to the ace, East throws a diamond. What would you do?

You need to find West with three or more cards in one of the major suits, and you need to guess which one to try. The clue is the opening lead. West (Jennifer Arnott) would likely have led the ace of diamonds if she had it. Suppose West has a singleton in one major and three or four small in the other. Not knowing the queen of clubs to be a certain trick, West would surely lead the singleton, hoping to find partner with the ace. Accordingly, Murray played hearts, and was rewarded when the West hand turned out to be:

♠ 5 ♥ 8 7 6 ♦ K 9 8 7 6 2 ♣ Q 3 2

Teams eliminated from the knockout portion of the Rosenblum continued in the Swiss. There the Canadians were in contention going into the last round, when Murray and Kehela encountered their old rival, Bobby Slavenburg, this time playing for Morocco. Both sides were looking for a big win, which might explain some of the exuberance shown in the auction:

Dealer North
Neither vul.

♠ Q 10 4
♥ 8 6
♦ Q 10 8 7 6
♣ K 7 5

♠ K J 9 7 2
♥ A K J
♦ A
♣ 10 9 4 3

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>El Alami</i>	Murray	Slavenburg	Kehela
	pass	1♥	dbl
3♥	4♦	dbl	4♠
pass	pass	dbl	all pass

Opening lead: ♣2

Kehela played low from dummy and Slavenburg won the trick with the jack, shifting to a heart. Kehela took the ace and ran the nine of clubs, losing to East's ace. Now came a second heart. Slavenburg had opened in hearts and doubled both diamonds and spades, so didn't rate to hold a lot of clubs. Kehela finessed the jack of hearts successfully and then threw the good king of clubs on the third heart. His plan was to ruff both remaining clubs with trump honors in dummy. When it turned out that clubs were 3-3 after all, he simply knocked out the ace of trumps and claimed for +590. That was 12 IMPs to Canada when four spades failed in the other room.

Murray and Kehela shared first in the Swiss with a team from Switzerland, for fifth place overall in the Rosenblum Teams.

Valkenburg, 1980

Valkenburg lies in the province of South Holland, where the Netherlands comes together with Belgium and Germany. It is known by local cyclists for the challenge of its steep central hill topped by castle ruins. The village played host to the sixth World Bridge Olympiad in 1980. Murray and Kehela were there competing, the only pair to play in every Olympiad, from the inaugural one in Turin in 1960. Their teammates were Kokish, Nagy, Mittelman and Allan Graves, with Gerry Charney acting as nonplaying captain. The fifty-eight teams entered in the Open Series made a complete round robin unwieldy; the countries were divided into two sections which would play round robins, with the top four from each section advancing to a playoff.

In the second round against Israel, Murray found himself in an apparently doomed grand slam (rotated for convenience):

Kehela

♠ K Q 5
♥ K Q 8 7 2
♦ K 2
♣ A Q 4

Murray

♠ A 10 4
♥ A 6 5
♦ A Q 5 3
♣ K 9 8

Murray

1NT
2NT²
3♠
5♠
6♦

Kehela

2♦¹
3♥
4NT
5NT
7NT

1. Forcing Stayman.
2. No four-card major or five-card minor.

Opening lead: ♣6

Murray took the opening lead in hand with the king, cashed the ace of hearts and played a heart to the king. If everyone had followed he could have claimed, but East threw a spade. How would you proceed?

Since Murray was known from the auction not to hold a spade suit, he played off three rounds of spades. On the third of these East pitched a diamond. Murray now followed with the queen of hearts. East had started with

♠ 9 7 6 ♥ 4 ♦ J 9 8 6 4 ♣ J 10 7 3

and so had an unpleasant guess. Murray had to have a four-card minor, but which one? Eventually he misguessed, discarding a diamond, and Murray had his thirteen tricks.

Reporting for the *Kibitzer*, Carruthers and Kokish noted East's reasoning. If declarer has four clubs, holding on to the club guard will defeat seven notrump for sure. If, on the other hand, declarer has four diamonds, he may hold the ten, in which case he is likely to pick up the suit, having noted East's singleton heart. A modern, well-tuned partnership might get this defensive problem right, with West communicating his extra length in clubs. Or East might have reasoned that partner is likelier to lead from three small than two small. Seven notrump was also reached at the other table. There declarer cashed clubs before spades, so finished one down, 17 IMPs to Canada.

Canada met Great Britain in round 16.

Dealer West

Neither vul.

Board 8

♠ A Q
♥ A 10 8 7
♦ 10 4 2
♣ Q J 9 8

♠ K 7 4 2

♥ 3

♦ A K 7 6 5

♣ K 10 2

N
W E
S

♠ 5
♥ Q J 9 6 5 4
♦ Q 9 8 3
♣ 5 3

♠ J 10 9 8 6 3
♥ K 2
♦ J
♣ A 7 6 4

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Rodrigue	Murray	Priday	Kehela
1NT	pass	2♥ ¹	dbl
pass	pass	4♠	pass
pass	dbl	all pass	

1. Transfer.

Opening lead: ♥Q

Priday won the first trick in hand with the king, cashed the ace of spades and followed with the queen, which Murray allowed to win. Declarer then ran the queen of clubs followed by the jack, covered and won in the closed hand. He then played a third trump. Murray won and underled the ace-king of diamonds to Kehela's queen, getting a heart ruff to defeat four spades one trick. I asked Sami about the deal. "Yes, I remember this one. I gave count in clubs and hearts. When I didn't pitch a low diamond, Eric played me for the queen."

At the other table:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kokish	Smolski	Nagy	Forrester
1NT ¹	2♦ ²	all pass	

1. 12-14.
2. Astro: spades and another suit.

The conventional overcall picked off East-West's best suit. East could not bid two spades, which would be a cuebid, and chose to pass. South decided that his best shot was to pass, and North wound up stealing the deal in two diamonds. Nagy led the jack of trumps. Declarer took that in dummy with the queen to lead a spade. Kokish went in with the ace and found a very effective defense: he led the nine of clubs. Declarer considered that, but eventually made the normal play of the king. Nagy took that with the ace and returned a club. Kokish won that and continued his fine defense by playing his remaining low trump. Declarer had no way now to come to eight tricks. One down in both rooms meant a very hard-earned 4 IMPs to Canada.

"Kokish and Nagy were great teammates," Sami recalls. "They were way ahead of the rest of the world when it came to flexible doubles. They kept bringing back numbers that no one else could get, when one of them would make a flexible double and the other would leave it in."

Kehela had a delicate four spades to play in round 20 against Belgium.

Dealer East
Neither vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kehela	Wanufel	Murray	Fauconnier
		pass	1♦
dbl	pass	2♦	pass
2♠	pass	3♦	pass
4♣	pass	4♠	all pass

Opening lead: ♦5

Kehela won the first trick in dummy with the ace and led a heart to the jack. When that held, he played a club to the king, a club back to the ace and a third club, North pitching a diamond. South played a high diamond. Kehela ruffed, went to the king of spades and ruffed dummy's last diamond. North overruffed, but there was nothing for the defense to do. North led the ten of hearts and declarer took the king of hearts with the ace. The ace of spades removed South's last trump, and declarer simply played clubs, allowing North to make the master trump whenever he wished.

With two rounds to go, Canada was chasing fourth-place Taiwan for the final playoff spot in Group A. Play was delayed while the WBF considered disciplinary action against Canada's remaining two opponents, Egypt and Surinam. Both were facing suspensions for having earlier refused to play against South Africa. Eventually it was decided to allow the matches to proceed. This deal is from the match against Egypt:

Dealer North
N-S vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Riyad	Murray	Helmy	Kehela
	pass	1♣	pass
pass	dbl	pass	3NT
all pass			

Opening lead: ♥Q

The queen of hearts held the first trick and West continued with a heart to the king. A third heart was taken by the ace. Kehela now led the ten of spades. East tried to confuse the issue by covering with the queen, but Kehela simply ducked. He took the diamond shift in dummy and led a second round of spades, taken by the ace. East tried to attack the communications with another diamond, but Kehela took the ace, unblocked the king of spades, entered dummy with the third diamond and ran the spades. The ace of clubs remained as an entry to the fourth diamond. Making three notrump was a 10-IMP pickup against three spades making four in the other room. Later in the match, Kehela had another play problem.

Dealer East
E-W vul.
Board 6

♠ 9
♥ 10 9 8 5
♦ Q 7 6 5 4 2
♣ 8 3

♠ K 7 5 3
♥ A Q 3 2
♦ A K J
♣ 5 4



♠ Q J 10 6 4 2
♥ 4
♦ 9 3
♣ Q J 9 2

♠ A 8
♥ K J 7 6
♦ 10 8
♣ A K 10 7 6

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Riyad	Murray	<i>Helmy</i>	<i>Kehela</i>
		pass	1NT
pass	2♦	pass	2♥
pass	3♥	pass	4♥
pass	4NT	pass	5♥
pass	6♥	all pass	

Opening lead: ♠9

Kehela won the first trick in dummy with the king, saving the ace as a later entry to the club suit. He cashed the ace of hearts before starting clubs, playing ace, king and a third round. West was helpless. In fact, he chose to ruff. Kehela overruffed, drew trumps and conceded a club, making six. At the other table, declarer won the king of spades and played ace and a trump to the jack. Upon getting the showdown, he switched to ace, king and another club, and the hand could no longer be made.

Canada won the high-scoring 20-board match 63-46, for 14 victory points. Ultimately that was not enough, because although they took the maximum from Surinam in the final round, Canada finished 3 victory points shy of the last playoff spot.

Ottawa, May 22-25, 1981

Fourteen teams met in the nation's capital for the final stage of the 1981 Canadian National Teams Championship. The defenders Murray

and Kehela, Kokish and Nagy, Mittelman and Graves cruised to first place in the round robin, then won the semifinals by 160 IMPs, and the finals by 81. Here is a hand Kehela played:

Dealer East Both vul.	♠ 9 7 ♥ A Q 4 2 ♦ Q J 10 7 2 ♣ K 4 ♠ Q J 3 ♥ K J ♦ 8 5 4 3 ♣ 10 6 3 2	N  W E S	♠ A 2 ♥ 10 9 8 6 5 3 ♦ K 9 6 ♣ A 8 ♠ K 10 8 6 5 4 ♥ 7 ♦ A ♣ Q J 9 7 5
--------------------------	--	--	--

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	Murray		Kehela
pass	2NT	1♥	1♠
pass	3♦	pass	3♣
dbl	3♠	pass	3♥
all pass			4♠

Opening lead: ♥K

Kehela took the opening lead with dummy's ace and played a spade to the king as East played low. He then unblocked the ace of diamonds and exited with a trump. East, with no good exit, played a second heart. Kehela threw a club and used the extra dummy entry to lead the queen of diamonds. East covered, so Kehela ruffed and exited with a third round of trumps. This time West was in with no good exit, forced to give access to dummy's diamonds or lead away from his ten of clubs.

Biarritz, 1982

In 1982 the World Championships (formerly known as the Pair Olympiad) were held in Biarritz, a charming resort town on the Atlantic coast of France, within sight of the Spanish border. "The first day was great," Eric recalls.

“Lots of topless girls on the beach. Then it rained for two weeks.” On occasion I have known Eric to stretch the truth somewhat, to make his point. But I was there, and he is not exaggerating. The first, glorious, sunny day was the thirtieth day of September and the official end to the tourist season. We all strolled the streets, sampled the little bakeries and, yes, took in the sights. The following day the wind roared in from the west, picked up vast quantities of ocean and for a fortnight unrelentingly dumped it on the world’s bridge players.

Inside the casino, the players were dry, if a little smoky. For this was a tournament where smoking was not simply allowed, but actively *encouraged*. Gitane, the cigarette manufacturer and sponsor of the tournament, employed attractive ladies to hand out samples of the company’s products to the competitors as they entered the playing rooms.

For the Rosenblum Cup, Murray and Kehela had as teammates Kokish, Nagy, Graves and Mittelman. George was in search of his second medal of the tournament, having won the gold in the Mixed Pairs with Dianna Gordon. The team event had several stages; ultimately, the gold and silver medals went to the knockout finalists, teams from the U.S. and France; the bronze would go to the winner of the Swiss repechage, in which the Canadians were leading with two rounds to go. In the penultimate round they faced Sweden. Murray and Kehela played against Anders Morath and Jorgen Lindqvist. Kehela had to contend with an unlikely contract here:

Dealer South

N-S vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Morath	Murray	Lindqvist	Kehela
1♠	2♠	3♠	1♦
4♠	5♦	all pass	pass

Opening lead: ♠A

Three-card one diamond openings are an infrequent occurrence in Colonial Acol; here Kehela was afraid of being awkwardly placed if he opened one heart and got a two club response. A two notrump rebid would show extra values; in contrast, a rebid of two notrump having opened one *diamond* would not. As often happens when declarer is in an unlikely contract, the defense didn't see their best line, which here would be to continue with spades at Trick 2. Instead, West shifted to the jack of hearts. Kehela won in hand with the ace and played the queen of diamonds, East playing low. The eight of diamonds to the jack also held, and Kehela pondered. It seemed from the defensive ducks that diamonds were 4-2 (in fact, it would have been better for East to go take his ace on the second round and continue the spade assault). If so, playing a third diamond would lead to certain defeat. Kehela cashed the ace of clubs and played another towards dummy. If West had started with queen third of clubs, a finesse was necessary here. But was that possible? With 5-3-2-3 West surely would not have bid four spades. What if he was 5-2-2-4? That was more likely. Now, suppose he had the queen of clubs. A finesse of the jack would win, but East would ruff the king and there would be no way to avoid the loss of a club.

After running through these calculations, Kehela decided the best bet was to play for the queen of clubs to drop, so he went up with dummy's king. When the queen fell, he continued with the queen of hearts and a heart to the king, and then started to run clubs. There was no defense.

Sweden won an IMP on the board, for +620 in four hearts after a one heart opening, but making five diamonds kept Canada close. The Swedes won by 3 to knock Canada out of first. Sweden then went on to defeat the leaders, Italy (Barbone, Garozzo, Porcino, Lumia, Franco, De Falco), allowing Canada to sweep back into first and win the bronze medal.



For my generation, Murray and Kehela were a Canadian legend. There was front-page coverage of Canada's progress at the Olympiads, and Murray and Kehela were always the anchor pair. Whenever there were magazine articles or television clips about bridge, Murray and Kehela were there. Murray was always outrageously quotable, and Kehela, dressed in black and a study in concentration, made the perfect foil. And, of course, the cigars made for good photographs.

As a teenager, I had a partner who would overcall one spade on something like

♠ Q 9 5 3 2 ♥ J 7 3 ♦ 9 8 3 ♣ 6 2

and when I drove to game with a fitting eighteen-count he would ask why I couldn't bid more like Kehela. Later, in university years, we occasionally got to rub shoulders with them. A friend of mine told me a story about playing a hand with Kehela kibitzing. He needed three tricks from a suit of king-jack fourth opposite ace-nine fourth. "I'll show Kehela I know all the plays," he said to himself as he led the king. This, of course, is proper technique. On the next round declarer leads low and inserts the nine if his left-hand opponent follows. But my friend got a bit ahead of himself, and overtook the king with the ace! "Kehela walked away," he recalled, laughing. "He'd seen enough."

On days when we had a team-of-four match, I used to leave school early to watch Kehela play rubber bridge at the St. Clair Club.² I remember the first

match we played against Murray and Kehela. On one hand, Murray was in two notrump. The details have evaporated into the mists of time, but I remember that I had led and established hearts and that the end position was something like this:

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

Needing two more tricks and being in the dummy, Murray exited with a club. I now had to find a pitch. All would have been well had I pitched a heart, trusting partner to play a diamond. Alternatively, had I been sure he had the last heart I could have made the fancy discard of the king of diamonds, and he would play his heart. But some little devil made me throw my low diamond. Now partner, playing me for one less heart, shifted to a diamond. Murray gave this a long look, but decided not to play us to have defended this way and he played small, allowing me to win the rest of the tricks. Was he furious! He clenched his fist, positive that there should have been some way for him to figure out what we were doing.

Let's put this in perspective. Murray had been to three Bermuda Bowls by this time, and yet would still get worked up over a partscore against a team of kids.

ERM: I just can't think of any one pair that has consistently got the better of us, though according to everyone I meet, I guess they all have. I'm constantly running into somebody who tells me that I played against his Aunt Sophie eleven years ago and I say "And

I'm sure she killed me." "Well, as a matter of fact, she did!" they say.

After the tournament in Biarritz, Murray and Kehela amicably agreed to dissolve their partnership. While it came as a shock to many in the bridge world, those close to the pair knew something of the toll twenty-four years of competitive bridge had taken on them. The pair agreed to an interview with the *Globe and Mail*.

CANADA'S BRIDGE ODD COUPLE SPLITS

Report on Sport

Saturday, Nov 20, 1982

by Nora McCabe

Any good matchmaker knows opposites attract. And if there's a couple around to illustrate that adage to perfection, it's Eric Murray and Sami Kehela, Canada's top bridge-playing duo who've been joined in an odd marriage for 24 years.

But Murray — a blustery, 54-year-old, big-shot litigation lawyer — and Kehela — a brooding, 48-year-old, bridge hustler — are splitting. After nearly a quarter of a century; after recently winning a bronze medal at the 1982 Olympiad of bridge; they've retired from international competition. [...]

SRK: Bridge is an intellectual game so both partners have to be relatively equal in ability. Ego is very much involved so you have to respect your partner's game. You cannot start criticizing his game in public, thereby denigrating his abilities in some way. Bridge is a very intense experience. One's nerves are on edge so you can take umbrage easily.

In other words, shut up, no matter what your partner does.

ERM: Yes. Being a lawyer, I developed more powerful lungs than most people and I shout and scream and rant, but very early we came to the understanding that we should never discuss hands at the table.

They go farther, opting not to see each other socially, even though they live within walking distance. Contrary to rumor, they don't dislike each other; they just subscribe to the theory that absence makes the heart grow fonder. [...]

SRK: He has a perpetual snarl on his face.

Eric never minded looking foolish. He would take positions, gamble a bit. He was mercurial. He used to lose some points, but he brought in more than he dropped. I, on the other hand, was more the theoretician. My style was just not to make errors so that I didn't lose points because I didn't bring points in. I didn't cause opponents to make mistakes, which was Eric's style when he was at the top of his game. He made it easy for opponents to make mistakes by putting them off their stride. I never did that. I just kept my nose clean.

Asked if he had any regrets:

ERM: Yes. Retiring without ever winning a world championship is the most upsetting thing to me by far, because there's no question in my mind that we should have won several World Championships.

SRK: It only matters when I think of it.

The article prompted a flurry of correspondence:

Letter to the editor:

I would like to clear up some misconceptions from Nora McCabe's remarkably lugubrious portrayal of me (Canada's Bridge Odd Couple Splits — Nov 20).

While it is true that I no longer play up to my own standards, I believe that I can still hold my own in any company. I am perfectly capable of providing my own cigars. Eric Murray's retirement does not oblige me to commit "sati".

Sami Kehela

Toronto

I am told by one and all that Nora McCabe's article is excellent, and captures some of the excitement and colour of the international bridge scene.

Those informants, however, express dismay at the statement attributed to Sami Kehela that he is "no longer effective." If that is what he said, perhaps he really is a hustler.

Mr. Kehela is still Canada's most effective bridge player and still one of the best in the world, an opinion which I invite you to test by selecting your favorite partner ... (well, perhaps I'm the hustler).

E. R. Murray

Toronto

Canada's Bridge Odd Couple Splits was a wonderful article honoring two great bridge players, Sami Kehela and Eric Murray, and I am sure all Toronto bridge players agree with me that this recognition was long past due.

However, I take exception to the reference to Mr. Kehela as a "brooding 48-year-old bridge hustler." If ever a person does not fit the normal interpretation of a hustler, it is Mr. Kehela. He is the most respected and best loved of all the Canadian bridge players. No hustler would ever generate this worldwide respect.

Reuben Kunin

Liaison Officer

World Bridge Federation

Blonay, Switzerland

Both Murray and Kehela continued to play, Sami mostly at the rubber bridge table and Eric whenever his schedule permitted. In 1987, the Canadian National Team Championships (CNTC) was held at Laval, Quebec, and by chance Murray happened to be there, attending a legal convention. The team of John Carruthers, John Guoba, Boris Baran and Mark Molson invited him to join them, which he did, playing in turn with all of them. The team won the final. Kehela was of course the natural sixth to be added for the Olympiad in Venice, and after considerable cajoling, he relented.

Venice, 1988

Kehela played four spades on this deal from the qualifying rounds, against the team from Surinam.

Dealer West

Both vul.

Board 4

♠ A K Q

♥ Q 10 9

♦ Q J 7 3 2

♣ 9 2

♠ J 10 9 2

♥ K 5 3

♦ 10 8

♣ K 8 7 3



♠ 7

♥ J 8 6 4

♦ A K 6 5 4

♣ Q 6 4

♠ 8 6 5 4 3

♥ A 7 2

♦ 9

♣ A J 10 5

The opening lead of the ten of diamonds was covered by the jack and king, and East returned his singleton trump. Kehela won and advanced the nine of clubs, which East failed to cover. West won the king and continued with the eight of diamonds, covered by the queen, ace and ruffed. A trump to the king revealed the break. Kehela cashed dummy's ace of trumps and took a club finesse. The ace of clubs then felled the queen. Now Kehela took the last club

and put West in with the fourth round of trumps. On the forced heart exit, Kehela unerringly went in with dummy's queen. The seven of diamonds and the ace of hearts won the last two tricks.

Obviously East would have done better to shift to a heart at Trick 2, or to cover the nine of clubs, not that either play is necessarily right. The last chance for the defense, difficult to see, is for West to hold off the king of clubs. That prevents South from conveniently running the clubs, and the defense has a counter to anything he tries. In the other room, the contract of three spades failed by a trick.

DOR: Why did you start playing competitively?

SRK: I started playing duplicate in California because rubber bridge was not sufficiently stimulating and because one couldn't play with one's favourite partner.

DOR: Do you still get as much enjoyment out of the game as you did then...?

SRK: No.

Sami can be terse and direct. I asked him to elaborate on his enjoyment of the game. He feels that the proliferation of systems and conventions, particularly artificial weak bids with potentially many meanings, have made the game less fun to play at the world level. "In an Olympiad, you are playing three matches a day. You don't know whom you are going to be playing. Who has the time or inclination to prepare defenses to dozens of conventions that you may never have to face? You need a full-time coach to prepare methods for you. Kokish does that for his clients. There was a hand from an Olympiad that was a turning point for me, from a match against New Zealand."

This was the deal:

Dealer North

E-W vul.

Board 9

♠ 9 4 3 2

♥ 7 4

♦ J 10 9 5 4 3

♣ 5

♠ A K
♥ A K 9 2
♦ A K
♣ A K 8 6 4



♠ Q 10 8 6
♥ 8 5 3
♦ Q 8 7 6
♣ J 2

♠ J 7 5
♥ Q J 10 6
♦ 2
♣ Q 10 9 7 3

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kehela	Crombie	Murray	Reid
	1♠ ¹	pass	3♣ ²
dbl	pass	3♠	pass
3NT	all pass		

1. 0-9 HCP, any distribution.

2. To play.

Opening lead: ♣5

Kehela played low from dummy and took South's nine with the king. He then unblocked the diamond and spade winners and followed with ace and a low heart. South won and returned a heart; Kehela won and played a fourth heart, putting him back in. South tried the queen of clubs, pinning dummy's jack, but Kehela allowed this to hold. South was now endplayed, and the eight of clubs, when added to the four ace-kings, was Kehela's game-going trick.

That was certainly well done. Kehela's disgust with the deal is undoubtedly furthered by the result at the other table in six notrump, where the defense inadvertently gave declarer access to the spade and diamond winners in dummy, which set up a heart-club squeeze on South for the twelfth trick.

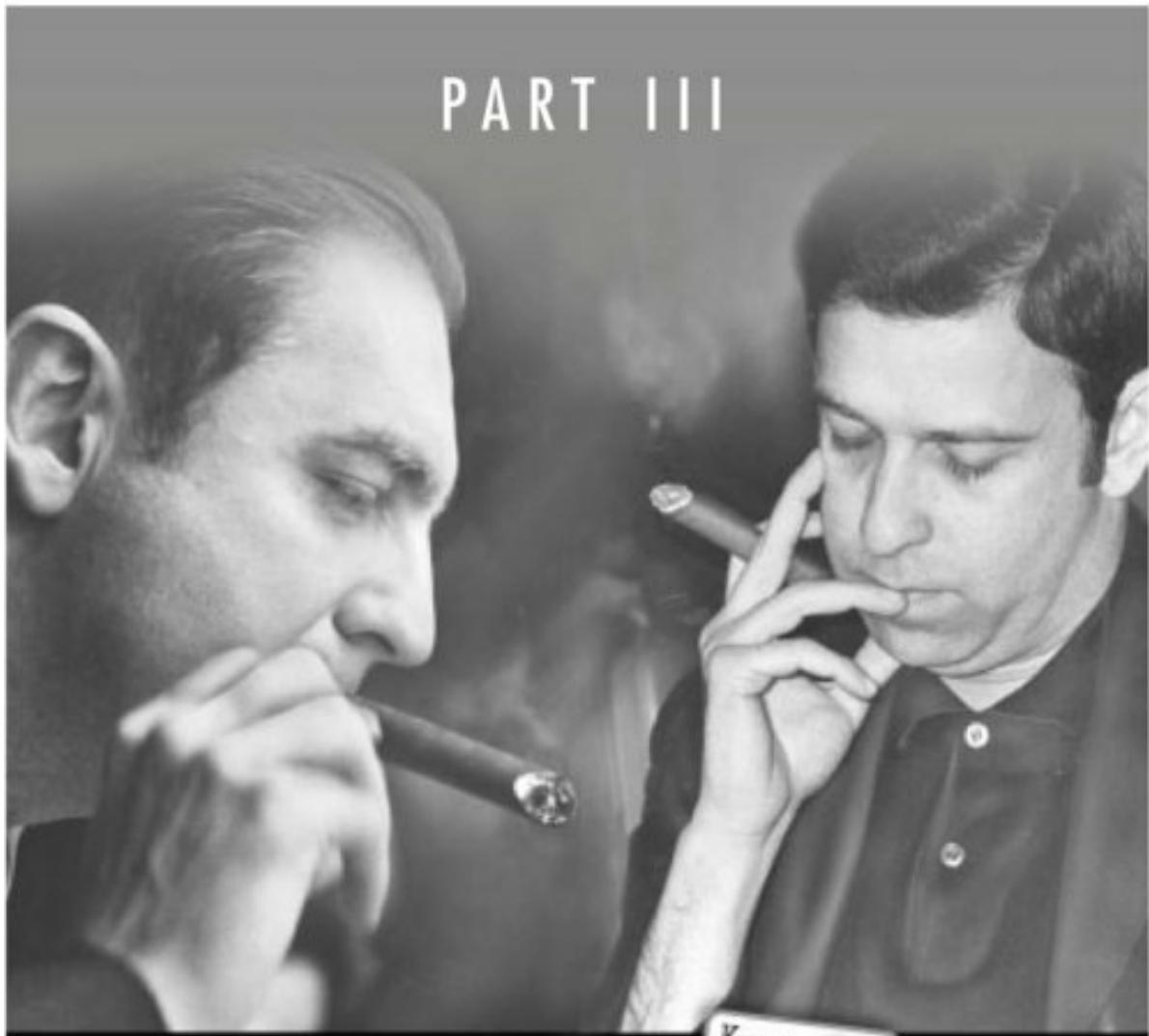
Canada finished disappointingly out of the playoffs, and Murray and Kehela retired once more.



1 According to a column by Reese. The World Championship book, page 28, gives Murray's bid as two hearts.

2 On Bathurst Street. The old St. Clair Club was the one actually on St. Clair Avenue, at Parkview.

PART III



POTPOURRI



CHAPTER 15

TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS



Every July, Deauville plays host to the International Bridge Festival. The IMP pairs Tournament of Champions (Tournois des Champions) was one of the most prestigious of the world's events. In 1972, the eight invited pairs were Reese and Flint, Avarelli and Amato, Sharif and Boulenger, Ogust and Leventritt, Carcy and Calix, Leclery and Chemla, Seres and Smilde, and Murray and Kehela. The Open section of the tournament was played in the afternoon; in the evening the invited pairs played and the public watched on Vugraph. Each pair played a 16-board match against each other pair, one match per evening.

I had trouble finding any deals from this tournament, so I called Sami, who promised to check his sources and get back to me. At our next meeting, he reported that he had found an account, but it contained no deals of particular interest. I had been warned by my publisher, Ray, that Sami often felt this way. "He and Murray would win some big event by five boards," he said. "I would ask for a deal to write up, and Sami would say that they didn't do anything noteworthy, just followed suit." So I pressed a little bit, asking to see the report, which turned out to be in a bound edition of *Bridge Magazine*. On one of the deals, Sami was in three notrump redoubled against Omar Sharif. I asked to borrow the magazine, noting that even if the material was not particularly interesting, perhaps I could make something of it.

This wild deal came from the first round:

Dealer South
N-S vul.

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



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kehela	Amato	Murray	Avarelli
			pass
3♥	3♠	4♥	4♠
pass	pass	5♥	pass
pass	5♠	6♥	pass
pass	dbl	all pass	

With his only wish being to be allowed to play in hearts, regardless of the level, Murray made minimum bids at every turn and finally bought the contract for six hearts doubled. Kehela made an overtrick on the spade lead for +1310. In a large event that would score very well, but when there are only three other results to compare to one is certainly at the mercy of the Fates. On this deal, Ogust-Leventritt saved in seven hearts and got the same spade lead, for +1770. At a third table, the popularizers of the Multi Two Diamonds had an interesting accident.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Sharif	Reese	Sussel	Flint
			2♦1
2♥	2♠	3♠	pass
4♥	all pass		

1. Weak two in hearts or spades.

I can guess what happened. Reese didn't know which suit his partner had, so over the two heart overcall he simply bid two spades. Flint, on the other hand, presumably thought that Reese was playing him to have spades, and was just competing. "Pass-or-correct" bids are common in response to a multi — two spades would have had that meaning in the absence of competition. So Reese and Flint sold out to four hearts when they were cold for six spades. Despite missing the slam, however, Reese and Flint actually won points, because of the Murray-Kehela and Ogust-Leventritt results.

In the fourth round, you hold:

♠ K Q J 4 3 ♥ J 10 3 ♦ 9 3 ♣ J 8 4

The bidding goes one notrump (16-18) on your left, three notrump on your right. In your methods, you may double here to conventionally request a spade lead. Do you?

Sharif did, and this was the full deal (Sussel was temporarily sitting in for Boulenger):

Dealer East N-S vul.	♠ A 7 5 ♥ A 5 4 ♦ K 6 5 2 ♣ K 10 5									
♠ 10 8 6 ♥ 7 6 2 ♦ 10 7 4 ♣ Q 7 6 2	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S	
	N									
W		E								
	S									
	♠ K Q J 4 3 ♥ J 10 3 ♦ 9 3 ♣ J 8 4									
	♠ 9 2 ♥ K Q 9 8 ♦ A Q J 8 ♣ A 9 3									

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Sussel	Murray	Sharif	Kehela
pass	3NT	pass	1NT
pass	redbl	dbl	pass
		all pass	

The double was potentially a big winner, but here Murray was able to redouble and Kehela took eleven tricks, for +1550. Not only was that a substantial pickup, but had Sharif not doubled, Murray and Kehela would have lost a considerable number of points, because Carcy-Calix bid and made six diamonds. They achieved that through a Monaco relay auction, in spite of an overcall of one spade. The only player to open the East cards was Flint, with another multi two diamonds. Avarelli overcalled two notrump, raised to four by Amato. And now it would have been useful to have the agreement that the overcaller can accept by way of showing four-card suits up the line, or something similar, but Avarelli simply bid six notrump and was down one.

Three slams had a lot to do with the final placings. Against Chemla and Leclery, Kehela held:

♠ 10 8 7 5 4 3 ♥ J 10 8 7 6 ♦ 5 3 ♣ —

Chemla on his left opened one diamond, and the bidding proceeded:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kehela	Chemla	Murray	Leclery
	1♦	pass	2♣
pass	3♦	pass	3♥
pass	3NT	pass	6♦
?			

Quickly now, do you double for an unusual lead? A club ruff would be a good start, but will there be another trick? Kehela doubled, got his club ruff, and then waited for his partner to come through. And Murray came through like a good partner should, with not one but two trump tricks. This was the full deal:

♠ K 9 6
♥ K Q
♦ A J 10 9 4 2
♣ K 10

♠ 10 8 7 5 4 3
♥ J 10 8 7 6
♦ 5 3
♣ —



♠ J
♥ 9 5 4
♦ K Q 6
♣ Q J 9 6 4 2

♠ A Q 2
♥ A 3 2
♦ 8 7
♣ A 8 7 5 3

Then against Sharif and Boulenger:

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Boulenger	Murray	Sharif	Kehela
			1♠
pass	2♦	pass	2NT
pass	4♦	pass	4♥
pass	5♣	pass	5♦
pass	6♦	all pass	

Six diamonds made comfortably with the king of diamonds onside. How would you play it on a spade lead? On a heart lead? Or on a club lead?

On a spade lead there are twelve tricks: four spades, six diamonds and two aces. The 100% line is to win the spade in hand with the jack and cash the ace of diamonds, forcing an entry to dummy in trumps if they prove 3-0.

On a heart lead you are best off trying the diamond finesse, so go up at Trick 1 and run the seven. If it wins but diamonds are 3-0, you try to cash three rounds of spades, pitching a heart on the second one. If West ruffs the third round of spades, overruff, draw trump, and cross to dummy on the third trump. Now try to play clubs for one loser. The best play is low to the jack. If West inserts the king or queen, take the ace and return the jack. You need East to hold a singleton or doubleton ten, or West to have honor-ten doubleton.

On a club lead to the queen or king, your best chance is win with the ace and lay down the ace of diamonds. If the king doesn't fall, cash the jack of

spades, cross to the ace of hearts and start running spades.

The last slam, bid only by Murray and Kehela, was this one:

Murray

♠ A K 5 3 2
♥ K
♦ K 6 3
♣ K Q 5 3

Kehela

♠ 10 6
♥ 9 8 6 4
♦ A Q 9
♣ A 10 4 2

1♠

3♣

4♦

pass

pass

1NT

3♦

6♣

This came home with decent splits. With one round to go, Murray and Kehela were undefeated and had a lock on first place. They lost the last round to Reese and Flint. The final placings were:

1. Murray-Kehela 49
2. Reese-Flint 44
3. Ogust-Leventritt 38
4. Seres-Smilde 37

CHAPTER 16

PORLAND VANDERBILT



In Portland, Oregon in 1970, Murray and Kehela played in the Vanderbilt with Kaplan, Kay, Lazard and Rapée. In the final they met the Dallas Aces: Eisenberg, Goldman, Hamman, Lawrence, Wolff and Jim Jacoby.

Captain Kaplan sat himself and Norman Kay out for the first quarter. On the very first board, Murray held

♠ Q 5 ♥ J 8 3 2 ♦ 6 ♣ Q 10 9 5 4 2

Eisenberg, the dealer, with no one vulnerable, opened a strong, artificial two clubs, and Murray threw in a light-hearted three clubs. This by no means derailed the Aces auction, but had a telling effect on the play. Here is the full deal:

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kehela	Eisenberg	Murray	Goldman
	2♣	3♣	pass
pass	3♠	pass	4NT
pass	5♣	pass	6♠
pass	7♠	all pass	

Goldman bided his time after Murray's intervention, but took control with Blackwood (original, four-ace form) when Eisenberg showed spades. Eisenberg very reasonably went on to seven, and then had to decide how to play it on a club lead. Deciding that perhaps Murray might have short spades as part of his ace-less, king-less three-level intervention, Eisenberg won the spade lead in hand, cashed the ace of spades, crossed to dummy and took a spade finesse. Down one. In the Closed Room:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Jacoby	Rapée	Wolff	Lazard
	2♣	pass	2NT ¹
pass	3♠	pass	4♦
pass	5NT ²	pass	7♠
all pass			

1. Three kings.

2. Grand slam force, asking for two of the top three diamonds.

Lazard had no reason to spurn the normal line of cashing the ace and king of spades. 17 IMPs to Kaplan.

Soon Murray had another chance to interfere (it would be impolite to suggest it seldom takes long).

Dealer South

N-S vul.

♠ Q 8 6 2
♥ 8
♦ J 10 8 5 4
♣ J 7 6

♠ 5
♥ J 10 4 2
♦ 9 6
♣ A K 9 5 4 2

N
W E
S

♠ J 10 9 7 4 3
♥ Q 7 6
♦ Q 2
♣ 10 3

♠ A K
♥ A K 9 5 3
♦ A K 7 3
♣ Q 8

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kehela	Eisenberg	Murray	Goldman
			2♣
pass	3♣	3♠	pass
5♠	pass	pass	6♣
pass	pass	6♠	pass
pass	7♣	pass	pass
7♠	dbl	all pass	

After Goldman's strong, artificial opening and Eisenberg's natural positive, Murray wandered in with his flat six to the jack. Goldman waited again and Kehela, with a terrific hand for spades, put the pressure on with a leap to five. Goldman backed in with six clubs. Kehela, having made the opposition guess, was content to let them play that, but Murray was not. He felt they were going to make six clubs (right) so why not give them another problem? Eisenberg bid a grand slam on the basis of his good clubs, and we will never know if Goldman would have made it, because Kehela took out insurance in seven spades. Murray was down seven, -1300 (old scoring) for a 4 IMP pickup against six hearts making in the other room.

Do you think Goldman would have made seven clubs? I think he would have. The natural line is to win the opening lead, draw trumps, cash the other spade and one top heart, and play three rounds of diamonds, ruffing in hand. When Murray shows out on the third diamond, then follows small on the jack of hearts, you have to decide whether he has a 7-2-2-2, which seems possible, or what he actually had. If he is 7-2-2-2, then Kehela jumped to five spades on 3-2-5-3 and the queen of hearts, which doesn't seem likely.

Kaplan led after the first quarter, 66-13. Kaplan and Kay came in for Lazard and Rapée; Hamman-Lawrence replaced Eisenberg-Goldman.

Dealer West

Neither vul.

♠ 8 4
♥ 8 5
♦ K J 7 5 4
♣ 10 7 4 3

♠ A K 10 6 5 3
♥ K 10 4
♦ A 9
♣ A 5

N
W E
S

♠ Q J 9 7 2
♥ J 2
♦ 8 6 2
♣ Q 8 6

♠ —
♥ A Q 9 7 6 3
♦ Q 10 3
♣ K J 9 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Jacoby	Murray	Wolff	Kehela
1♣ ¹	1♦	dbl ²	1♥
1♠	pass	2♠	4♦
4♥	pass	4♠	all pass

1. 17 or more high card points.
2. 6 or more HCP, fewer than 3 controls (A=2, K=1).

Perhaps you think it craven of Kehela to allow the opponents to play four spades. But consider the context. As Kaplan had pointed out, while enjoying himself thoroughly in the June report in the *Bridge World*, for his three overcalls Murray had held, *in total*:

♠ Q J ♥ Q J ♦ K Q J ♣ Q

Moreover, on this last deal, Murray had *passed twice in a row*. Four spades made, for 3 IMPs to the Aces when Hamman saved in five hearts in the other room. A little later:

Dealer East E-W vul.	<p>♠ A 8 7 6 5 4 3 ♥ 7 6 3 ♦ 2 ♣ J 9</p> <p>♠ J 10 9 ♥ Q 10 8 ♦ J 10 4 3 ♣ K 7 4</p>	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		<p>♠ Q 2 ♥ 9 5 2 ♦ K Q 7 ♣ A Q 10 6 3</p> <p>♠ K ♥ A K J 4 ♦ A 9 8 6 5 ♣ 8 5 2</p>
	N											
W		E										
	S											
WEST Jacoby	NORTH Murray	EAST Wolff	SOUTH Kehela									
2♦ pass all pass	2♠ 3♠	1♦1 pass pass	pass 3♦ 4♠									

1. Orange Club (like Blue Club). Could be short.

Murray won the opening diamond lead with the ace and ruffed a diamond. A spade to the king was followed by another diamond ruff. When the spades broke 3-2, he established the long diamond for his tenth trick, a gain of 7 IMPs against one spade making three in the other room. On the quarter Kaplan won 20-9, for an overall lead of 86-22.



We were looking over the teams in the round of sixteen of the 2006 Spingold. Knowing Sami didn't have a computer — he doesn't even have an answering machine — I had jotted down the lineups from the ACBL site before going over.

“All the teams have sponsors,” noted Sami. The Murray-Kehela partnership was never paid to play. At times a teammate would pick up their expenses. Kehela once created a ripple of amusement among New York City’s experts when he mailed a refund for expenses not incurred.

“I sent him a check,” said Sami. “He had agreed to cover expenses, and he had given me more than I spent.”

“Do you have any interest in playing online?” I asked.

Sami shook his head. “I’ve played one hand online in my life,” he told me. “I was in Las Vegas, talking to Sharon Osberg, who was playing online with Warren Buffet. Sharon asked me to sit in for one hand. I went down in one notrump. I could have succeeded on a slightly inferior line. Mr. Buffett was not impressed — as one might suspect, he was only interested in the bottom line.”

Sami and I shared a laugh over Kaplan’s description of Murray’s bidding in the 1970 Vanderbilt. “I never knew what he had,” Sami confided to me, “when he overcalled or opened in third chair.”

When it was time to start the third quarter of the final in Portland, Kehela was ill and unable to play. Eric recalls:

I took the opportunity to indulge a little bit, since Sami wasn’t going to make it back. We lost about thirty IMPs in the third quarter. Sami was distraught, saying “Oh, I was afraid this was going to happen, and if we lose it’s going to be all my fault!” and I said, “Everything’s going to be fine, Sami, don’t worry.” We went back to the room and waited for the end of the session. When I went down again, Edgar and Norman were still playing and Lazard was running around, moaning, “Oh, I doubled them on the last hand and they made it, we’re going to lose, and it’s all my fault!” Normally I would have just broken a chair over his head, but I was so mellow I just said, “That’s O.K., Sidney, you win some, you lose some.”

Kaplan and company held on to win by 4. There’s more to the story of the Portland Vanderbilt, which Sami promises to tell me as soon as this book is

published.

CHAPTER 17

HANDS FROM AROUND THE WORLD



Murray and Kehela played many hands that for one reason or another did not fit into the story line of the rest of the book. This chapter presents a selection.

Eric Murray won the Men's Pairs at the ACBL 1954 Summer Nationals in Washington D. C., playing with Douglas Drury of Toronto. Here is a deal from that event taken from a newspaper column by Oswald Jacoby.

Dealer North
Both vul.

♠ J 7 3
♥ A K Q J
♦ A 5
♣ 10 9 8 5

♠ K
♥ 9 8 4 3 2
♦ Q 7 4
♣ A J 3 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	Drury		Murray
	1♣	pass	1♥
dbl	2♥	pass	3♥
3♠	4♥	all pass	

Opening lead: ♠A

West won the first trick and shifted to a trump. Murray won that and played a second round of trumps, West throwing a spade. How would you play?

Here is the full deal:

Dealer North
Both vul.

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

Leaving the defenders' third trump at large, Murray passed the ten of clubs to West's queen. Sensing that a minor-suit return would be immediately fatal, West tried the effect of leading the queen of spades. Murray ruffed in hand and crossed to dummy with a heart, drawing East's last trump. He then cashed the jack of spades, throwing a diamond, and endplayed West with ace and another club. Since a spade lead would allow declarer to throw dummy's losing diamond while ruffing in hand, West tried playing a diamond. Murray ran this around to his queen to make four hearts.

Note that declarer can be defeated if he draws a third round of trumps before passing the ten of clubs. West wins and plays the queen of spades, as he did. After ruffing in hand, declarer is stuck in his hand with no good continuation. If he plays ace and a club, West can exit with a spade. Declarer might try crossing to the ace of diamonds, pitching a diamond on the jack of spades and exiting in diamonds. But now West can concede a ruff-sluff and still come to a club trick.

In the 1961 Spring Nationals in Denver, Colorado, Murray teamed up with Coon and Jordan and Robinson to win the Vanderbilt. Here is a sensational deal from their eighth-round match against the Shuman team. Murray held:

♠ K 10 ♥ K Q J 7 4 ♦ 9 8 ♣ 8 5 4 3

Alex Tschekaloff, the dealer on his right, opened four clubs at favorable vulnerability. He passed, Erik Paulsen passed, and Coon doubled. After a pass on the right, what would you bid? Perhaps there is no definitively

correct bid, but I admire Murray's choice of five hearts. The strong heart suit may be just what is needed against the bad splits suggested by the preemptive opening. The four small clubs suggest that partner is short; the doubleton spade may be key and the ten may be helpful. In any event, the auction continued as shown:

Dealer East
N-S vul.

♠ A 9 4 3
♥ A 10 9
♦ A K 10 6 5 2
♣ —

♠ K 10
♥ K Q J 7 4
♦ 9 8
♣ 8 5 4 3

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Paulsen	Coon	Tschekaloff	Murray
pass	dbl	4♣	pass
pass	6♥	pass	5♥
		dbl	all pass

Opening lead: low diamond

How do you play?

The double suggests the presence of a void, presumably in diamonds. Murray recounted the play for the November 1978 *Kibitzer*. "A diamond was led and I ducked. RHO ruffed and returned a trump. I won in hand, ruffed a club in dummy, crossed to the spade king, ruffed another club, then played ace and ruffed a spade. Now the run of the trumps squeezed my LHO in spades and diamonds. At the other table they got the same double, but they didn't read it for a diamond lead, so a club was led, and declarer lost control of the hand and went down 800." The full deal was:¹

Dealer East

N-S vul.

♠ Q J 8 6 5
♥ 8
♦ Q J 7 4 3
♣ 9 6

♠ A 9 4 3
♥ A 10 9
♦ A K 10 6 5 2
♣ —



♠ 7 2
♥ 6 5 3 2
♦ —
♣ A K Q J 10 7 2

♠ K 10
♥ K Q J 7 4
♦ 9 8
♣ 8 5 4 3

Kehela often played in pair events with Wolf “Willie” Lebovic, a colorful character on the Canadian bridge scene. He was born in Brustura, Czechoslovakia. Forced to flee Hitler, the family escaped first to Budapest, and then after the war to London, finally settling in Canada in 1949. Successful in business, Willie generously supports many worthwhile causes, most notably Toronto’s Mount Sinai Hospital.

Lebovic was a great help to Canada’s international bridge efforts. He captained the Ladies’ team in 1964, was assistant captain to the Open team in 1968 and captain in 1976. One day back in the seventies I was invited, along with some other young players, to give Canada’s Olympic team some practice. The match was held in Willie Lebovic’s home, which was the entire top floor of a Toronto tower. It was an elegant setting, and as a young student I remember particularly the delicious, abundant food.

In the spring of 1963, Kehela flew down with Lebovic to play in the nationals in St. Louis. Together they won the opening event, the International Fund Pairs. (“Everyone played,” Sami told me, “because it was the only event going on.”) Here is a deal from their next event, which they also won, the four-session Men’s Pairs.

Dealer South
Neither vul.

♠ J 8 6 3
♥ K Q 9 8 4 2
♦ K 4
♣ 3

♠ A 5
♥ 10 5
♦ Q 10 7 3
♣ A K J 6 5

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	Lebovic		Kehela
1♠ pass	2♥ 3NT	pass all pass	1♦ 2NT

Opening lead: ♠K

Kehela took the king of spades with the ace and led the ten of hearts. West won that with the ace, cashed the queen of spades and continued with the ten to dummy's jack, East following while declarer threw a club. Kehela now played the king of hearts on which West discarded a diamond. How would you continue?

Kehela took the queen of hearts, throwing a diamond, and won a club finesse. Two top clubs followed, leading to this ending:

♠ 8
♥ 9
♦ K 4
♣ —

♠ —
♥ —
♦ Q 10 7
♣ 6

Now Kehela led the seven of diamonds towards dummy. West, who was down to three diamonds and the good spade, saw what would happen if he played low: dummy's king would win and he would be thrown in with a spade, forced to concede the last trick to declarer's queen of diamonds. So West made a good play, rising with the ace of diamonds. Now if declarer makes the mistake of playing low, West will cash his good spade and stick dummy in with a diamond, and East will win the last trick with the jack of hearts. But Kehela calmly called for the king of diamonds to be thrown under the ace, and after West cashed his spade winner, he had to lead from his jack of diamonds into declarer's queen-ten. This was the full deal:

<table border="0"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>J 8 6 3</td></tr> <tr><td>♥</td><td>K Q 9 8 4 2</td></tr> <tr><td>♦</td><td>K 4</td></tr> <tr><td>♣</td><td>3</td></tr> </table> <table border="0"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>K Q 10 9</td></tr> <tr><td>♥</td><td>A</td></tr> <tr><td>♦</td><td>A J 8 5 2</td></tr> <tr><td>♣</td><td>10 8 4</td></tr> </table>	♠	J 8 6 3	♥	K Q 9 8 4 2	♦	K 4	♣	3	♠	K Q 10 9	♥	A	♦	A J 8 5 2	♣	10 8 4		<table border="0"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>7 4 2</td></tr> <tr><td>♥</td><td>J 7 6 3</td></tr> <tr><td>♦</td><td>9 6</td></tr> <tr><td>♣</td><td>Q 9 7 2</td></tr> </table> <table border="0"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>A 5</td></tr> <tr><td>♥</td><td>10 5</td></tr> <tr><td>♦</td><td>Q 10 7 3</td></tr> <tr><td>♣</td><td>A K J 6 5</td></tr> </table>	♠	7 4 2	♥	J 7 6 3	♦	9 6	♣	Q 9 7 2	♠	A 5	♥	10 5	♦	Q 10 7 3	♣	A K J 6 5
♠	J 8 6 3																																	
♥	K Q 9 8 4 2																																	
♦	K 4																																	
♣	3																																	
♠	K Q 10 9																																	
♥	A																																	
♦	A J 8 5 2																																	
♣	10 8 4																																	
♠	7 4 2																																	
♥	J 7 6 3																																	
♦	9 6																																	
♣	Q 9 7 2																																	
♠	A 5																																	
♥	10 5																																	
♦	Q 10 7 3																																	
♣	A K J 6 5																																	

Exhausted by his efforts after winning the first two events, Willie Lebovic was slumped in the elevator the morning after the Men's Pairs. A fellow passenger who did not recognize him mistook his attitude for dejection, and sought to console him.

"Don't feel bad," he said. "You can't win 'em all."

Kehela played again with Lebovic in the 1967 Blue Ribbon Pairs. They led the strong field most of the way, and would have won comfortably were it not for a dramatic last-session charge by Mathe and Feldesman, who roared back to trail the leaders by 12 matchpoints with one round to play. As fate would

have it, the two contending pairs played against each other in that final round. On the first board, Feldesman bought the contract with a daring overcall of two spades on a four-card suit. He made eight tricks and was rewarded for his enterprise with 12 out of 13 matchpoints. He and Mathe now trailed Kehela and Lebovic by a single matchpoint with one deal to play. Kehela was the dealer and held, not vulnerable against vulnerable, this hand:

♠ 10 4 2 ♥ Q 9 7 6 5 ♦ A Q 10 3 ♣ K

He passed. Mathe opened one diamond, doubled by Lebovic. After a pass by Feldesman, what would you bid?

“In rubber bridge,” Sami told me later, “I would just bid four hearts. But Lebovic’s takeout doubles did not always deliver decent support for both majors. Transpose his spades and hearts, for example, and four hearts becomes an undesirable contract at matchpoints. I didn’t want to bid two diamonds, which might result in my hand being the dummy with a damaging diamond lead coming through. So I made a slight underbid of two hearts.” This was the deal:

<p>♠ A K ♥ K J 4 2 ♦ 9 8 2 ♣ Q J 10 2</p> <p>♠ Q J 5 ♥ A 10 ♦ K 7 6 4 ♣ A 8 7 5</p>	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		<p>♠ 9 8 7 6 2 ♥ 8 3 ♦ J 5 ♣ 9 6 4 3</p> <p>♠ 10 4 2 ♥ Q 9 7 6 5 ♦ A Q 10 3 ♣ K</p>
	N										
W		E									
	S										

Opening lead: ♠Q

Kehela easily took eleven tricks. Missing the game might have cost the event, but as Sami had seen might happen, several declarers went down in game from the North side, suffering a third-round diamond ruff. Kehela and Lebovic scored 7 out of 13 for +200, enough to hold on for a dramatic last-minute win by 2 matchpoints.

In 1963, while Kehela was in New York assisting in the production of the first edition of the *Official Encyclopedia of Bridge*, Tobias Stone approached him about a team for the upcoming Spingold.

“I’ll play with Bill Root. You can play with von Zedtwitz.”

The legendary Waldemar von Zedtwitz had helped Ely Culbertson design his system and had represented the United States internationally as far back as 1930. A meeting was arranged between the prospective partners.

“I require five to open and four to raise,” announced the grand old man.

“I open on four and raise on three,” replied the rookie.

Stone went back to the drawing board, recruiting Thomas Sanders to play with Kehela. They found more common ground. In a deal from that 1963 Spingold, Kehela held:

♠ Q 8 7 4 3 ♥ — ♦ 8 4 ♣ A J 8 7 4 3

W. Gilbert, East, opened one diamond, and Kehela overcalled two clubs. D. Westerfield doubled which, as was customary in those days, was for penalty. After two passes, Kehela decided to try spades, and West doubled again. That ended the auction, and West started with the ten of spades.

Dealer East
Neither vul.

♠ J 6 5
♥ 9 7 4 3 2
♦ Q J 10 5
♣ 9

♠ Q 8 7 4 3
♥ —
♦ 8 4
♣ A J 8 7 4 3

Dummy played low, East the two and Kehela won the first trick with the queen. The ace of clubs brought forth the two and the six. What would you do now?

Obviously declarer should ruff a club in dummy, but Kehela led the *jack*. This is right technically, since it may pin the ten, but it also proved effective psychologically. West covered with the queen, dummy ruffed, and the king fell from East. This was the full deal:

Dealer East

Neither vul.

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

At this point Kehela can make two spades by playing a trump, later driving out the ten of clubs. However, that risks taking only one more trick if trumps are 4-1, as suggested by the double and play to Trick 1. Instead Kehela ruffed a heart and led the seven of clubs through West's ten. West played low, so Kehela threw a heart from dummy and East ruffed in with the king. Kehela was on his way to seven tricks now, but there was more to come. East cashed the ace of diamonds and, concluding that his partner's deuce must be a singleton, led a low one for him to ruff. Kehela won the diamond in the dummy, ruffed a heart, ruffed a club and ruffed a heart to make two spades doubled.

At the other table, Stone took a large number of tricks in three notrump. He won the seven of clubs lead with the king, crossed to a heart, and played a diamond to the nine, winning as North ducked his honors. Now Stone conceded a trick to the ace of clubs and finished with a double squeeze for twelve tricks.

In the fall nationals of 1963 in Miami Beach, Murray teamed up with his favorite female bridge partner, Agnes Gordon, to play in the National Mixed Pairs. (“She was a terrific player,” Eric told me.) The January ACBL *Bulletin* reported the event:

A stunning and record-breaking performance in the fourth and final session, however, turned the hitherto ding-dong battle into a walkaway. Agnes Gordon of Buffalo and Eric Murray, Toronto, electrified the scoring room and blitzed the field with a mammoth $506\frac{1}{2}$ points for a 78% score unprecedented in national championship history. (The previous record of 77.4% had been set by S. Garton Churchill and Cecil Head in the Life Master Pair event of 1948.) The winners’ total of 921 put them no less than 67 points ahead of their nearest pursuers...

I contacted the ACBL head office to try to see if anyone had since had a higher score in a national Mixed Pairs, or any national matchpoint event. Apparently the ACBL does not keep records like that, but no one I corresponded with knew of a higher score.

A pall descended over the tournament when the news came that President John F. Kennedy had been shot. Sami recalled first hearing of it while sitting at the side of the pool, listening to Alfred Sheinwold’s radio. “I couldn’t believe it,” he told me. “I thought it was a reenactment of the assassination of President Lincoln.” When the awful news was confirmed, Kehela declined to play, out of respect. When the newly sworn-in President Johnson proclaimed Monday, November 25th a national day of mourning, all play at the tournament was cancelled. The Life Master Men’s Pairs, in which Murray and Kehela were scheduled to play, was changed from two qualifying sessions and two final sessions to a straight three-session event with the entire field playing through.

Here is a deal that helped Murray and Kehela win the event (rotated):

Dealer East

Both vul.

♠ 9 6 3 2
♥ K 10 5 4
♦ K 4
♣ Q 9 3

♠ A Q 10
♥ 9 3
♦ A J 7 6
♣ A J 6 2



♠ 5 4
♥ A Q J 7 6 2
♦ 3
♣ K 10 7 5

♠ K J 8 7
♥ 8
♦ Q 10 9 8 5 2
♣ 8 4

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	Kehela		Murray
pass		2♥	pass
dbl	dbl	pass	3♥
pass	pass	pass	3♠
	4♠	all pass	

Kehela's pass over the double of three hearts denied a four-card spade suit, so Murray knew he was getting himself into a 4-3 fit. The defense led two rounds of hearts and Murray countered by discarding a losing club. West won the second heart and switched to a club, allowing Murray to draw trumps, run the diamonds with the aid of a finesse, and take eleven tricks for a good score. The defense would have done better to play a third heart. Murray would then have had to ruff in the dummy, play three rounds of trumps overtaking the queen, and then run the diamonds. West ruffs in when he likes, but declarer has ten tricks.

Eric, by his own admission, can be pedantic. One wouldn't want to say pompous, necessarily, but certainly there were those who were glad to see him occasionally get his comeuppance. A column by Tony Priday tells a story about Eric playing duplicate against two elderly ladies:

Turning to his left-hand opponent, he said in a most impressive manner: "Madame, I am going to make a skip bid of three spades. You must pause 15 seconds before bidding."

“As soon as these 15 seconds are up,” his opponent replied, “I am going to double you, Mr. Murray.”

It cost him 1400 points.

Try taking Eric Murray’s cards on this deal from the Canada-Jamaica match in the 1964 Olympiad in New York:

♠ K 9 8 ♥ 9 6 5 4 ♦ A K 8 3 ♣ 7 4

The bidding, with Murray-Kehela silent, might have gone one spade by South on Murray’s right, two clubs by North, two spades by South, four spades by North. Murray led the ace of diamonds and saw this:

Dealer South
Neither vul.

♠ K 9 8
♥ 9 6 5 4
♦ A K 8 3
♣ 7 4

♠ 7 5 3
♥ Q J 7 3
♦ 5
♣ A K Q 10 6



He shifted to the seven of clubs, declarer winning the ace as partner played the three and declarer the two. Next came a spade to the two and queen. How do you defend?

The king of spades will be the defense’s second trick and it is necessary to hope that partner can provide a major-suit trick for a third. If partner has the ace of spades, it might suffice to win the king of spades and play a second club, playing for a ruff. It is rather more likely that partner’s trick is the ace of hearts, though, and Murray found a way to give declarer a problem. Murray played low, smoothly, on the queen of spades. The full deal was:

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

Declarer, unaware of the position, ruffed his queen of diamonds and took another spade finesse. Murray won and played his second club. Declarer won that in dummy, but there was no quick way to hand to draw trumps. When he led a heart, Kehela flew in with the ace to give Murray his club ruff, beating an ‘unbeatable’ contract.

Murray’s forward bidding has been known to put Kehela in many a precarious contract. If Kehela would only go down more often, Murray might be persuaded to mend his ways. However, Kehela would often come through. Here is a deal from the 1964 Vanderbilt:

Dealer North
N-S vul.

♠ A Q 8 6
♥ J
♦ A K J 10 4 3
♣ A 4

♠ 10 9 5 4
♥ A 6 4 3
♦ 7 6 5
♣ 8 3

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	Murray		Kehela
	1♦	pass	pass
dbl	redbl	1♥	1♠
2♥	3♥	pass	3♠
pass	6♠	all pass	

Kehela did nothing but peep one spade, after having passed his partner's one bid, but he soon found himself in slam. The opening lead was a small club. How do you play?

Kehela took the lead in dummy with the ace, crossed to hand with the ace of hearts, and led a spade to the queen. The ace of spades dropped West's king, and the ace of diamonds dropped his queen. Three more high diamonds quickly followed, taking care of the losing club. Making six. The full deal was:

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

Murray and Kehela competed in the International Team Trials to pick the North American team for Buenos Aires in 1965. They failed to make the team, finishing sixth. Take Kehela's cards (West) to defend this delicate slam, played by Eddie Kantar.

Dealer West

N-S vul.

♠ 7 6 4
♥ J 7 5 2
♦ K 7 6 4
♣ 8 5

♠ Q 3
♥ 10 9 3
♦ J 2
♣ K Q 6 4 3 2



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kehela	Mathe	Murray	Kantar
pass	pass	pass	2♣
pass	2♦	pass	2♠
pass	3♠	pass	4♥
pass	5♥	pass	6♥
all pass			

Opening lead: ♣K

Declarer won the first trick with the ace, crossed to the king of diamonds and played a heart to his queen. The ace of hearts came next, dropping Murray's king, and then the jack of spades. Quickly now, queen or small?

Kehela played low smoothly, and Murray won his king. Declarer ruffed the club return, played his last trump to dummy's jack, and played a second spade. Murray contributed the nine. Declarer thought long and hard. Recounting the story in one of his columns, Kantar said that he had intended to play West for a doubleton spade honor, but Kehela was just too smooth. He finessed the ten and went one down.

The full deal was:

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

One declarer to make the heart slam was Bruce Elliott. At his table, West opened three clubs and was raised to five by East. Shorty Sheardown cuebid six clubs and Elliott bid six hearts. Elliott also planned to play West for a doubleton spade honor. The play went the same way until the defender put the queen of spades on the jack. Elliott took the diamond return in dummy, crossed on the jack of hearts and played a spade to the ten for twelve tricks.

Try your hand at this three notrump, from the 1964 Dallas Fall Nationals:

Dealer North
N-S vul.

♠ A Q 8 7 6
♥ —
♦ A K 10 8
♣ A J 9 3

♠ 4 3
♥ K Q 3 2
♦ 5 3 2
♣ K 8 5 4

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	Murray		Kehela
	2♦ ¹	pass	2NT ²
pass	3♥	pass	3NT
all pass			

1. Strong three-suiter.
2. What is your short suit?

Opening lead: ♥J

East plays small on the opening lead. How do you play?

East presumably would have played the ace of hearts if he had it, in case his partner held KJ10. Assuming that to be correct, the hand is unlikely to be made unless the king of spades is onside. If it is, and spades are 3-3, you can make the hand without any further luck — provided you play carefully.

Kehela won the king of hearts and played a spade to the queen. He then returned to the king of clubs to play a second spade. When West played low, Kehela went up with dummy's ace and played a third round. Spades came in, and when the queen of clubs later fell doubleton, Kehela had eleven tricks. The full deal was:

Dealer North

N-S vul.

♠ K 9 5
♥ A J 10 7 6
♦ Q 4
♣ 10 7 6

♠ A Q 8 7 6
♥ —
♦ A K 10 8
♣ A J 9 3



♠ J 10 2
♥ 9 8 5 4
♦ J 9 7 6
♣ Q 2

♠ 4 3
♥ K Q 3 2
♦ 5 3 2
♣ K 8 5 4

Note that if declarer, after winning the queen of spades, simply cashes the ace, West may think to unblock his king, creating an entry for East to lead hearts through.

Kehela faced an intricate three notrump on this deal. My notes say it is from the 1966 Bermuda Bowl in St. Vincent, but a question mark suggests that is uncertain.

Dealer West

E-W vul.

♠ 10 9 5
♥ K Q 10 9 3
♦ 7 2
♣ J 10 4

♠ A K 4
♥ A
♦ A Q J 8 3
♣ K 6 5 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	Murray		Kehela
pass	pass	pass	1♦
pass	1♥	pass	3♣
pass	3♥	pass	3NT
all pass			

Opening lead: ♣8 (fourth best)

Plan the play.

Kehela put up the ten from dummy, which held the trick as East followed with the seven. He then finessed the queen of diamonds, losing to the king. West continued with the ace of clubs, East showing out, and the queen. Kehela won the king of clubs in hand and tested the diamonds, West pitching a spade on the third round.

Because of the lack of an entry to dummy's hearts, Kehela at this point had only seven winners. An eighth could be built in diamonds, but that would be conceding one down. Instead, Kehela cashed the ace of hearts and the ace-king of spades, West pitching a heart on the second. Now Kehela put West on play with a club. After taking his two club tricks, West had to give dummy the king and queen of hearts at the end. The full deal was:

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

Perhaps you are wondering if West might have used his three to underplay Kehela's club spot in the endgame. That would give declarer eight tricks but no chance for a ninth. Yes, West could have done that, if Kehela's last club had not been the deuce. He had carefully thrown the five at Trick 1, and the six under West's ace.

In 1972, Murray and Kehela played in the Reisinger with Bill Grieve and George Rapée, finishing second. Test your one-level defense here:

Dealer East
Neither vul.

♠ 7 2
♥ 10 6 4
♦ A 10 9 7 6 5 3
♣ Q

♠ 10 9 8 6 3
♥ A Q 7 3
♦ 4
♣ K 9 4



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kehela		Murray	
		1♦	dbl
re dbl	pass	pass	1♥
dbl	all pass		

Opening lead: ♦4

Declarer put up dummy's ace on the first trick and threw a club from hand. He then led a spade. Murray jumped in with the ace and switched to a trump. Kehela won two rounds of trumps and played a third, on which Murray threw the eight of diamonds. Now declarer led a low club. The position is:

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

N		
W		E
	S	

(♣6)

How do you play?

Kehela went in with the king and threw declarer in with the fourth round of hearts. Declarer was able to take his winning spades, but then Murray's hand was high. Declarer took three spades, two hearts and a diamond, for one down.

The full deal was:

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

N		
W		E
	S	

Kehela's elegant solution was the correct one, requiring only that partner hold the ace of clubs. If you went in with the king of clubs and played a spade, you survived because partner had the eight of clubs. If you ducked the first round of clubs, declarer made his doubled contract.

One day, discovering that their Swiss Teams teammates had deserted them, Murray and Bandoni hooked up with Pamela Granovetter and Tom Donnelly. Pamela recalls, "On one hand, I had something like:

♠ 8 4 ♥ 7 3 ♦ J 10 3 ♣ 9 7 6 5 3 2

Tom opened one diamond and it went pass, pass from me, one spade, pass, two diamonds on my right. So I doubled, thinking I can't stand any lead and a diamond is the least of evils. They got to four spades and Tom led the deuce of diamonds. Dummy hit with two small and I thought, "Oh, no, Murray is going to kill me for this!" But the diamond ten won, so I gave Tom a club ruff, diamond to the jack, club ruff, down one."

Murray, a connoisseur of audacity, said, "You kids are good!"

In December 1982, at the invitation of the South African Bridge Federation, Kehela, Eric Kokish, Peter Nagy, George Mittelman and Dianna Gordon took a tour of South Africa, playing exhibition matches against local teams. The following hand was submitted by Kokish to the *IBPA Bulletin*.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	Mittelman		Kehela
	1♣	pass	1♠
pass	2♥	pass	2♠
pass	4♠	all pass	

Opening lead: ♦A

After winning the first trick, West exited with a heart. Kehela led a low spade from dummy, and when East produced the seven Kehela went up with the queen. West took this with the ace and played a club, won in the closed hand. Now Kehela played a spade, and when West played the four, called for the six from dummy. There were no further problems. In the other room, after ace and another diamond, declarer played a spade to the king and had to lose three trump tricks.

In another deal, Sami found himself in six notrump.

Dealer North

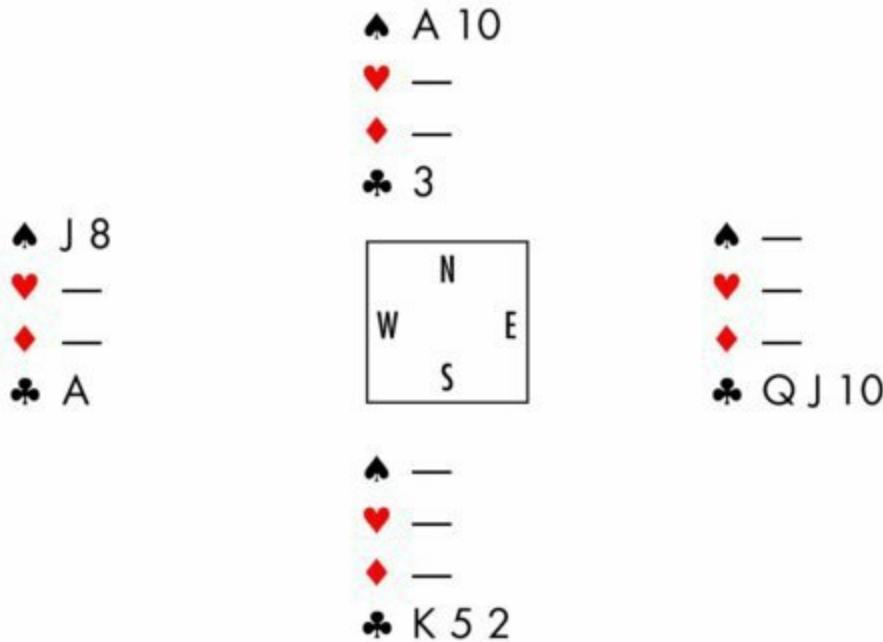
	♠ A K 10 9 7 3
	♥ 10 6 5
	♦ A K 10
	♣ 3
♠ J 8 6 2	♠ 4
♥ 9	♥ J 7 4 2
♦ J 9 8 7	♦ 6 4 3
♣ A 9 6 4	♣ Q J 10 8 7
	♠ Q 5
	♥ A K Q 8 3
	♦ Q 5 2
	♣ K 5 2



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	Mittelman		Kehela
	1♠	pass	2♥
pass	3♦	pass	3♥
pass	4♥	pass	4NT
pass	5♥	pass	6NT
all pass			

Opening lead: ♦9

Kehela won a top diamond in dummy and came to hand with the ace of hearts, dropping the nine. West threw a club on the king of hearts, so Kehela unblocked the ten from dummy. He crossed back to dummy in diamonds, finessed the eight of hearts and ran the suit, careful not to discard dummy's little club. The West defender pitched a diamond, a second club, and then a second diamond. Kehela took the queen of diamonds, then cashed the queen of spades and crossed to the king, bringing about the following position:



The point of keeping dummy's losing club was now evident, as Kehela led it, throwing West in to concede the last two tricks to dummy's spades.

This deal was written up in several places, but nowhere had I seen a discussion of South's problem in the three-card end position.

"Sami," I asked, "What made you play West for the ace of clubs, instead of cashing the ace of spades and leading a club towards your king?"

"I had nothing to go on," Sami replied, "except for the opening lead. Clubs was the unbid suit, and maybe without the ace West would have led one."

I sensed there might be more to this, so I waited.

"And," said Sami after a moment, "it was the more elegant ending."

Yes, beauty counts. Whoever won the match has been long forgotten, but Sami's play will live on in people's memories.

The following deal comes from rubber bridge, circa 1982.

Dealer South

Both vul.

♠ A Q
♥ K 5
♦ Q 10 8 7 4 3
♣ 8 7 3

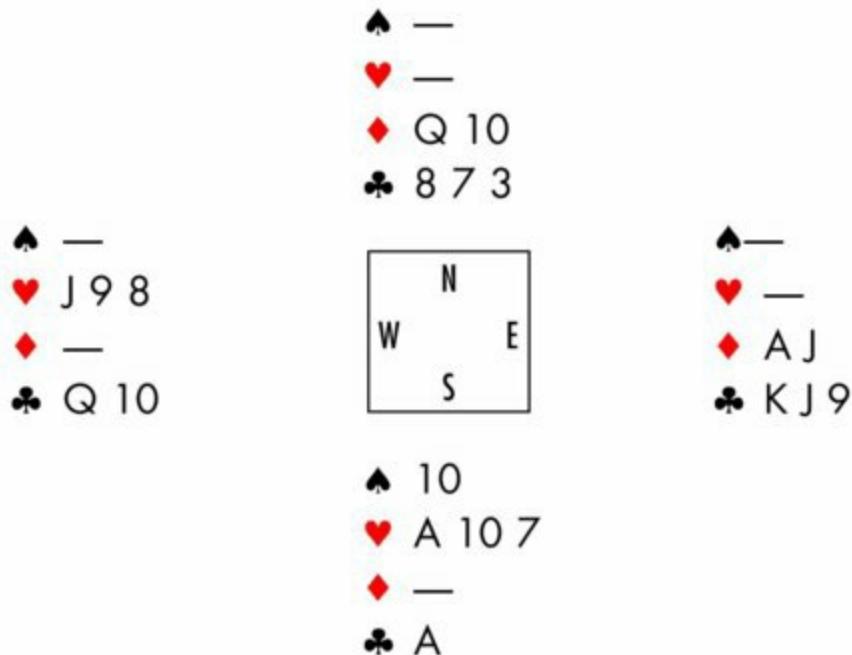
♠ K J 10 9 8 4
♥ A 10 7 3 2
♦ 5
♣ A

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			<i>Kehela</i>
			1♠
pass	2♦	pass	2♥
pass	2♠	pass	4♠
all pass			

Opening lead: ♠2

Kehela won the first trick with the ace in dummy and cashed the king of hearts, which dropped the queen on his right. On the low heart lead from table, East ruffed in and led the two of diamonds to his partner's king. West continued another trump, East pitching a club. How do you play?

The heart split has been unkind, and the defense has denied declarer a heart ruff in dummy, but Kehela took the second round of trumps in dummy with the queen and ruffed a diamond to hand. Now he ran the trumps, coming down to:



On the last trump, West was in a quandary. If he pitched a heart, declarer could set up his long heart, with the ace of clubs for entry. So West let go a club. But now Kehela cashed the ace of clubs and led the seven of hearts. West won this, but had to lead from his jack of hearts at Trick 12.

For this type of ending to work, declarer must have the top card of any side suit that his opponent holds. So it was essential to ruff the second round of diamonds, stripping West of that suit, and to preserve the ace of clubs for the endgame.

In a rubber bridge game at the Regal-St. Clair Bridge Club someone doubled Sami Kehela in five clubs after a very competitive auction. Sami made it. The partner of the doubler asked, “Do you know what number Kehela is in the national rankings?” “I’m only number four,” interjected Sami, “but number three passed me in a cuebid yesterday.”

In a tournament held in Tokyo and sponsored by Epson, the City of London faced a team designated as “Montreal”. Joe Silver, Irving Litvack, Eric Kokish and Beverley Kraft all had legitimate Montreal ties; Kehela spent a couple of frigid weeks there before moving on to Toronto in 1958. Sami had to decide how to play three notrump here:

Dealer East
Neither vul.

♠ K Q J 9 2
♥ A K 2
♦ K J
♣ J 8 7

♠ A 7
♥ J 6 4 3
♦ Q 9 7 6 3
♣ Q 3

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Hoffman	Kokish	Flint	Kehela
		pass	pass
pass	1♠	pass	1NT
pass	2NT	pass	3NT
all pass			

Opening lead: ♣6 (fourth best)

Kehela played low from dummy and captured East's ten with the queen. He then ran the spade suit, pitching a heart and two diamonds. West, who followed twice, pitched the four, five and ten of diamonds, while East also pitched a diamond. The heart ace brought forth little ones. What now?

It is defensible to play for a doubleton queen of hearts, or to play a diamond and hope that the defense can't take five tricks, but Kehela read the hand accurately and, as Flint put it in his column in an English paper, "it came as a disappointment but no surprise when he elected to put Hoffman on play with a club." West, who had started with

♠ 10 4 ♥ Q 8 5 ♦ 10 5 4 ♣ A K 9 6 5

took dummy's jack and ran the clubs, but was then endplayed, forced to lead from the queen of hearts. At the other table, with the same bidding and play to Trick 1, declarer played a diamond, hoping either to steal a trick or to find clubs 4-4. It was not his day.



“Did you hear the story of how I lost ten thousand pounds by failing to open a balanced nine-count?”

That seems a bit harsh, I thought. I was back drinking coffee with Sami in his apartment. I asked him to elaborate.

“Well, it was all over the Cavendish (the bridge club in New York). Everyone thought I should have opened. I held

♠ 8 5 4 2 ♥ A 4 2 ♦ A 10 5 ♣ J 4 3

I was the dealer, all vulnerable.”

Not understanding the story at all, I waited for Sami to go on.

“It was the last hand of a rubber bridge tournament, played on a cruise ship off the coast of Norway. I was leading by over 700 points, and the winner was to get ten thousand pounds. The only player who could catch me was Zia, who was sitting on my right. There was just one hand to go, so he needed a slam, or a penalty. I have two aces; if I open, he can’t make a slam. Anyway, I passed, and the next two hands passed, and Zia held a strong notrump, so he threw it in — he couldn’t make a slam opposite a passed hand, you see, so he decided to try his luck with another deal. I dealt again, and Zia made a slam and won the ten thousand pounds. This was all done for English television. I have it on tapes — you can borrow them if you like.”

The tapes were a delight. The four players — Sami, Zia, P.O. Sundelin and Tony Forrester played 144 deals as the cruise ship “Canberra” sailed up the coast of Norway, past the Arctic Circle into the land of the midnight sun. (Zia Mahmood burst into fame in 1981 when his team from Pakistan came second in the Bermuda Bowl, although he had been well known in high-stakes rubber bridge circles prior to that. Per-Olof Sundelin was one of the world’s leading players and had, among other successes, helped Sweden win a European Championship in 1977. Tony Forrester was at the time a young star, but already a veteran British internationalist.) The game was ‘Chicago’ — the players switched partners every four hands. No fancy conventions were permitted — just Stayman and Blackwood. The bridge was

very good, and Jeremy Flint's urbane analysis delightful. ("Oh, gracious what a muddle!" he said of one of the infrequent errors.) It was eerie to know the outcome and watch it unfold. Finally, it came time for the last deal:

Dealer North Both vul.	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 8 5 4 2 ♥ A 4 2 ♦ A 10 5 ♣ J 4 3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">N W E S</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ K Q 3 ♥ J 8 7 3 ♦ Q 9 4 3 ♣ 6 2</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">♠ A J 10 7 ♥ K 10 6 ♦ J 2 ♣ A K 10 9</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 9 6 ♥ Q 9 5 ♦ K 8 7 6 ♣ Q 8 7 5</p>		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Zia	Kehela	Sundelin	Forrester
pass!	pass	pass	pass

The conditions called for a redeal. This time Sami dealt himself

♠ 10 4 ♥ 8 5 4 2 ♦ J 8 2 ♣ Q 9 5 4

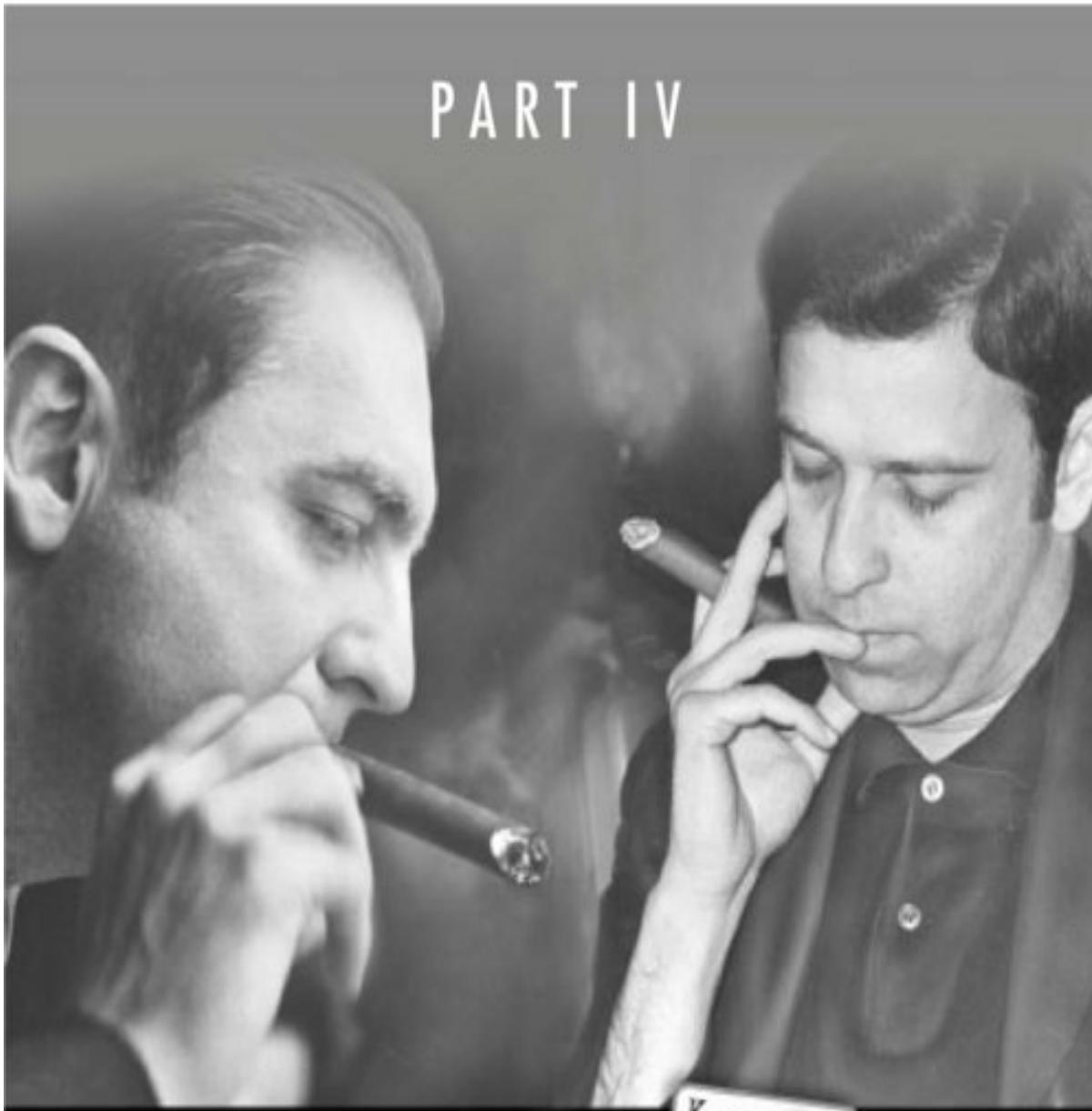
and Zia bid a slam. It was touch-and-go, but Sundelin made it and Zia had his ten thousand pound prize.

I wonder what might have happened if Sami had opened the bidding with his two aces. One club would be the safest, I should think. Now Zia needs a slam or an 800-point penalty. If everyone plays the conditions, perhaps it goes pass from Sundelin, pass from Forrester (i.e. playing in his partner's interests, trying to avoid a penalty) and a penalty double from Zia (well, shouldn't it be?). Sundelin leads a trump and one club doubled goes three down. Zia gets his 800 points and the ten thousand pounds.



[1](#) The *Kibitzer* gives slightly different spot cards.

PART IV



REMATCH



CHAPTER 18

CANADIAN ACES



Impressed with the poise, superlative play and particularly the flawless teamwork of the Italians during the second Olympiad in New York City, the patriotic American businessman Ira Corn Jr. formed the idea of assembling a team that could restore the West's claim to world bridge supremacy. Corn's vision was to bring together six experts who would be dedicated to the task of winning back the world championship. The Italians had shown the way to win — fixed, well-practiced partnerships employing technically superior methods in the framework of a harmonious, but serious and dedicated team.

To help him build his team, to be called the "Aces", Corn turned to his friend Bobby Wolff. Bobby could both play and, since he was well acquainted with the continent's other talented players, act as recruiter. Corn and Wolff had first-hand experience with the Murray-Kehela partnership. Once asked for an "Aces" deal, Corn provided this one from the Life Master Pairs, where "a couple of slickers from Canada named Eric Murray and Sammy Kehela did a little expert Corn-shucking". Kehela held:

♠ Q 4 ♥ 6 ♦ K 10 6 5 4 ♣ A K 8 4 3

As dealer, with only his side vulnerable, Kehela opened one diamond. Wolff passed and Murray responded one heart. Now Corn leapt to four spades, and after two passes Murray's double closed the auction. Kehela led the ace of clubs, and looked over:

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



Murray followed suit with the jack. Kehela switched to his singleton heart; Murray won the queen, cashed the ace and returned the seven, declarer playing the eight, ten and jack. What should West do now?

Partner's seven, the highest outstanding heart, clearly shows the ace of diamonds. Declarer rates to have one or two losing diamonds. Best for the defense is to cash whatever diamonds they can, ending with East on lead, so that a fourth heart can be played, possibly promoting a trump trick. So Kehela ruffed the heart and led the king of diamonds, counting on Murray to overtake if necessary. When the king held, Kehela led another diamond to Murray's ace, and the fourth round of hearts promoted a second trump trick for five down, +900 (old scoring). The full deal was:

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

Corn and Wolff identified Kehela as a prime candidate for the new Aces. In his early thirties, already a veteran of two Bermuda Bowl contests where he had performed brilliantly, a gracious and easy-going teammate, Kehela would have been perfect. When approached by Wolff, though, he declined. “I didn’t want to give bridge such prominence in my life,” he told John Carruthers in the *Dorbitzer* interview, “and in any case I didn’t want to start forming new partnerships in the afternoon of my bridge existence. I was perfectly happy playing with Eric.” As a lawyer with a full-time practice, Murray would not have matched the Aces’ selection criteria.

The Aces officially got started on Feb 1, 1968. Joining Corn and Wolff were Jim Jacoby, Bobby Goldman, Mike Lawrence and Billy Eisenberg. Being part of the Aces was serious business. Members were expected to live in Dallas and come to the Corn mansion regularly for work. During the week, players would work on their partnerships. The weekends were often taken up with training matches. Joe Musumeci, Wolff’s business partner (the two owned a bridge club together in San Antonio), was enlisted as coach and trainer. Under his supervision, the group worked on their partnerships and took part in ego-bruising performance reviews. Musumeci’s regimen included rules about eating, drinking and exercise. There were curfews, with fines and suspensions for violations.

Corn was a playing member of the original Aces, in a threesome with Jacoby and Wolff, while Lawrence played with Eisenberg and Goldman. However, Corn realized that the team would be stronger if he replaced himself with another hired expert. As a patriot, he was willing to sacrifice the personal fun and glory of playing in order to give his country the best possible team. Bob Hamman, who had been invited before but declined, joined the Aces in early 1969.

In an article written for *International Popular Bridge Monthly*, Corn described the weekend training matches:

... In those days we invited top players of the U.S. and Canada to visit Dallas to play a 128-board match at my home. We played Friday evening, Saturday afternoon and evening, and Sunday afternoon. With planes to catch and meet, the schedule was tight

except for Saturdays. On Saturdays we played two 32-board quarters with a dinner break from about 5.00 to 7.30.

Eric recalls arriving in Dallas on a blistering July day and taking a cab to the Corn mansion. “It was so hot. I’ll always remember the day, too — it was the day the U.S. first landed on the moon — we all stopped playing to watch on television.” (That was July 20, 1969.)

In one of these matches, Lawrence and Kehela faced a declarer play problem. At Lawrence’s table, it arose as follows:

Dealer East
E-W vul.

♠ K Q J 6
♥ K 6 2
♦ A Q 3
♣ 8 5 2

♠ A 10 8
♥ A 10 9 7 5 3
♦ J 7
♣ J 6

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			<i>Lawrence</i>
pass	1♠	pass	pass
pass	3♥	pass	2♥
all pass			4♥
Opening lead: ♣3			

East won the first trick with the ace of clubs and returned the nine to his partner’s king. West now shifted to a small diamond. How would you play?

A priori, the diamond finesse is a 50% proposition, but it is perhaps less here, where the defenders have gone out of their way to offer it to you instead of trying to cash a third club. Lawrence went up with the ace of diamonds, took the two top hearts, and played spades. West had three hearts, but when he followed to the third round of spades the contract was made, the full deal being:

<table border="0"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>K Q J 6</td></tr> <tr><td>♥</td><td>K 6 2</td></tr> <tr><td>♦</td><td>A Q 3</td></tr> <tr><td>♣</td><td>8 5 2</td></tr> </table> <table border="0"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>7 5 3 2</td></tr> <tr><td>♥</td><td>Q 8 4</td></tr> <tr><td>♦</td><td>10 6 5</td></tr> <tr><td>♣</td><td>K 4 3</td></tr> </table>	♠	K Q J 6	♥	K 6 2	♦	A Q 3	♣	8 5 2	♠	7 5 3 2	♥	Q 8 4	♦	10 6 5	♣	K 4 3	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		<table border="0"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>9 4</td></tr> <tr><td>♥</td><td>J</td></tr> <tr><td>♦</td><td>K 9 8 4 2</td></tr> <tr><td>♣</td><td>A Q 10 9 7</td></tr> </table> <table border="0"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>A 10 8</td></tr> <tr><td>♥</td><td>A 10 9 7 5 3</td></tr> <tr><td>♦</td><td>J 7</td></tr> <tr><td>♣</td><td>J 6</td></tr> </table>	♠	9 4	♥	J	♦	K 9 8 4 2	♣	A Q 10 9 7	♠	A 10 8	♥	A 10 9 7 5 3	♦	J 7	♣	J 6
♠	K Q J 6																																										
♥	K 6 2																																										
♦	A Q 3																																										
♣	8 5 2																																										
♠	7 5 3 2																																										
♥	Q 8 4																																										
♦	10 6 5																																										
♣	K 4 3																																										
	N																																										
W		E																																									
	S																																										
♠	9 4																																										
♥	J																																										
♦	K 9 8 4 2																																										
♣	A Q 10 9 7																																										
♠	A 10 8																																										
♥	A 10 9 7 5 3																																										
♦	J 7																																										
♣	J 6																																										

As Corn noted in *Play Bridge with the Aces*, Kehela and Lawrence went to the same school: the University of California at Berkeley. Kehela played the hand the same way for a push.

The Aces were successful in winning the Bermuda Bowl for North America, first in 1970, and then again in 1971. Then the Blue Team returned from retirement to win the Olympiad in 1972 and the Bermuda Bowl in 1973. Meanwhile, the Aces' lineup had changed. Jacoby and Eisenberg had left; Mark Blumenthal had joined. As five, they won the 1973 Vanderbilt, qualifying them to play in the trials for the 1974 Bermuda Bowl. In *At the Table*, Hamman tells what happened over the summer. Ira Corn was experiencing some financial difficulties, and while he was able to pay expenses he could no longer afford to pay the Aces salaries. Lawrence left, leaving behind the four-man team of Hamman-Wolff and Goldman-Blumenthal. A serious run at the world championship requires six, so the call went out to Murray and Kehela to bolster the team for the trials.

Evidently the call went out to Murray, since Kehela denied any knowledge of it. As a local newspaper column put it:

A few weeks ago, a press announcement of the joinup was denied here in Toronto by Kehela. It turned out that nobody had

remembered to ask him if he wanted to play...

The confusion was sorted out and Murray and Kehela showed up for the trials, which took place in the Pfister Hotel in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, running from October 26-30, 1973. It was a four-team knockout, 128-board matches, involving the winners of the Spingold, Vanderbilt, Reisinger and Grand Nationals. The Aces drew the Reisinger champions (Dan Morse npc, Steve Goldberg, Steve Parker, Steve Robinson, Lou Bluhm, Alan Sontag, Peter Weichsel) in one semifinal, while the Grand National champions from Florida took on the Spingold winners (Bud Reinhold-Kyle Larsen, Eisenberg-Kantar, Katz-Cohen). In the first set of sixteen, the Aces, fielding Murray-Kehela and Hamman-Wolff, took a 48-28 lead. Then, with Murray-Kehela on the sidelines, Goldberg won the next set 70-10 to take a 40-IMP lead at the quarter.

In the second quarter, the Aces picked up a much-needed swing when their Precision Club opponents had an accident:

Dealer South

N-S vul.

♠ 6 5
♥ Q 9 8 2
♦ 9 3 2
♣ Q J 4 2

♠ A 4 3 2
♥ A K
♦ Q J 10 8 7 6
♣ 3

N
W E
S

♠ K Q J
♥ 10 4 3
♦ K 4
♣ 10 9 8 6 5

♠ 10 9 8 7
♥ J 7 6 5
♦ A 5
♣ A K 7

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kehela	Weichsel	Murray	Sontag 1♦1
pass	pass	dbl	all pass

1. Precision — could be short.

Apparently both Sontag and Weichsel hoped, reasonably enough in absence of partnership agreement, that the other was long in diamonds. But only Kehela was long in diamonds. He led the trump queen and the contract went five down, for 1400. Compared with the diamond partscore made in the other room, that was 15 IMPs to the Aces. (Any pair whose minor-suit opening can be short, including pairs playing five-card major standard, should discuss this situation.)

Things continued to go the Aces' way. They won the second quarter 86-33 and pulled away to win the match 323-217. Meanwhile Bud Reinhold and his hired experts, Kyle Larsen, Eisenberg-Kantar, and the red-hot pair of Katz and Cohen¹, defeated Florida to become the other finalist.

Early in the final, Kehela and Kantar held:

♠ Q 3 ♥ Q 3 2 ♦ A K 9 7 5 4 ♣ A 9

What do you open in third chair, not vulnerable against vulnerable? I think most experts today would do as they did and open one notrump. If you open one diamond, you are forced into a slightly heavy two diamond rebid after a response of one spade, and also after one heart, if you don't care to raise. The one notrump openings served to make it difficult to see the great potential in diamonds. Here is what happened:

Dealer North
E-W vul.

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

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Wolff	Eisenberg	Hamman	Kantar
	pass	pass	1NT
2♠	dbl ¹	pass	3♦
pass	3♥	3♠	4♥
4♠	5♥	pass	pass
5♠	all pass		

1. Negative.

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Larsen	Murray	Reinhold	Kehela
	pass	pass	1NT
dbl	redbl	2♣	2♦
2♠	3♠	dbl	pass
pass	redbl	pass	3NT
pass	4♦	pass	5♦
all pass			

Kehela easily made all the tricks for +440. This is far from the best possible result, but it was worth 8 IMPs compared to defending five spades and beating it a trick. The first set went all the Aces' way, and they led 54-8 after sixteen boards. They then won another 30 IMPs in the second sixteen, with Goldman and Blumenthal in for Murray and Kehela.

The second quarter started on Monday with Murray and Kehela playing against Katz and Cohen on Vugraph, while Eisenberg and Kantar faced Hamman and Wolff. The Aces continued their run, winning the set 46-7. This board contributed heavily to their success (rotated for convenience):

Dealer West

Both vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Katz	Kehela	Cohen	Murray
pass	1♣	1♦	1♠
pass	2♣	pass	2♥
pass	2♠	pass	3♦
pass	4♣	pass	4♠
all pass			

Opening lead: ♦10

Murray took the first trick with his ace and played three rounds of hearts, ruffing the third low in dummy. He then took the ace and king of clubs, throwing a diamond, and ruffed a club. The fourth heart was ruffed with dummy's jack and overruffed by East's ace. East cashed a diamond and played a third round. Murray was down to four trumps, the king, ten, nine and seven. He ruffed with the ten, and then exited with the nine. West could take his queen if he wanted, but Murray's king-seven would be good for the last two tricks.²

The declarer in the other room, in the same contract and with the same lead, reached the same three-card ending and led the seven. That resulted in a

swing of 12 IMPs to Corn. At the end of 64 boards, they led by the huge score of 204-78.

The Root team, however, did not go quietly. Early in the third quarter:

Dealer West	♠ Q 9 4
Both vul.	♥ 4 2
Board 68	♦ J 7 4 2
	♣ A K Q 2
♠ A 10 2	♠ K J 7 6 3
♥ A J 10 8 7 6	♥ Q 9 5
♦ 3	♦ Q 8 6
♣ 8 6 5	♣ 7 3
	♠ 8 5
	♥ K 3
	♦ A K 10 9 5
	♣ J 10 9 4

N
W E
S

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kantar	Murray	Eisenberg	Kehela
2♥	pass	3♥	all pass

Murray cashed a club and switched to a trump. Kantar proceeded to guess the queen of spades and make five, a seemingly normal result. But in the other room...

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Blumenthal	Katz	Goldman	Cohen
1♥	dbl	redbl	3NT
pass	pass	dbl	all pass

Redoubling on East's cards is no longer in fashion — this deal provides some evidence why. On a spade lead, declarer would be down seven, -2000, but Blumenthal led the ten of hearts. Cohen guessed the diamonds correctly and made his audacious three notrump with an overtrick, for +950 and 15 IMPs to Reinhold. Reinhold won back 57 IMPs in the fifth set, to trail by 69. They didn't get much closer, though, and the Aces pulled away to win by 90, 319-229. So Murray-Kehela, Hamman-Wolff, and Goldman-Blumenthal would

be North America's challengers for the 1974 Bermuda Bowl. It would be back to Italy for a return match with the Blue Team.

In his write-up of the match for the *Bridge World*, Edgar Kaplan had this to say: "Murray-Kehela had had their usual games — very active, with solid competitive judgment and superlative card-play to make their somewhat casual bidding partnership look good." He termed Katz and Cohen "outstanding", noting particularly that "some of their defensive play was remarkable." Good players might prick up their ears at that. Good defensive play is largely unremarkable. Being a good defender means consistently doing normal things, things of which a mediocre onlooker might say, "Yes, yes, I would have done that." One year later, immediately upon winning the trials for the 1975 Bermuda Bowl, Katz and Cohen retired amidst allegations of cheating.

Prior to 1974, bridge at the World Championships was conducted the old-fashioned way: the four players faced each other across the table, and bids were spoken (in English, or another language by agreement). Over the years, there had been recurring suggestions, some of them animated and even vitriolic, that certain pairs were guilty of using the unauthorized information conveyed by hesitations, grimaces and the like; further, some pairs were alleged to be cheating outright through explicit signaling. In 1974, Julius Rosenblum announced that for the final rounds of the upcoming World Championships in Venice, bidding screens would be used.

Playing bridge behind screens is very different. Not only do you not see your partner, but with most screen setups you see only one opponent. All questions about system are resolved with your 'screen-mate', either in writing or whispers and sign language. Ira Corn wanted his Aces to be well acquainted with playing behind screens before arriving in Venice. So he invited Eddie Kantar, Don Krauss and Tulsa experts Jack Blair and Byron Greenberg to join Aces Hamman, Wolff, Murray and Kehela in a practice weekend in Dallas, where the new technology could be given a workout. (I am indebted for this section to Kantar, who wrote up the weekend for *Popular Bridge*.)

See if you can match Murray's play at two spades here (rotated for convenience):

Dealer East
Both vul.

♠ J
♥ Q 10 3
♦ J 5 4
♣ A Q 8 7 6 5

♠ K Q 10 8 7 2
♥ J 9 2
♦ A 7 3
♣ 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	Kehela		Murray
		1♦	1♠
pass	2♣	2♦	2♠
all pass			
	Opening lead: ♦6		

East inserted the eight of diamonds and Murray took the ace. The obvious play is a spade, but Murray looked a little deeper. The defense will have five tricks: the spade ace, two hearts and two diamonds. Any other trick, such as a heart ruff, will defeat two spades. If East has a doubleton heart honor, he can score a ruff easily. If he has doubleton ace-king of hearts, he can cash them and force West to ruff the third round of diamonds to get a heart ruff in return. If East has four hearts, West can score a ruff after discarding a heart on his partner's diamond winners. And if East has three hearts, West can score a ruff after throwing two hearts on diamonds, which are surely 6-1. In short, given the bidding, it is giving up to play a spade at Trick 2. So Murray, not one to give up easily, took his only chance by finessing the queen of clubs. Making two spades? No, down two, for the East hand was:

♠ A 9 ♥ K 7 6 ♦ K Q 10 9 8 2 ♣ K 9

As Kantar put it, “Nevertheless, it was a well-played hand.”

Murray had more success here (rotated for convenience):

Dealer North

Both vul.

♠ A K 10 9

♥ 10 9 2

♦ A J 3 2

♣ A 4

♠ 4 2

♥ A J 5 4 3

♦ K 10 4

♣ 8 6 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	Kehela		Murray
	1NT	pass	2♣
pass	2♠	pass	3♥
pass	4♥	all pass	

Opening lead: ♣K

Murray won the first trick with the ace and returned a club. East won and played a third club, ruffed in dummy as West contributed the queen. Murray played a heart to the queen and ace and another heart to West's king, as East shed a club. West returned a spade, which Murray took in dummy with the ace. He then cashed the king of spades, ruffed a spade and cashed the jack of hearts. The position was now:

♠ 10
 ♥ —
 ♦ A J 3
 ♣ —

♠ —
 ♥ 5
 ♦ K 10 4
 ♣ —

West was known to have the good heart. Someone had the jack of spades and the rest of the defenders' cards were diamonds. Murray found the 100% line. He crossed to the ace of diamonds and led the spade, ruffing East's jack. If West overruffed, he would have to lead into the diamond tenace, and if he pitched, the king of diamonds would be the tenth trick.

Kehela had to read the cards well to make his contract here:

Dealer South
Neither vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1♦
pass	1♥	pass	1♠
pass	3♠	pass	4♠
all pass			

Opening lead: ♣2

East took the first trick with the ace and returned the queen. Kehela took his king and played a trump to the ten, noting the fall of the eight from East. He now cashed the ace and king of hearts before the rats got at them and led the queen of diamonds to the king and ace. On the next diamond from dummy, East went in with the jack and returned a club for Kehela to ruff. The position was now:

Dealer South

Neither vul.

♠ K J 7
♥ J
♦ —
♣ 10

♠ Q 3 2
♥ 7 6
♦ —
♣ —

N
W E
S

♠ A 9
♥ —
♦ 10 9 3
♣ —

♠ —
♥ Q 9
♦ 7 6
♣ 8

It would be a mistake now to cash the ace of spades. West could then ruff the diamond continuation with the king and return the jack of spades, stranding the dummy with a losing heart. Playing as though all cards were in view, Kehela led the ten of diamonds. West was helpless. He chose to discard his heart. Kehela likewise threw a heart and continued with the nine of diamonds, ruffed low and overruffed with the queen. Now came a spade to

the ace and the last diamond, limiting West to a single trump trick and making four spades.

And what was the verdict on the screens? Roundly despised. Play was excruciatingly slow. Screens had been tried in the semifinals and finals of the Vancouver Vanderbilt earlier that year, but had in each case been abandoned at half time. As it turned out, the practice with screens was in vain. The W. B. F. executive turned down Rosenblum's motion to use them in the 1974 Bermuda Bowl. (The screens came, to stay, in 1975.)

Now Kehela likes screens. The screens are better, and players have become used to bidding boxes. Players can grimace and scratch their heads to their heart's content, without worrying about passing information. I commented wistfully that I missed the aspect of the game where aspiring experts were expected to cultivate an impassive demeanor and tempo. "But that's a Platonic ideal," said Sami. "There have always been players whose mannerisms were known to everyone."

I suppose so. But I still miss the old way, and I particularly miss seeing both opponents. Screens have changed the game.

¹ Not the Larry Cohen famous for his work on the law of total tricks.

² The January 1974 *Bridge World* gives a slightly different order of play: ace of diamonds, ace-king of clubs, heart ace-king-ruff, club ruff, heart ruff and overruff, etc.

CHAPTER 19

VENICE BERMUDA BOWL



The 1974 edition of the Bermuda Bowl was a six-team affair. The Italians were back with the same front four that had won convincingly the year before in Guaruja, Brazil: Belladonna in partnership with Garozzo, and Forquet with Benito Bianchi. Both pairs played Italian Precision, an elaborate system with a Greek alphabet of asking bids, most prominently after the forcing one club opening. The third pair, Arturo Franco and Soldano De Falco, played Neapolitan. The Brazilians all played Precision. The brothers Marcelo and Pedro Paulo Branco made one pair, Gabriel Chagas played with Pedro Paulo Assumpção, and the third was Gabino Cintra and Christiano Fonseca. France, the European champions, as usual had natural bidders, but remarkably only two pairs: Boulenger and Svarc, and Michel Lebel with Christian Mari. The Indonesian pairs, the Manoppo brothers, Karamoy-Moniaga and Aguw-Lasut all employed home-grown methods. New Zealand was making her Bermuda Bowl debut with two Acol pairs, Abrahams-Cornell and Brightling-Marston, and Kerr-Wignall playing Precision.

The six teams played two 32-board matches against each opponent, scored at IMPs and converted to victory points — with a maximum of 20 per match and minus 5 possible for a bad loss. The four leading teams after the double round robin would meet in 64-board semifinals, the winners proceeding to a 96-board final.

This deal came from round 5, North America vs. France (rotated for convenience):

Dealer South
E-W vul.

♠ Q 10 6 2
♥ A Q 10
♦ A K Q J 4
♣ 3

♠ —
♥ 9 7 4 2
♦ 7 2
♣ A K Q 10 8 5 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Svarc	Kehela	Boulenger	Murray
			1♣
pass	2♦	pass	4♣
pass	4♥	pass	4♦
pass	4NT	pass	5♦
pass	6♣	all pass	

Opening lead: ♠A

Murray, with seven playing tricks and top honors in clubs, opened at the one-level. After a strong jump shift by Kehela, Murray's jump to four clubs showed a solid suit. Two cuebids and Blackwood led to a final contract of six clubs. Murray ruffed the opening lead of the ace of spades and cashed two top trumps, West discarding a heart. A hand that might have been an easy seven now required some thought. How would you play?

Murray took the third top club, keeping two hearts and two spades in the dummy, and started to run the diamonds. All would be well if they were no worse than 4-2, but East ruffed the second diamond and returned a spade. What would you do now?

One possibility is to ruff the spade and play for the king of hearts to be onside. In fact, slightly better than just taking a finesse is to run the trumps. That gives the extra chance of dropping the king of hearts singleton offside, as West will be forced to come down to one heart if he keeps a diamond guard.

Murray reasoned that if the king of hearts was onside, then the king of spades would be on his right. For if West had the ace and king of spades and the king of hearts, together with a singleton club (and perhaps a jack or two),

he would have made a takeout double of one club. Also, with the ace-king of spades West might have led the king. Accordingly, Murray discarded on the spade and scored up the slam.

This was the full deal:

Dealer South
E-W vul.

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

N
W E
S

At the other table, in the same situation on the second round of diamonds, Blumenthal discarded, refusing to endplay himself. The declarer continued with the third and fourth rounds of diamonds, and Blumenthal resolutely discarded each time. There was no endplay, and when the heart finesse failed, declarer was one down.

Do you think declarer can make six clubs against any defense, after ruffing the ace of spades and cashing the three top clubs?

He can, but only by double dummy play. It is necessary to keep all the spades in dummy, throwing away dummy's potentially good fifth diamond instead. Then declarer crosses on a diamond, ruffs a spade and starts to play diamonds. If East ruffs, he is endplayed, so let's say he pitches on all the diamonds. Then declarer ruffs a third round of spades, crosses to the ace of hearts, and scores his ten of clubs on the fourth spade.

At the end of the round robin, Italy had nosed out North America by a single victory point, thereby winning the right to meet the fourth-place Indonesia while North America took on the third-place Brazil. The final standings were:

1.	Italy	149
2.	North America	148
3.	Brazil	111
4.	Indonesia	82
5.	France	71
6.	New Zealand	17

Against the Brazilians, North America started with a 24-IMP carryover. On board 30, Murray and Kehela had an uncomplicated auction to an excellent grand slam:

Dealer East
Neither vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kehela	P. Branco	Murray	M. Branco
		pass	pass
2♣	pass	3♣	pass
4♣	pass	4♥	pass
5NT	pass	7♣	all pass

Kehela won the opening spade lead, played a low club to the king, and claimed when both opponents followed. In the other room, the Brazilian methods seemed to be up to the task, but there was an accident. West opened

a Precision club and East gave a positive in clubs. In response to a trump-asking bid, East then showed a five-card suit to two top honors. The confusion occurred when West now bid Keycard Blackwood. East showed one keycard, on the theory that he had already shown his clubs. West saw it differently, so Brazil stopped in six.

In the other semifinal, one declarer played in six notrump by the big hand on a heart lead. How would you play the clubs?

The usual way to play this combination is low to the king, allowing declarer to pick up four clubs on either side. Here, though, if North turns out to have four clubs, the tricks are tangled: declarer can make five club tricks, but only at the cost of overtaking a heart honor. The alternative of starting clubs with the ace is fine unless North shows out, and starting with the ten or nine is fine unless South shows out.

Since there is no single line that handles both 4-0 club splits, declarer should take the play that leaves him in the best position should he prove to have guessed wrong. That means playing South to have four clubs. If it turns out that South has none, he will rate to be longer in diamonds, and the diamond finesse will have better odds than if clubs were the other way. Declarer should lead the ten of clubs to the king. (A low club is also fine, since declarer can later unblock the clubs by pitching one on the third round of hearts.) If South shows out on the king of clubs, declarer concedes a club to North's jack. Then he can win the return, cash the ace of diamonds and the major suit winners in hand, run the clubs and take the ace of hearts. If it seems no squeeze has matured, he can take the diamond finesse.

A few boards later, Murray faced a complicated four hearts doubled (rotated for convenience):

Dealer East
Both vul.

♠ K 7 4 3
♥ K Q 8
♦ A 9 4
♣ 10 6 4

♠ 8
♥ J 9 7 4 3
♦ K Q J 10 8 6 5
♣ —

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
M. Branco	Kehela	P. Branco	Murray
		pass	pass
1♦1	dbl	3♣	4♥
dbl	all pass		

1. Precision, two or more diamonds.
Opening lead: ♠A

After holding the opening lead, Marcello switched to the ace of clubs. How do you go about making four hearts doubled?

Murray ruffed and played a heart to the king. When both followed, he left trumps alone and played diamonds. This kept control and he finished with ten tricks. The full deal was:

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

It was suggested at the time that West might succeed by flying in with the ace on the first trump and continuing clubs. Declarer can counter this by unblocking a high trump under the ace, ruffing the club in hand and then playing diamonds until West ruffs. The small trump in dummy allows declarer to finish drawing trumps in hand with the jack to make the rest of the diamonds.

Both North America and Italy won their semifinal matches handily, North America by 91 and Italy by 88. The carryover formula, new to the 1974 Bermuda Bowl, awarded North America a 2-IMP head start for the 96-board final.



“Did you bring me any stamps?” asks Murray as I get out of my car.

I have made my way up to the Murray compound on a warm, early summer day. I hold up the old cardboard filing box containing my Dad’s stamp collection; Eric looks pleased. Before entering the house, I stop to look around. The landscape is suffused with a vibrant, healthy green: the grass, the leaves on the shrubs and trees, the flowers in their beds. The sun is shimmering on the pond — it is a perfect summer day.

We exchange bits of news before sitting down by the fireplace. I have come with a large list of questions. Although I have spent quite a bit of time with Eric, I feel that I have not done particularly well interviewing him; he is quite adroit at steering the conversation and sidestepping issues I meant to find out about.

“You hold queen and one, singleton, ace-queen-ten to six and king fourth,” starts Eric. “Both sides are vulnerable. You are playing four-card majors and negative doubles. Your partner opens one spade and the next hand bids three hearts. What do you do?”

It’s hard to say. A negative double might get us to a good three notrump, but I have a lot of extra suit-oriented values and I don’t know if I would want to pass partner there. Stalling for time, I ask who I am playing with.

“Me,” replies Eric.

Well, it may get us overboard, but I have good values and I announce my decision: four diamonds.

“Partner bids four spades. What do you do now?”

I stall a bit more, asking whether partner might have bid a non-committal choice-of-games cuebid of four hearts, etc., but eventually I say I would pass.

“O.K., now you can play it,” says Murray.

Dealer South

Both vul.

♠ Q 7
♥ 6
♦ A Q 10 7 4 2
♣ K 8 5 3

♠ K 10 9 5 2
♥ A Q 10
♦ K 5
♣ 9 6 4

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
3♥2	4♦	pass	1♠ ¹
all pass			4♠

1. Four-card majors.

2. Weak.

Opening lead: ♣J

Great — how am I supposed to make this, I wonder. After some hemming and hawing, I indicate that I will play small.

“It holds,” says Eric, “and West leads a diamond.”

They haven’t beaten me yet, but it doesn’t look good. I ramble on a bit about how they are going to cut me off from the diamonds by playing a second round when they get in on the ace of spades.

“So what do you do?” prompts Eric.

“I win the king in hand and play a trump to the queen.”

“It wins.”

“Now a trump to the ten.”

Eric nods and continues, “West takes the ace and returns a trump.”

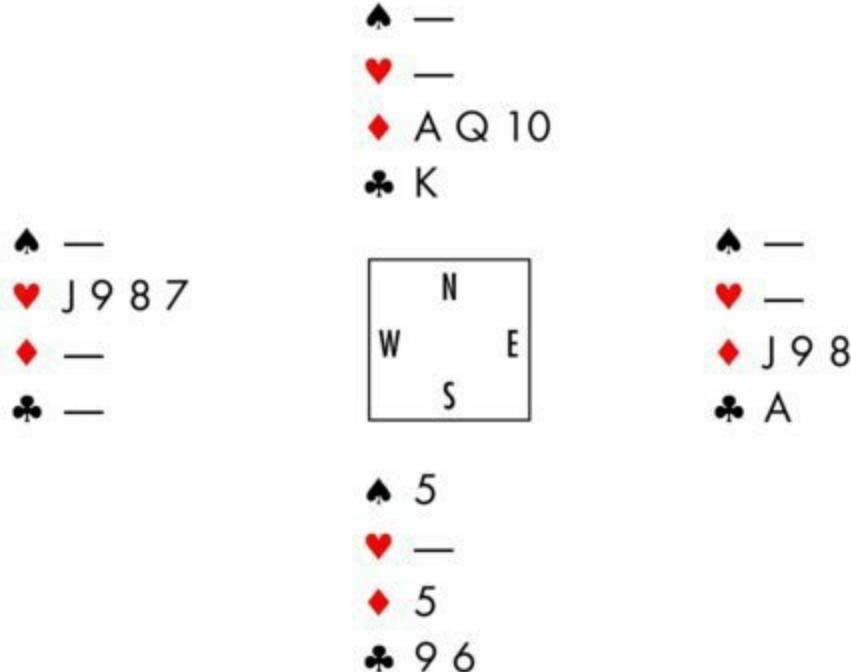
I try to digest this, but Eric gets impatient.

"I won't take any more of your time. You should lead the queen of hearts to West's king and claim."

Yes, that must be the thing to do. First West switched to diamonds because he had no more clubs, and then he switched to spades because he had no more diamonds. Now that he has no more spades he will have to play hearts. This is the full deal:

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

After West takes his king of hearts, he has to lead one back into declarer's ace-ten. Declarer runs his winners and as he leads the last trump this is the position:



Dummy parts with the king of clubs on the last trump and East has no good discard.

“That’s a pretty hand,” I say. “Where is it from?”

“I don’t know, some IMP game,” Eric replies.

I tell Eric I might like to include it in the book — it might even be a good way to finish.

“Well, you can have it, if you like — I haven’t given it to anyone else. But the defense missed its way in a few places. In fact, they could have beaten me by rising on the ace of spades.”

That kind of blocks the trump suit, doesn’t it? And if declarer throws dummy’s queen under the ace, a heart return leaves him stranded in hand, unable to get to dummy to pick up the jack of trumps. But I think I have seen something else. “What if I keep dummy’s queen of spades? West gets out with a trump. I win that, cross to the ace of hearts, draw trumps and squeeze East.”

“That would be for one down,” says Eric. “And in any case, I’d like to hear about it if you can make the hand if West takes the ace of spades and plays a heart.”

I'm getting used to the fact that with Eric I never, ever get the last word. I'm glad I don't have to make a living fencing with him in the courtroom. I try to ask him about the one pairs trials he entered unsuccessfully.

"Didn't I win all the trials?" Eric asks.

"No, in Dallas you came sixth."

"Sixth?"

"Yes, sixth — that's why you weren't in Buenos Aires."

"Well thank heaven for that."

Ready for a break, we put on bathing trunks and walk across the grass to the pond. "The one thing you won't like about this," Eric warns me, "is the minnows nibbling your toes." The first problem, though, is getting into the spring-fed water, which is bracing. Once we are in, it is quite pleasant. We swim for a while, enjoying the puffy white clouds and clear blue sky. Then the minnows come, and Eric is right — they are disconcerting! We head back into the house and get dressed. Eric produces ham-and-mustard sandwiches for lunch.

Afterwards we move back to the armchairs. I ask him about some of his battles with the *Bridge World*, and in particular the infamous charge sheet in the writeup of the 1974 Bermuda Bowl.

"They've given me a complimentary subscription; the first issue came yesterday — it's right over there," Eric says, pointing. "You know, I called Edgar, on some other topic, a little after that article appeared. Not an article very flattering to me, Edgar, I said. And you know what he said? 'It's just one of the little prices you pay for leaving my team, Eric.'"

My host is sinking comfortably into the chair. "But I was fond of Edgar," he continues, "and Betty, and Alfie¹."

I slip away to the bookcase and look for something to read. I find a book I have heard about but never seen, Belladonna's book on the Roman Club. I take it outside, stretch out on a grassy hillside and read. Later I wander back into the house and Eric asks what I've been doing. I show him the book and he smiles.

"I was in Rome once and I went to Belladonna's club, the Elite. Giorgio couldn't play but he set me up with a friendly game, for small stakes. I was down a bit and ready to leave but they wouldn't let me. The game went on

and on. I kept getting close to even, and then I'd lose another hand. Finally I won a rubber and I was up. They all leapt to their feet, said very nice playing with you Mr. Murray and that was the end of the game. Belladonna had left orders that I was not to be allowed to lose."

We move over to the dining table to look at Dad's stamps. Eric clears a space and opens the filing box. I am a bit concerned about the flying stamps and open marmalade jar, but Eric has things in hand.

"I bought my wife a very nice pendant from Garozzo's jewelry store," Eric continues, "He gave me a good deal, of course. What are these?" he asks, holding up some envelopes.

They were letters mailed to me by a kind neighbor, one each time a new stamp was issued.

"Oh, we call those first day covers," says Eric, looking at one with a 4-cent, 1963 stamp. "I'll look up what they're worth."

"Have you been collecting stamps all your life, Eric?" I ask.

"No," he replies. "Just since I was six. These are worth, let's see, twenty-five dollars each."

That's gratifying, in a way, although I probably wouldn't ever part with them unless I needed the money.

"Oh, wait a minute," says Eric. "No, they're worth two dollars."

I ask Eric what was it like, playing world-level bridge while maintaining a full-time law practice.

"There was no time," he tells me. "There were so many things I wanted to discuss and we just didn't do it."

"Did you ever consider quitting bridge?" I ask.

"No, I love it too much."

¹ Sheinwold.

CHAPTER 20

THE LAST TRY



The 1974 Bermuda Bowl in Venice had been contested for a week. What had been decided, after over a thousand deals of bridge, was that the two best teams were Italy and North America, and that North America would begin the final with a carryover of 2 IMPs. To start the match, Kehela and Murray went into the Closed Room to sit West and East. They were opposed by their old foe, Forquet, who sat his customary North, and his partner Benito Bianchi. This was board 1:

Dealer North

Neither vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kehela	Forquet	Murray	Bianchi
	pass	pass	pass
1NT	pass	2NT	all pass

Opening lead: ♥10

Kehela's one notrump opening was 16-18; after Murray's raise to two, he really had no excuse to go on. And three notrump, looking only at the East-

West cards, is certainly odds-against. It might be down on top with a club lead, and even without one, there is a severe shortage of tricks and no clear entry to the diamonds. But Kehela played low on the lead of the ten of hearts, and the king popped up singleton. With a late entry to the ace of diamonds, he now had eight tricks assured unless the opponents could take five club tricks. He played a spade to the king and ace. The club shift went to the ten and king, and Forquet cashed the ace. That gave Kehela ten tricks, but no real happiness. At the other table:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Garozzo</i>	<i>Wolff</i>	<i>Belladonna</i>	<i>Hamman</i>
	pass	pass	pass
1♣ ¹	pass	1NT ²	pass
2♣ ³	pass	2♠ ⁴	pass
2NT	pass	3NT	all pass

- 1. Strong.
 - 2. Balanced, 8+.
 - 3. Asking.
 - 4. No major.
- Opening lead: ♠7

Belladonna put up the queen from dummy, unblocked the two diamond honors, and led a spade to the king and ace. Hamman played a club to the ten and king, and Wolff was stuck. Declarer needed to be able to get to dummy with the jack of hearts, and with the king conveniently singleton, there was no way to stop him.

North America was assessed a penalty of 3 IMPs for playing the next board in the wrong direction. On the third board, Murray and Kehela stayed in one notrump with 25 HCP. Game was touch and go, but you would prefer to be in it, especially vulnerable. Again Kehela made ten tricks for +180, but Belladonna made nine tricks for +600.

Then Murray picked up:

♠ J 10 9 8 7 6 2 ♥ 10 7 3 ♦ 10 ♣ K J

Kehela, the dealer, opened one diamond with both sides vulnerable, and Forquet overcalled two clubs. And now Murray, with a jack-high suit, 5 HCP, and a singleton in his partner's suit, jumped all the way to four spades, vulnerable. Bianchi raised to five clubs, which came back to Murray. Double, he said. He led his singleton diamond and this was the deal:

Dealer West Both vul.	<p style="text-align: center;">N W E S</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ K Q ♥ K 9 ♦ J 8 5 4 ♣ A Q 9 4 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 5 4 3 ♥ Q J 2 ♦ A K Q 7 6 ♣ 8 7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ A ♥ A 8 6 5 4 ♦ 9 3 2 ♣ 10 6 5 3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ J 10 9 8 7 6 2 ♥ 10 7 3 ♦ 10 ♣ K J</p>
--------------------------	--	---	---

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kehela	Forquet	Murray	Bianchi
1♦	2♣	4♠	5♣
pass	pass	dbl	all pass

Opening lead: ♦10

Kehela won three diamonds and played a fourth, which Murray ruffed with the jack. A heart went to dummy's ace and then Forquet, not knowing which impossible hand to attribute to the madman on his left, finessed into the unguarded king of clubs for - 800.

As they were leaving the table at the end of the segment, Sami was quietly chuckling to himself about the events of board 4. "Poor Forquet," he said. "In front of his own audience, he had to go for eight hundred. And everything was normal, really."

"Well, not everything," replied Eric. Sami raised his eyebrows as Eric continued, "Not everybody bids four spades."

Sami, who had never seen Forquet's hand, figured Murray for the king of spades. "Oh, I don't know," he said, shrugging. "King-jack-ten to eight

spades... .”

“Who had the king?” thundered Murray. “I just had the jack!”

Kehela was amazed. “How can you bid four spades?”

Thirty-odd years later, I asked Eric the same question.

“I don’t think,” he told me. “I just bid.”

Writing up the match for the *Bridge World*, Edgar Kaplan put it this way:

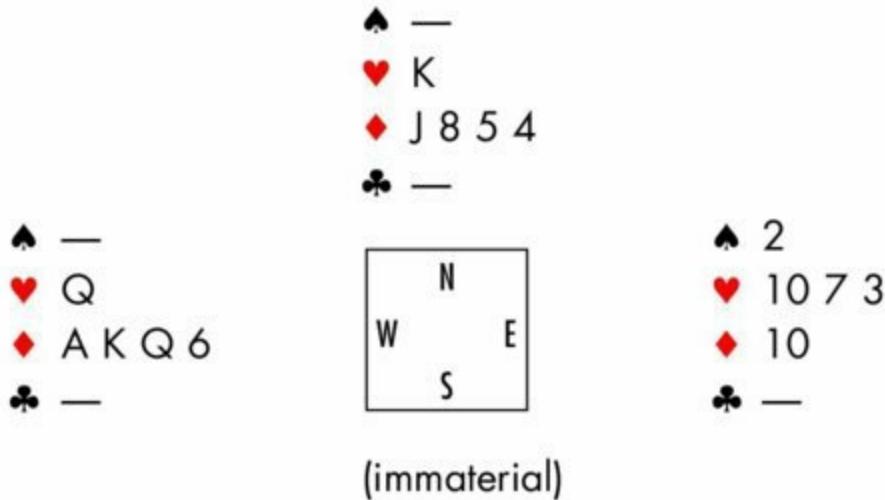
It is hard to criticize either Forquet or Bianchi for getting to five clubs doubled (certainly the two club overcall was sound; the five club bid was automatic; the only “bad” bid was Murray’s four spades, so I guess the disaster was his fault).

The two club overcall may have been sound in terms of high cards, and it may be winning tactics, but some old-timers would shudder at the thought of bidding at the two-level, vulnerable, on ace-queen fifth and four diamonds to the jack in the suit bid on your right. In the same situation in the Open Room, Wolff chose another tack:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Garozzo	Wolff	Belladonna	Hamman
1♦	1NT	3♠	3NT
all pass			

Opening lead: ♠J

Where Forquet had overcalled in his modest club suit, Wolff preferred one notrump. Belladonna preempted and Hamman bid game. Wolff won the first trick with the ace of spades and considered how to play the clubs. With a weak hand and long spades shown on his left, he very reasonably ran the ten of clubs. Belladonna took the jack and played another spade. Wolff, now down but hoping to hold it to down one, crossed to the ace of hearts and finessed again in clubs. Belladonna won with the king that he wasn’t supposed to have and proceeded to cash out his spades, coming to this position:



On the last spade, Garozzo discarded the queen of hearts, and Wolff was squeezed. He didn't make another trick, going six down vulnerable.

That was still 5 IMPs to North America. After 16 boards, Italy had a narrow 36-28 IMP lead. Goldman and Blumenthal came in to play against Forquet and Bianchi, while Kehela and Murray stayed in the Closed Room to face Belladonna and Garozzo. The Italians outscored the North Americans in a high-scoring set, 60-30.

The second session started as a rematch of the first, with a ninety-degree counterclockwise turn: Murray and Kehela again faced Forquet and Bianchi in the Closed Room, while Wolff and Hamman played Belladonna and Garozzo. It appeared that Italy's third pair, Franco and De Falco, would not see action as long as the match remained close.

On board 44, Kehela held:

♠ J ♥ Q J 9 8 7 6 5 ♦ K Q 10 6 5 ♣ —

With only his side vulnerable, he heard the bidding go one club, Precision, from Forquet on his left, two clubs from Murray, pass. Now two hearts, non-forcing, wouldn't do justice to this hand, with its great playing strength, so Kehela jumped to three hearts. Forquet bid three spades, and after a pass from Murray Bianchi raised to four, which everyone passed. Murray led the two of spades, and this is what Kehela saw:

Dummy

♠ Q 6 5 3
 ♥ 10 4 3
 ♦ 7 4 2
 ♣ J 8 5

**Kehela**

♠ J
 ♥ Q J 9 8 7 6 5
 ♦ K Q 10 6 5
 ♣ —

Declarer took the opening lead with the king of spades and cashed the ace of hearts. He then crossed to the queen of spades, ruffed a heart, and cashed the ace of spades, Murray following with the ten. He then led a low club towards the jack. Murray went in with the queen and shifted to the jack of diamonds. The position was:

Dummy

♠ 6
 ♥ 10
 ♦ 7 4 2
 ♣ J 8

**Kehela**

♠ —
 ♥ Q J
 ♦ K Q 10 6 5
 ♣ —

What do you play, and why? At first glance, there is no need to cover partner's jack. It is risky, for if the jack of diamonds is singleton, overtaking will set up the fourth round for declarer, who may use it to throw a losing club from dummy. And there seems to be no need to overtake, for if declarer allows the jack to hold, partner can safely play another one. But Kehela saw further. If declarer, as seemed likely, held the ace fourth of clubs, he could win the second diamond and play another low club towards the jack. With

nothing but clubs, Murray would take the king and lead another to dummy's jack. Then declarer could ruff dummy's heart and pitch the losing diamond on the ace of clubs.

Upon completing these calculations, Kehela put the queen of diamonds on Murray's jack and declarer was finished. If he ducked, Kehela could force him with a heart. Murray would then step in with the king of clubs and lead a diamond, leaving the clubs blocked. Forquet in fact took the first round of diamonds and led another, which would have worked had Murray held jack-ten doubleton. As it was, Kehela won his two diamond tricks and played a heart, leaving declarer with a losing club. The full deal was:

Dealer West N-S vul.	♠ 10 8 2 ♥ K 2 ♦ J 8 ♣ K Q 10 9 4 3									
♠ A K 9 7 4 ♥ A ♦ A 9 3 ♣ A 7 6 2	<table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S	
	N									
W		E								
	S									
	♠ Q 6 5 3 ♥ 10 4 3 ♦ 7 4 2 ♣ J 8 5									

♠ J ♥ Q J 9 8 7 6 5 ♦ K Q 10 6 5 ♣ —

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Forquet	Murray	Bianchi	Kehela
1♣	2♣	pass	3♥
3♠	pass	4♠	all pass

When the scores were compared, Italy had won 28-19. For the third straight time, Italy had outscored her opposition over sixteen boards, albeit this time by a smaller margin. Their overall lead had stretched to 47 IMPs. Goldman and Blumenthal came in for the Canadians. Italy won the set, again, this time by a single IMP. With 32 boards to go, North America was 48 IMPs down.

Tuesday, May 28, 1974

For the second time in the final, Murray and Kehela played against Garozzo and Belladonna. Wolff and Hamman sat East-West against Forquet and Bianchi. Things started well as Kehela led a diamond from king-jack to five against three notrump, Murray obligingly producing the ace to take the first five tricks. Then Belladonna-Garozzo stayed out of a close game, bid and made at the other table. Then Kehela had a difficult problem:

Dealer South

E-W vul.

Board 67

♠ 10 8
♥ 7 4 3 2
♦ A Q J 9 5
♣ A Q

♠ A J 7 2
♥ K 6
♦ 7
♣ K J 9 8 7 5

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Garozzo	Murray	Belladonna	Kehela
			1♣
pass	1♦	1♥	1♠
pass	2♥	pass	3♣
pass	4♣	pass	5♣
all pass			

Opening lead: ♥10

Belladonna took the first trick with the ace. Garozzo ruffed the heart return and led the king of spades. After winning the ace, how would you play? (Belladonna-Garozzo played light overcalls and two-suited, Roman jump overcalls)

For starters, declarer needs to find the king of diamonds. One might assume it more likely to be with the bidder, but Belladonna would not have needed more than ace-queen-jack sixth for a one heart bid. Given the 6-1 division in hearts, perhaps it is more likely that the king of diamonds is on the left.

Finding the king of diamonds would not be enough. Declarer needs four diamond tricks for his contract. That means finding the remaining trumps 2-2, so that the long diamonds can be cashed. There are two ways to play. South can take a simple finesse in diamonds and play to ruff out West's third king.

Alternatively, he can take a ruffing finesse through East, playing him for either king-fourth or king-ten third. Suppose West has king third of diamonds. He has shown up with a singleton heart and, by hypothesis, three clubs. That means a hand like:

♠ K Q 9 5 4 3 ♥ 10 ♦ K 8 4 ♣ 10 4 3

Surely he might have overcalled one spade with that. Kehela led a diamond to the ace and returned the queen, discarding a spade when East played low. Now it had to be right to continue with the jack; Belladonna didn't win all those World Championships by giving declarers extra chances. The jack held the trick as well, so Kehela ruffed the fourth diamond high and played two rounds of trumps, claiming when they split. In the Closed Room, Bianchi was making the less challenging contract of three notrump, so making five clubs was necessary to keep North America's resurgence alive.

A few boards later there was an amusing turnabout. The methods of the American pair, Hamman and Wolff, were essentially Italian. They used seven rounds of bidding, complete with a canapé by responder and numerous Italian-style cuebids, to reach an excellent slam. Garozzo and Belladonna, playing Precision methods popular in America, missed it. When Wolff then brought home a touch-and-go four spades not attempted by Garozzo and Belladonna, North America was getting close to pulling even. The next board saw both Kehela and Forquet in a delicate three notrump:

Dealer North
E-W vul.

♠ Q 9 6 3
♥ 4 3
♦ A Q J 9
♣ 10 6 4

♠ A 10 8
♥ A J 8 5 2
♦ 8 7
♣ A K 7

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Garozzo</i>	<i>Murray</i>	<i>Belladonna</i>	<i>Kehela</i>
	pass	pass	1NT
pass	2♦	pass	2♥
pass	3NT	all pass	

Kehela took the low diamond lead with the queen and went after hearts, playing low when East went in with the queen. Belladonna returned the ten of diamonds, presenting declarer with a communications problem — should he strand the ace of diamonds in dummy? Resolutely burning his bridges behind him, Kehela cashed the ace of diamonds and led a heart to the jack. When that held, he set up his ninth trick in hearts. The full deal was:

Dealer North
E-W vul.

♠ Q 9 6 3
♥ 4 3
♦ A Q J 9
♣ 10 6 4

♠ K J 7
♥ 10 6
♦ K 6 5 3 2
♣ J 8 3



♠ 5 4 2
♥ K Q 9 7
♦ 10 4
♣ Q 9 5 2

♠ A 10 8
♥ A J 8 5 2
♦ 8 7
♣ A K 7

Forquet, also in three notrump but from the other side, got a club lead. He won the second round and played ace and another spade, Wolff taking the king to play a third club. Forquet won, took a successful diamond finesse, then played a low heart and allowed Hamman's king to win. Hamman cashed the long club and played a heart. Needing the rest of the tricks, Forquet went up with the ace, took a second diamond finesse and found the spades splitting for an exciting push.

On board 74, Murray held:

♠ A J 9 8 3 ♥ J 9 6 4 ♦ 8 7 ♣ 10 8

With both sides vulnerable, it went one diamond from Belladonna (Precision, could be short), double from Kehela, pass from Garozzo. Showing a healthy appreciation of his values, Murray jumped to two spades. Kehela probed with three diamonds, so Murray showed his heart suit. Kehela closed the auction with a raise to four. The lead was a low diamond, and this is what Murray saw (rotated for convenience):

♠ Q 10 5
♥ A K Q 8
♦ A 2
♣ A Q 7 2

(Belladonna)

Opening lead: ♦3

(Garozzo)

♠ A J 9 8 3
♥ J 9 6 4
♦ 8 7
♣ 10 8

How do you play?

It looks right to win the first trick, as a low spade switch from Garozzo would be unwelcome. Murray took the ace and cashed the ace of hearts, on which Belladonna showed out. Murray now passed the queen of spades to

Belladonna, who returned a diamond to Garozzo's queen. Garozzo now played a trump.¹ Murray made the essential play of winning high in dummy. He then proceeded to play spades, and the defense was helpless. If Garozzo ruffs in at any point and plays a diamond, Murray can ruff high in dummy and claim, thanks to the low trump in dummy. In fact Garozzo pitched three times, but with the club finesse Murray had ten tricks. This was the full deal:

Dealer West Both vul.	♠ Q 10 5 ♥ A K Q 8 ♦ A 2 ♣ A Q 7 2		♠ 6 4 ♥ 10 7 5 3 2 ♦ Q 10 6 4 ♣ 4 3
	♠ K 7 2 ♥ — ♦ K J 9 5 3 ♣ K J 9 6 5		♠ A J 9 8 3 ♥ J 9 6 4 ♦ 8 7 ♣ 10 8

In the other room, Hamman's one diamond opening was natural, usually four or more. After the takeout double, a daring raise by Wolff and a brisk jump to game by Hamman gave Bianchi a problem:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Hamman	Bianchi	Wolff	Forquet
1♦	dbl	2♦	3♦
5♦	5♥	all pass	

The 5-0 trump split was too much to handle, and in fact Bianchi dropped a trick to finish down two, -200. Combined with Murray's +620, that was 13 IMPs to North America. They had fought back from a 48-point deficit with a 43-0 run over the first ten boards, to trail by only 5.

With the comparison still six boards away, Kehela and Murray had no way to know the score, or that this marked the zenith of their 1974 comeback: they would come no closer than 5 IMPs to the mighty Blue Team. Perhaps

the North Americans, not knowing they were a mere 5 IMPs back, pressed too hard. Hamman and Wolff climbed to four spades down three, while Kehela had to find an endplay to hold three hearts to down one. Then an offshape takeout double by Murray backfired when Kehela jumped to four clubs, down three. The margin was 15 when board 78 came along. Murray held:

♠ Q 9 6 5 4 3 ♥ — ♦ 8 6 5 2 ♣ J 8 4

With no one vulnerable, Belladonna opened one heart on his left. Kehela overcalled one notrump and Garozzo raised to two hearts. Murray competed with two spades. Belladonna took the push to three hearts, which was followed by two passes. Murray bid three spades and everyone passed. The opening lead was the ace of hearts (ace from ace-king) and Murray surveyed:

♠ J 10
♥ Q J 5
♦ A J 9
♣ A K 9 6 5

Opening lead: ♥A

♠ Q 9 6 5 4 3
♥ —
♦ 8 6 5 2
♣ J 8 4

Murray ruffed the opening lead and played a small spade. Garozzo won on his right with the ace and returned the queen of diamonds. Murray allowed this to hold, and a second diamond went to the jack. Belladonna won the next trump with the king and gave his partner a diamond ruff, the fourth trick for the defense. Garozzo led the two of clubs in this position:

♠	—
♥	Q J
♦	—
♣	A K 9 6 5
(♣2)	
♠	Q 9 6
♥	—
♦	8
♣	J 8 4

Belladonna was known to be either 2-5-4-2 or 2-6-4-1. It seemed that he must have the queen of clubs, for Garozzo would not lead away from the setting trick. Murray played low, therefore, and Belladonna played the queen, taken in dummy. Now Murray just needed to find a place for the losing diamond, and there were two chances: the king of hearts on the right, which was unlikely, or the clubs 3-2. The club break was not as likely as it might first appear, for why would Garozzo, with three clubs to the ten, break the suit? He would have returned a heart. Then Murray could drop the doubleton queen of clubs, but the jack would block the run of the suit and he would be one down. The only way clubs were likely to be 3-2 is if Belladonna had been dealt queen-ten doubleton and had brilliantly played the queen. Murray was well aware of that possibility, but chose to take the heart finesse. It failed, and he was one down. The full deal was:

♠ J 10 ♥ Q J 5 ♦ A J 9 ♣ A K 9 6 5 ♠ K 7 ♥ A K 9 8 4 ♦ K 10 4 3 ♣ Q 10	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100%; height: 100%;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ A 8 2 ♥ 10 7 6 3 2 ♦ Q 7 ♣ 7 3 2 ♠ Q 9 6 5 4 3 ♥ — ♦ 8 6 5 2 ♣ J 8 4
	N										
W		E									
	S										

It was a magnificent defense by Belladonna and Garozzo. In the other room, Hamman and Wolff bid four hearts, needing only a 2-1 split in hearts, which wasn't forthcoming. Italy now had a 17-IMP lead. The last two boards of the set were pushes, the last a hair-raising slam made by Forquet and Murray.

The same eight sat down for the last sixteen boards, with Murray-Kehela North-South in the Open Room against Forquet-Bianchi. North America needed opportunities, and there were some. Both declarers misguessed the queen of trumps in four spades on the first board, for a push at one down. The first large swing went to Italy, when Forquet and Bianchi bid an almost cold six clubs and made it. As it turned out, that was the only large swing of the set. Hamman reached a vulnerable game that needed a bit of luck and didn't get it, while Murray and Kehela defeated two diamonds in the other room. Then when Bianchi, opposite a Precision two diamond opening showing 11-15 with short diamonds, bid only two hearts on

♠ Q 6 ♥ A Q 9 8 6 ♦ 9 8 6 2 ♣ J 5

the North American supporters hoped for a vulnerable game swing. But Bianchi's partner bailed him out with a raise, so he bid four and made an overtrick for a push. On Board 90, there was fierce play and defense at three notrump in both rooms:

Dealer East

Both vul.

♠ A 9 4
♥ Q 10 3
♦ J 9 7 5 3 2
♣ K

♠ K 8 3
♥ 5 2
♦ K Q 10 6 4
♣ Q 7 3

N
W E
S

♠ Q J 7 6
♥ K 8 7 6 4
♦ —
♣ 10 9 6 4

♠ 10 5 2
♥ A J 9
♦ A 8
♣ A J 8 5 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Forquet	Murray	Bianchi	Kehela
pass	1♦	pass	1♣
pass	2NT	pass	1NT
all pass			3NT

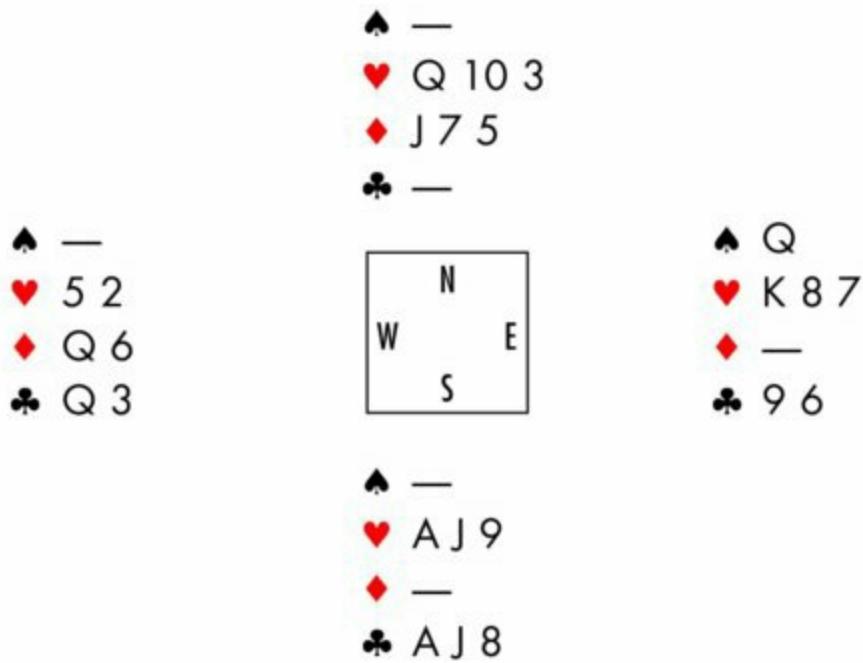
Opening lead: ♠3

The natural one diamond response steered Forquet away from leading his longest suit. Kehela won the third round of spades and with insufficient entries to establish the diamonds unless the king and queen were doubleton, ran the queen of hearts. When that held, he cashed the king of clubs, led a second heart to the jack and cashed the ace of clubs. Bianchi perhaps should have followed with one of his higher clubs; when he played low, Kehela had no choice but to follow with a low club. When the queen came up, he claimed nine tricks.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Wolff	Belladonna	Hamman	Garozzo
pass	3NT	pass all pass	1NT

Opening lead: ♦K

Against the unrevealing Italian auction, Wolff had no reason not to start his longest suit. Hamman pitched a heart and Garozzo won the ace. When he returned the eight of diamonds at Trick 2, Wolff made the fine play of withholding the queen; had he taken it, Garozzo would have set up the diamond suit. Hamman pitched a second heart. At this point, Garozzo could have transposed into Kehela's line, succeeding with the lucky club lie, but he thought he could do better. He ducked a spade to Hamman, who returned a club to dummy's king. Now, perhaps hoping for a club continuation, Garozzo led dummy's nine of diamonds to Wolff's ten. After Hamman's discard of the ten of clubs, though, Wolff exited with the king of spades, ducked all around, and another spade. That left this intriguing position:



Garozzo led the queen of hearts from dummy and Hamman covered. Now Garozzo was able to finish the hearts on the table and exit with the jack of diamonds. Wolff, upon winning, had to surrender the last two tricks to dummy's diamonds or declarer's clubs. It would have been a remarkable play to make, but if Hamman refuses to cover the queen of hearts, the defense has an answer for anything declarer may try.

There was not a lot more that could be done. Italy wound up winning the final stanza 22-10, a 29-IMP victory overall.

Once again, North America had failed to stop the Blue Team. There was plenty of speculation about the reasons. Edgar Kaplan wrote a three-piece report for the *Bridge World*. In it, he kept a scorecard on each player, which he described like this: “full charge for all IMPs lost through error; half charge for IMPs lost through doubtful, although reasonable, decisions; no charge for IMPs lost through bad luck; credit applied against charges for brilliancies that pick up IMPs.” The charge sheet read as follows:

Player	IMPs Lost	Partner	IMPs Lost	Total	Boards Played
Belladonna	26	Garozzo	53	79	96
Forquet	31	Bianchi	51	82	96
Kehela	13	Murray	54	67	64
Hamman	30	Wolff	39	69	64
Blumenthal	22	Goldman	31	53	32

While it may be fair journalism to attempt an analysis like this, there are obvious difficulties. One is that it is likely to work in favor of the player who plays down the middle, avoiding risks, and at the expense of active players who try to win IMPs. Consider, for example, Murray’s infamous leap to four spades on board 4 of the final on:

♠ J 10 9 8 7 6 2 ♥ 10 7 3 ♦ 10 ♣ K J

Was this a brilliancy, since it worked? If so, is the credit only 5 IMPs, since his teammates unluckily went six down, vulnerable? What would the charge be if four spades had been doubled and beaten 1100? Would that make it an error, instead of a brilliancy?

Sami pointed out something I had never noticed — not when I read the issue in 1974, or in the years since (I read old issues of the *Bridge World* periodically). The column of “Boards Played” doesn’t balance. The Italian figures add up to 192, correct for a 96-board match. But the North American figures add up to 160. As Sami put it, 32 boards were played by ghosts. They were actually played by Murray, Kehela, Hamman and Wolff, who all played 80 boards, not 64, and who therefore performed better than the chart suggested.²

Whatever disagreements one might have with the analysis, the table does underscore one indisputable fact: Kehela played an amazing tournament, in

Kaplan's words, "surely the best ever by anyone in a world championship final."

¹ This was the play according to the *Bridge World* and the World Championship book. A column by Truscott has Garozzo giving a ruff-sluff instead of leading a second trump, but this looks unlikely.

² When I told Eric about Sami's discovery of the discrepancy, he was incensed. "He never told *me*! If I'd known that editor had miscounted the boards, I could have massacred him, absolutely massacred him."

EPILOGUE



Eric has just arrived for dinner at the Kehelas, having walked the half-mile up from St. Clair. Sami ushers us into a sitting area off the kitchen where a coffee table is covered with canapés: caviar, smoked salmon and Anita's special potato pancakes, to go with a bottle of Chateauneuf-du-Pape. The two old comrades-at-arms have some catching up to do. Eric is trying to finish up his cases so he can retire from his law firm, Berkow Cohen. ("Berkowitz and Cohen," Sami calls them.)

Sami asks if that will leave more time for bridge.

"Well, I hope so," says Eric. "And what about you — are you playing?"

"Twice a year," reports Sami. "A duplicate game with my lawyer, and a rubber bridge gathering in Aspen. Not much at the club."

"Is the old scoring table still in use there?" Eric asks.

"Yes," confirms Sami. "Roy's friend¹ says that it will be as long as he is alive."

"It must be the only place left in the world."

"Anarchy."

"It suits his game."

"It's nonsense."

Anita has arranged a magnificent dinner for us. We start with a Caesar salad, and continue with beef tenderloin, potatoes and asparagus, all done to perfection. Sami has noticed a regrettable gap in my knowledge of important things — in this case, fine port — and is attempting to remedy the situation with a glass of 1985 Taylor. Eric tells a story about a business trip to Tel Aviv.

"I'm walking down the street there, and absolutely everyone there has a cell phone. You can't see anyone who isn't talking on one. You can tell I'm a

goy; I'm the only one without one."

Sami looks amused; perhaps he's thinking what I am, that Murray's 6'1" frame, blonde hair and ruddy complexion might be other clues.

Dessert is blueberry pie and Stilton cheese. The talk meanders through a number of topics, eventually arriving at departed friends.

"I miss Edgar," Sami says. "Some players can talk only about bridge or baseball. Edgar had such eclectic knowledge that you could pick a topic out of a hat, and he would be able to talk well about it."

Eric agrees. "Yes, I was fond of Edgar, and Betty, too."

Sami looks at me and asks, "If Eric and I wanted to play today, who would we play with? All the teams have sponsors. There are no good amateur teams, now that Edgar is gone."

We talk a bit about what will be included in the book. Sami wonders if I will use the card he received from Eric, almost fifty years ago.

"I'll never forget that," he says. "I was seriously ill, in danger of dying, and I got a card from Eric. 'If you should pass on', it said, 'I shall remember you as a fairly adequate player with bidding quirks.' That's what he wrote to me."

Eric looks skeptical. "I never would have said that," he says.

Sami goes off in search of the card. Eric feels the need for a cigar so we adjourn to the back porch, the Kehela apartment having become cigar-free since Sami more or less gave them up. We talk a bit about Canada's declining fortunes at the bridge table and what could be done about it.

"Well," says Eric, "I know what the players can do, and that is stay together in long-term partnerships. That's the key to this game."

I point out that that isn't always easy, with all the colorful personalities in the game.

Eric laughs. "You know, Roth and Stone played like they were each trying to get the other to make a mistake, so they could yell at each other."

"You and Sami weren't like that," I say.

"That's because Sami laid down the law," Eric replies. "No discussions at the table."

But there was much more to it than that. I remembered Eric's supportive "That's my play" when Sami made the crucial guess for the king of spades in

San Francisco, forty years ago. And Sami's consistent answer, "Murray," whenever asked who was the world's best player. These two men, each with profound respect for the other's ability and integrity, had made one of the world's best partnerships last for over thirty years.

Sami has returned with the card. Eric glances at it, then responds with a puff of smoke. After a moment, he asks, "What do you suppose really happened in Buenos Aires?"

Sami reflects on the poor performance of the British team in their match against Italy. "If the British were cheating," he mused, "how could the Italians have beaten them by over a hundred IMPs?"

The evening has grown cool, so we head inside to the den. The Blue Jays are playing on television and Eric wants to know if Burnett, our high-priced off-season acquisition, is able to pitch yet — apparently he will start tomorrow. Sami, a nominal Yankee supporter, is more interested in the World Cup, but those games are being played in Germany and are over for today.

After a couple of innings the evening draws to a comfortable close and we say our good-byes. I offer Eric a ride home and he accepts half of one, preferring to walk the final few blocks. Before saying goodnight, I ask him if he has any final suggestions for the book. "Make sure to use plenty of Sami's hands," he replies.

¹ The manager of the St. Clair club, Irving Litvack, agrees with me about the merits of the old 100, 300, 500, 700 scoring table, which, along with bonuses for honors, is used there at rubber bridge. IMP games use the modern scoring.

POSTSCRIPT



Canada was trailing Italy in their semifinal match in the 1968 Olympiad in Deauville when the last deal arrived. Pressing for points, the Canadians explored for slam but, on discovering that the values just weren't there, subsided in a slightly precarious contract of five hearts.

Dealer South

N-S vul.

Board 96

♠ A K 9 6 3

♥ Q 5

♦ K 5 2

♣ A 6 4

♠ Q 2

♥ K 10 7 6 4 3

♦ A J 6

♣ K 10

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Forquet	Murray	Garozzo	Kehela
			1♥
pass	2♠	pass	3♥
pass	3NT	pass	4♦
pass	4♥	pass	4NT
pass	5♥	all pass	

Opening lead: ♣3

Kehela captured Garozzo's jack with the king and led a heart to the queen, which produced an ominous nine on the right. While Kehela was digesting this, Forquet, sympathizing with a valiant competitor's efforts, through the long tournament and semifinal match, said "Poor Sami." Kehela took from that not only that Forquet was a gracious and conciliatory champion, but also that he was left with the ace-jack-eight of trumps. How would you play?

Kehela cashed the ace of clubs and ruffed a club. He then took three rounds of spades, throwing a diamond, and three rounds of diamonds, ruffing in hand. That left:

Forquet
♥ A J 8



Kehela
♥ K 10 7

Kehela played the king of hearts, and on winning the ace Forquet had to concede the last trick to the ten. The full deal was:

♠ A K 9 6 3
♥ Q 5
♦ K 5 2
♣ A 6 4

♠ 7 5 4
♥ A J 8 2
♦ 10 9 7
♣ Q 7 3



♠ J 10 8
♥ 9
♦ Q 8 4 3
♣ J 9 8 5 2

♠ Q 2
♥ K 10 7 6 4 3
♦ A J 6
♣ K 10

APPENDIX

TOURNAMENT RECORD



Eric Murray and Sami Kehela as partners:

(including high finishes in international play and first overall in national events)

Bermuda Bowl, representing North America

1966, St. Vincent second

1967, Miami Beach second

1974, Venice second

World Team Olympiads, representing Canada

1960, Turin seventh

1964, New York fourth

1968, Deauville third

1972, Miami third

Murray-Kehela represented Canada in Team Olympiads in 1976, 1980 and 1988.

World Open Pairs

1970, Stockholm fifth

World Open Teams, Rosenblum Cup

1978, New Orleans fifth

1982, Biarritz third

Murray-Kehela represented Canada in Pairs Olympiads in 1966, 1972, 1974, 1982, 1986 and 1990.

North American Championships, First Place finishes

Spingold Trophy 1964, 1965, 1968

Vanderbilt Trophy 1970

International Team Trials 1967, 1973

Life Master Men's Pairs 1963

Life Master Pairs 1969

Canadian National Team Championships 1980, 1981

Eric Murray, without Sami Kehela

Bermuda Bowl, representing North America

1962, New York second

Lou Herman Trophy 1963; Vanderbilt 1961; Men's Teams 1962; Mixed Pairs 1963; Men's Pairs 1954, 1955; Master Mixed Teams 1956, 1962; Canadian National Teams Championship, 1987.

Sami Kehela, without Eric Murray

Spring NAC Men's Pairs 1963; Vanderbilt 1966; Blue Ribbon Pairs 1967; Lou Herman Trophy 1967.

Kehela was coach for the North American team in the Bermuda Bowl 1962, 1963, 1965.

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GENERAL INTEREST

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ROY HUGHES lives in Toronto, Canada. His first two books, *Building a Bidding System* and *Card by Card* were both shortlisted for the International Bridge Book of the Year award.