

HELEN SHIELDS CANADIAN ROOKIE-MASTER GAME

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 2008

ANALYSIS BY PIOTR KLIMOWICZ

The CBF would like to thank Piotr Klimowicz of Edmonton for doing this year's analysis. Piotr is a well known player who has competed in several CNTC National Finals. Piotr was on the team that won the CNTC-A in 2007 and represented Canada in the Bermuda Bowl in Shanghai. In 2006, Piotr finished 3rd in the Imp Pairs Consolation at the World Championships in Verona, Italy.

Helen Shields, who died in 1987, was one of the finest players at the Lake Head. She served on the CBF Board of Directors from 1976-1984 and was CBF President in 1981. In her roles on the CBF Board, Unit 228 President and Thunder Bay DBC President, Helen did all she could to encourage and welcome new players to duplicate bridge. Trophies for the National Winners are provided by the Thunder Bay Unit 228 in memory of Helen.

We hope you enjoyed the game and that you will mark Monday, October 27, 2008 on your calendar - that is when the Erin Berry Canadian Rookie-Master game will be held.

Board 1
Dir:N
V:None

♠ K 7 4 3
♥ Q J 7 4
♦ J 10 3
♣ J 6

♠ Q 10 9
♥ A 10 9 3 2
♦ Q 7 6
♣ 8 7

♠ A J 5 2
♥ 6
♦ 9 8 5
♣ A K 9 4 2

♠ 8 6
♥ K 8 5
♦ A K 4 2
♣ Q 10 5 3

3,2,1, 0, Lutoff. The first board of the night is a quiet one. The auction at most tables will likely be uncontested:1C-P-1H-P-1S-P-1NT-P-P-P. After the normal JD lead East-West will score a very healthy +120. This score will be tougher to reach if S decides to make a 1D overcall after which the final contract could be hard to predict (by either side) especially if North gets involved in the auction.

Tip: White vs white, try to push the opponents from 1NT contract.

Board 2
Dir:East
Vul:N-S

♠ K J 7 6 5
♥ K 7 3
♦ 10 9 3
♣ 9 6

♠ Q
♥ A 6 5
♦ 7 6
♣ K J 10 7 4 3 2

♠ A 10 9 2
♥ 9 8 4
♦ A K Q 5
♣ A Q

♠ 8 4 3
♥ Q J 10 2
♦ J 8 4 2
♣ 8 5

East will open 1D and West will respond 2C showing 10+ HCP with at least five clubs.

That will likely propel East to reach the slam only if he finds out that partner has the heart control. Reaching 6C will be worth lots of the matchpoints, with 6NT being a top board.

Few reach the 7 level, which may make without a heart lead.

Tip: Do not overcall 2 of a minor with a marginal hand and only 5 card suit (especially vulnerable)

Board 3
Dir:S
Vul:E-W

♠ 8
♥ K Q 7 4 3
♦ Q 9 5
♣ 8 5 4 2

♠ 10 4
♥ A 6 5 2
♦ K 8 6 4 3
♣ K J

♠ A J 9 3
♥ J 10 9
♦ J 10 7
♣ 10 6 3

♠ K Q 7 6 5 2
♥ 8
♦ A 2
♣ A Q 9 7

South will open 1S and West should not overcall 2D based on lacking strength, shape and spots North will respond 1NT. Any next bid by South (2C, 2S, 3S as possible bids) will end the auction.

Those who choose clubs to bid will likely score +110. The hungry matchpointers will have a tougher time bringing in their spades contract.

Tip: With 15-17 HCP and 6-4 rebid your 4 card suit; with 12-14 rebid

your long suit.

Board 4
Dir:W
V:Both

♠ A 10 8
♥ A Q 10 7 2
♦ 10 4 2
♣ 7 5

♠ K J
♥ K J 5 4
♦ K J 8 6
♣ A K 6

♠ Q 9 6 4 3
♥ 8 6
♦ A 9 7 3
♣ Q 3

♠ 7 5 2
♥ 9 3
♦ Q 5
♣ J 10 9 8 4

East-West should arrive quickly in 3NT. The auction will be 1D-1H-1S-Pass-2NT -Pass- 3NT. North will lead a low heart, declarer wins the JH and should count his sure tricks. 3 clubs, 2 diamonds, 1 heart. The spade suit provides the needed tricks therefore West should force the Ace of spades. North will need to cash the ace of hearts otherwise he will be looking at it for the next few rounds. +460 will be the as popular score with some +490.

Tip: playing NT the suit without an ace is worth zero tricks.

Drive out the opponent's ace until the suit is established before playing your sure tricks.

Board 5
Dir:N
Vul:N-S

♠ K 10 6 4 2
♥ Q 8
♦ 10 3
♣ 9 8 4 2

♠ A J 5 3
♥ K 5 2
♦ J 7 6 4
♣ 7 5

♠ Q 8
♥ A J 10 9 4
♦ A Q 5
♣ J 6 3

♠ 9 7
♥ 7 6 3
♦ K 9 8 2
♣ A K Q 10

How many points do we need for the game? 26 by old standard, 25 today.

Therefore E-W should not pursue the game. The most popular contract will be a heart partial and South will have to defend properly to hold it to three, meaning most South's will cash 2 clubs before switching. Diamond exit will give declarer the tenth trick. +140 will be the most common score. In NT only 8 tricks is available, few East's may open 1NT.

Tip: with 7-9 HCP and 4S and 3H after partner opens 1H bid 2H not 1S, trust me.

Board 6
Dir: E
V:E-W

♠ Q 10 8 7
♥ K 8 3
♦ J 10 6
♣ A K 3

♠ A 9 5
♥ 6 5 4 2
♦ K 8 4
♣ 10 9 8

♠ J 4 3
♥ Q 7
♦ 9 7 5 3 2
♣ 7 6 5

♠ K 6 2
♥ A J 10 9
♦ A Q
♣ Q J 4 2

Bidding should be straightforward: 1NT by South and 3NT by North. The question if you should Stayman with 4333 shape and 4 card major was never resolved among the experts.

The additional two 10's and 13 HCP (feels like 14 HCP) make a strong case for 3NT bid.

+460 will be the common score.

Tip: Rule of 29. If you know that your partnership holds at least 29 high card points and there is no slam in the picture, bid 3NT, forget the majors

Board 7 ♠ 4 3 2
 Dir:S ♥ A K
 V:Both ♦ Q 8 7 6
 ♣ A Q 7 4

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

♠ J 8 7
 ♥ 8 2
 ♦ J 9 5
 ♣ K 9 8 6 2

East will have to deal with his need for greed. After 2H by West, North will face a dilemma between double and 2NT (15-17HCP). Lack of 4 spades and strong heart holding will prefer the latter. If East doubles South may bid 3C back to East. Double again will bring all the matchpoints, +500, but can you blame East if he bids 3H. +140 will be common result.

Tip: After a weak two by the opponent, with 15-17 HCP and a balanced hand, bid 2NT if you have a strong holding in the opponent's suit otherwise double (assuming you meet the criteria of having at least 3 cards in the unbid suits)

Board 8 ♠ A Q J 6
 Dir:W ♥ 9 5 2
 V:None ♦ A J 8
 ♣ J 7 4

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

♠ 3
 ♥ K 6
 ♦ Q 7 4
 ♣ 10 9 8 6 5 3 2

NS would like to be able to play in 3C, but that may be just their wishful thinking. North will open 1C (always open 1C with 3-3 in minors) and East will double or overcall 1H (my choice). The auction will likely proceed to at least 3 of a major. Spades will most likely fair worse due the 4-1 break.

Tip: There are two schools how you should bid the 5-4 in majors after they open one of a minor. Some experts double and some bid 1 of a major (my choice). Discuss that with

your partner.

Board 9 ♠ K J 9 8 4 3 2
 Dir:N ♥ A Q J 7 3
 V:E-W ♦

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

♠ A 5
 ♥ 10 8 4
 ♦ A K J 7 6 2
 ♣ J 7

7-5 hand provides so much excitement Can you blame North trying for 6? After 1S – 2D – 2H –3D North will have a dilemma to rebid hearts or spades. The two cards difference suggests 3S after which South will have an easy raise to 4S. Slam will fail if East cashes the ace of clubs

Tip: Void in partner's suit is not a good value. Be conservative.

Board 10 ♠ 4
 Dir:E ♥ Q 8 7 4 3 2
 V:Both ♦ 5 3 2
 ♣ 9 7 6

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

♠ 6 5 2
 ♥ A 9 5
 ♦ A Q 9 8 6 4
 ♣ 4

Fasten your seatbelts, please. I can see everybody asking after the game: Did you bid that slam missing 2 aces? I hope all the rookies will drive this hand to the slam. After their partner opens 1C and South overcall 1D at some point of the auction they will ask for aces, whatever method they use (Gerber, Blackwood) and after partner shows one ace they will place the final contract in 6C or 6S. Better be lucky, you bet.

Tip: Enjoy making the slam

Board 11 ♠ 8 6 5
 Dir:S ♥ A Q J 7 5
 V:None ♦ 5 4
 ♣ 8 4 2

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

♠ J 3 2
 ♥ K 9 6
 ♦ J 6
 ♣ A K Q J 9

The battle between the red suits. With two unstopped opening 1C results in a mild rebid problem. My vote is 1NT. After west passes, North will transfer and East will have a choice of doubling or bidding 3D. North-South will compete to 3H and some Easts looking at the all-white vulnerability try to compete to 4D. Whoever decides to defend will have to be careful to cash their tricks immediately, otherwise ten tricks is available for each side. +170, -110, -130, -50 will be common.

Board 12 ♠ Q 3
 Dir:W ♥ K J 9 5 2
 V:N-S ♦ A 7 5
 ♣ A 4 3

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

♠ K J 10 8 5
 ♥ A Q 7
 ♦
 ♣ J 9 6 5 2

Some South's will be still thinking about the previous hand while the auction may proceed: 2D – 2H – 5D. Can I have a review please? Don't we all love when we get preempted? Most South's will choose to bid 5H. North will need to be careful to bring home 11 tricks. With 2 clubs losers and spade loser the only hope to make it is to establish the spade suit before pulling trumps. OK. How many North's tried to ruff two diamonds in the dummy?

Email me at pklimowicz@hotmail.com

Board 13 ♠ A 10 4 3
 Dir:N ♥ 9 6
 V:Both ♦ Q 9 5
 ♣ A Q 10 4

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

♠ Q J 8 6 5
 ♥ 5 2
 ♦ 8 7
 ♣ J 9 6 3

North has quite an anemic opener but it's a bidders game plus he has spades therefore all North's will open 1C. East will overcall and after South passes West will need to find a way to show their limit raise in hearts (3H as standard methods, or 2C for the more advanced players). East will bid the game which result will depend on finding the queen of diamonds. Amazingly 4S sacrifice by North- South goes only down 2. Expect lots of +620, few +170, -100 and +500 for EW

Board 14 ♠ Q 10 5
 Dir:E ♥ 8
 V:None ♦ K Q J 9 8
 ♣ K J 7 2

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

♠ 9 4 2
 ♥ K Q 7 4 2
 ♦ 10 7 4 2
 ♣ 8

East will be tempted to open 1C, based on the Rule of 20 (or having 24 Zar points for advanced players), some even will consider opening 3C (but the holding in the majors should not make them do it). Most likely after two passes West will open 1D and East will bid two clubs, which should end the auction.

Tip: Learn the rule of 20 to determine if you should open marginal hands (HCP + the length of the two longest suits)

Board 15 ♠ 6 2
 Dir:S ♥ A 10 9 6 5
 V:N-S ♦ K
 ♣ K 10 9 7 3

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

♠ A 8 5
 ♥ Q 3
 ♦ Q J 10 7 4 2
 ♣ 4 2

It will take a miracle for E-W to stop in 2S.
 After 2D by South West will overcall 2H, North may try to double. The best West can do is to bid 2S back to West. If he has his guardian angel on his shoulder he will pass, if he bids 2NT, 3S East should end the auction (some may raise to 4)

Board 16 ♠ 6 5
 Dir:W ♥ K J 10 7
 Vul:E-W ♦ 7
 ♣ K Q 10 7 4 2

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

♠ A 8
 ♥ 6 4 3 2
 ♦ A K J 10 6
 ♣ A 9

After three passes South will have to choose between 1D and 1NT opener. With 16 points and a semi-flat shape 1NT gets my vote. If West overcalls 2S (little risky) North – South will need some tools to find their 4-4 heart fit. 3NT or 4H will be the popular contract. Unfortunately both of these will go down unless you peek in the opponent's hands. 3NT most likely will go down 2, unless East unguards his diamond holding.

4 hearts will suffer the same fate due to 4-1 breaks in both

hearts and clubs. Should we double West in 2S?

I'm hoping there is no one in the room raising vulnerable to 3S. Ouch.....-800

Board 17 ♠ K 10 8 3
 Dir:N ♥ K J 9 7 2
 V:None ♦ 10 8
 ♣ 5 2

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

♠ J 9 6
 ♥ A 10 3
 ♦ K 9 6 3
 ♣ A K 4

This is a good bidding lesson for the rookies.

After two passes, South will open 1NT.

North will venture with 2C (with 5-4 in majors you should always use Stayman)

South will bid 2D and North will have to bid a quiet 2H, which will finish the auction.

Tip: When partner opens 1NT with 5-4 in majors bid Stayman, don't transfer

Board 18 ♠ Q 8 6 4
 Dir:E ♥ Q 9
 V:N-S ♦ J 10 7 2
 ♣ A 8 6

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

♠ K 9 5 3 2
 ♥ A
 ♦ A 8 5 4
 ♣ 10 9 3

With two cards outside of the heart suit East will hesitate to open 3H but only for a while. That basically will shut everybody off. 3H will produce either +170 (for those who play the hearts suit properly, small to the jack (or ten) or +140 (small to the king).

If East opens 1 Heart the battle between hearts and spades may go up to the five level.

A few will open 4H and they may bring +420 if they succeed with the play of the trump suit.

Board 19 ♠ A 3 2
 Dir:S ♥ 7 6 4
 V:E-W ♦ Q 9 7
 ♣ 9 8 4 3

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

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

South will consider opening 1H seeing the right shape and vulnerability, but after a while he will pass. East will open 1S in the fourth seat, and South finally will mention his suit. West will make a simple raise and that should end the auction. Despite 6 spades and 14 HCP East should degrade his hand knowing that KH produces little offense. South will make a passive lead of JD. The result will be +140 or +170, depending if Master East finds the way to bring 10 tricks. How? Expect some -50 and +420.

Board 20 ♠ A 2
 Dir:W ♥ A J 10
 V:Both ♦ 10 7 6
 ♣ J 9 5 3 2

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

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

After two passes. East will open 1D, South will overcall 1H and North after West's pass should show a limit raise in hearts.

Whichever way he does that, 2D (as a cue-bid) and more dangerous 3H (don't forget partner just overcalled). South will bid the game. Some South's will respond 1S and few N-S will take the 4S sacrifice (-500)

Tip: While declaring, see if you can place the critical card(s) (here, the queen of diamonds) based on the bidding. If South's leads the queen of spades North must hold the queen of diamond to have his opening bid.

Board 21 ♠ 9 8 7
 Dir:N ♥ 7 3
 V:N-S ♦ K 3 2
 ♣ Q 8 7 5 2

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

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

The final result of the hand will depend on two factors. After East opens 1H, South will overcall 1S. If West raises to 2H, East will be tempted to bid the game. Despite holding 18 points East should try 3D as a help suit game try after which EW can stop safely in 3H.

Board 22 ♠ Q J 4
 Dir:E ♥ A 9 4
 V:E-W ♦ 10 3
 ♣ K 7 6 5 3

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

♠ 3
 ♥ J 10 8 6
 ♦ J 8 5 4
 ♣ J 9 8 4

Rookies may steal the board if they bid 3NT after East's opens 1S. Whatever the agreement is (either any 4333 or exactly 2 spades, 13-15 HCP) we can't blame East for correcting to 4S. +450 will be the common score, but some may venture to this 40% slam. Put the queen of clubs in spades and the slam is almost cold.