

## Gordon Starts Slow but Outmuscles Foster over the Long Haul

The Foster foursome playing in the gold medal game in the CWTC started like a house afire leading after 18 boards by 62-28 IMPs. At the half, it looked like they had the stuff to lay a licking on the quality, experienced, 6 woman team from Ontario, maintaining a 91-53 IMPs over Gordon.

Clearly the Gordon team took their Wheaties at the supper break and came back with a vengeance in the third quarter and closed the gap to 4 IMPs (100-96). The Foster team, facing a strong opponent and imminent exhaustion, fell to pieces in the final stanza - resulting in a score of 168-115 Gordon at the end.

The Foster team took their silvers with class and no excuses, reminiscent of the class shown by the Kathy Adachi team last year. It must be particularly galling on Marcia Christie who was with Adachi last year and Foster this year and was so close only to have victory withheld one more time. Wonderful game, ladies, and congratulations to both teams.



The Foster Team (see Page 10 for the Gordon Team)

## Ge wreaks Revenge after 2002 Loss

The Ge team were intense and committed after their semifinal loss in 2002. They topped the Round Robin and they won their semifinal handily.

They started the final with a 6 IMP deficit which ballooned to 35 IMPs at the half. After supper, the Ge team found their winning ways and despite the fact that this was the only quarter that they won, their 70-9 IMP margin on those 18 boards were the difference. Custead came back to close the margin (26 IMPs at the  $\frac{3}{4}$  pole) to 9 IMPs at the end.

There was some initial confusion about an appeal for a first half infraction. The issue was one of correction of a call from dummy without pause or hesitation for thought. The appealing team was playing in 3NT and, holding Qxx of spades and finding Ajx in dummy, a player saw the king of spades led. After due consideration and planning his play for the next several tricks, he called low spade and then, almost immediately, attempted to correct the call. To some this possible ruling rests on the difference between careless or inferior play and illogical play. Clearly, if declarer takes the king with his ace, he has three spade tricks and if he ducks he only has two and, in fact, a wide open diamond suit. The Director ruled that the trick stayed as played and then the team captain indicated a desire to lodge an appeal. The Director thought he had directed them to the Director-in-Charge and

the team thought he had agreed to take the issue to the Director-in-Charge. In fact, nothing happened. After the award of the gold to the Ge team and the silver to the Custead team, a decision was made to hold an appeal hearing.

The appeal was heard and while a literal reading of Law 45C would appear to go in favour of the appellant, it appears that the Laws Commission of the ACBL has changed the way Law 45C should be interpreted as a direct result of the 'Oh Shit' decision from the Vancouver NABC. As a result, the appeal was not upheld – the Ge team keeps the gold and the Custead team gets the silver.

Custead must go back to Saskatchewan with the consolation prize after a week of wonderfully played bridge. Once again, I harp on an old theme: there are no losers in this event and settling for the second best B team in Canada is no shame.



The Ge Team



The Custead Team

## Favorites Win their Quarter Final Matches in Flight A

Fergani, MacIntyre, Nagy, and Maksymetz finished the Round Robin 1, 2, 3, and 4 and all of them came through the quarter final to the semifinals which go later today.

Sinno gave Fergani a momentary scare in the first quarter, but soon took charge, leading by 32 at the half, 52 after 48 boards and a finishing score of 196-100 for a convincing 96 IMP win. They have selected MacIntyre for their opposition later today.

MacIntyre started with a slight 4 IMP margin, stretched it to 48 at the half and then coasted to a final score of 131-111 and a 20 IMP victory.

Nagy led by 5 after 16 boards, 23 at the half and then put on quite a show - winning the third stanza by a 58-2 margin. Trailing by 79 IMP s (120-41), the offer of a beer by the Nagy team was enough enticement to cause the Herold team to withdraw with some of their self respect intact.

In the last match, it looked early on like there was a battle royal pending with a 30-30 draw at the quarter. Maksymetz seemingly came awake after the draw and pulled steadily away with a lead of 87-60 at the half, 129-94 after 48 boards, and a final tally of 156-114.

So, later today, it will be Fergani vs. MacIntyre and Nagy vs. Maksymetz. None of these teams seemingly like each other much although there was some gentle joking between one of the Fergani team and one of the MacIntyre team as the Fergani team member denied that the choice had been to his liking. By early Monday morning we will know the 2 finalists.

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## Move to the Trade and Convention Centre Planned

While we have had a fantastic week and been so well cared for by the folks here at the Executive Inn and Convention Centre, today is our last day at this fine facility. Tomorrow morning, the CNTC-A Finals and the second day of the CWTC playoff will move to the Penticton Trade and Convention Centre about 7 blocks west of here.

With preparations beginning for the Penticton Regional, the organizers and the perennial chair of the Regional have had the Trade and Convention Centre space booked for many years. It seemed too good an opportunity to miss to use space which is essentially free. We have located these critical matches in rooms away from the madding crowd and we trust that the venue will meet with the approval of the players. And, of course, starting at 8:00 pm tomorrow evening, the fun starts at the Regional.

A few volunteers with pickups would be appreciated to help move some of the 'stuff' we have collected over the week. Thanks to all who can lend a hand.



## Software Review...

### Cavendish 2000 Invitational Pairs

By Kit Woolsey

It is May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2000. We are at the Desert Inn Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. Yesterday there were a bunch of non-playing events designed to make us relax. They just made most of us even more nervous. The welcoming brunch is over. You and your partners in the team have gone on the Calcutta Auction Block and you dutifully arrange to buy half of yourselves back from the successful bidder...and proceed without delay to the playing site for three sessions of teams.

You and your team play... not badly, but you end up just out of the money after the third session ends on Thursday afternoon. You attend the cocktail party, fortify yourself with a couple of stiff ones and get ready for the Invitational Pairs Auction.

As you and your partner go on the block for the pairs event you are really attentive since the prices have been high. As the hammer comes down you realize what it will cost to buy half of yourself back (teams went for between \$10,000 and \$55,000). But, what the hey... it's only money and you ARE in the big time. You put the coin on the table and you try to get a good night's sleep. You are restive as visions of ruffed aces run through your head.

Finally morning comes and you go and swim a few laps and work out for a few minutes. No heavy-drinking, nicotine-addicted, out-of-shape bridge player you. You know that to survive the next 3 days you are going to have to be in shape. About 9:00 you meet your partner for breakfast and between bites you try to work out those last minute potentials for error (as if you can see

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the problems that are going to come out of the boards).

Finally, about 10:30 you go up to the playing site. There sit 25 tables, the progenitor of bloody wars. The information on the wall suggests that the total prize money will be something OVER a million dollars. Wow, this is starting to look like professional tennis or golf. There is a sheen of perspiration on your palms. You are afraid that your partner might not be up to the stress. You are even more afraid that you might not. More than losing, you wonder if you are going to let your partner down.

That is the scene. Now, turn to Kit Woolsey's two bridge teaching programs: Cavendish 2000 Day 1 and Cavendish 2000, the Finals.

As you work through deal after deal, you can feel the tension in the room. Kit takes you through the dozens of decisions that need to be made on every deal. More than real play, however, you have tough decisions to make hand after hand since our author has carefully examined the actual deal and selected the player with the toughest decisions to make... and that player is usually you. He moves the seating around (although does not distort the actual lay of the cards, vulnerability, or bidding sequence). It means that you are under the gun every hand. Kit Woolsey asks the myriad of questions that crop up in every player's mind. Don't assume that just because he asked the question, there is a trick answer. Sometimes he asks the question implying that all is not right, but if you fall for the trick you will get a verbal slap across the back of your head. It is no more painful than the mental slap you give yourself every time you finger the right lead but the devil makes you change your mind.

This is clearly a recommended program. You get to play every deal in the Cavendish 2000 with a mentor standing behind you correcting your every play and telling you why. It is something you should use in isolation or else turn the sound off since others around you will begin to think you know nothing of the game with the number of cat calls and breaking glass you create.

For \$30.00 US, you will get several days of intensive lessons from a world class player. And, as with most of these offerings, it is something that you have to take in small doses. You could likely profit from going through each deal several times.

If you want to get a feel for these fine training tools, go to <http://www.larryco.com/books.htm> on the Internet and download the demos which give you a couple of deals from each session. You can buy the programs directly from Larry Cohen, you can buy them from your favorite bridge supplier, or you can buy them from BridgeBase Inc. at <http://www.bridgebase.com>. Fred Gitelman authored the package when he lived in Toronto before his recent move to Las Vegas.

## You Never Remember to Thank Everybody

After reviewing my note of thanks to the hotel, Jan's note of thanks to darn near everybody, and George Retek's note of thanks to most everybody once again, I notice a significant absence. The Mayor of Penticton came on Tuesday evening to bring welcome from the city, but Mayor David Perry is much more than an empty suit.

Many of you sport free parking passes on the passenger side of your windshield and have gone about your week leaving parking meters unplugged and city lot parking rates

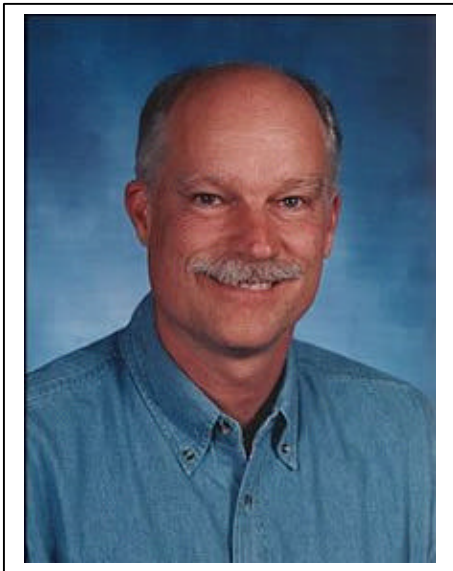


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unpaid. This is a courtesy normally extended only to events held at the Trade and Convention Centre. When I asked Margaret Pearce about this, she went to the Mayor and there you go, parking passes magically appeared.

Knowing the kind of impact a booster mayor can have makes me think that the community follows the mayor's example. So, in part at least, we must give credit to the Mayor for all the golf passes, the donated wine, the restaurant coupons and the rest of the contributions so necessary to make an event like this one succeed. We can only hope that St. Catherines comes through in the same style for 2004.

Thank you, Mayor Perry. You have a great group of people in a great town with a wonderful climate.



## Software Review...

### Life Master Pairs San Antonio 1999

By Larry Cohen

We travel from all over the continent, nay, all over the world to visit a North American Bridge Championship. Three times a year

we get to rub shoulders with the very best in hopes that some of the magic dust that makes them be the best will rub off on us.

And then, damn it all anyway, all those really good teams enter an event for which we don't even qualify, not that we would do that well in such rarified air. This was the case in July of 1999 in San Antonio, Texas when 428 pairs (856 of the finest players on the continent) secreted themselves in one big room for 3 days to play high level Match Points. We feel something like outcasts, as we trundle off to our stratiflighted open pairs. We understand that this is done for US, but it still grates just a little.

Well, dear reader, you can put yourself in that room. You can play each and every board in each of the 3 days, compliments of Larry Cohen (who finished 6<sup>th</sup>) and computer guru, founder of Bridge Base Online, Fred Gitelman (who finished 2<sup>nd</sup>). It is nice to know the experts, even if they are named the 2002 Player of the Year, don't win them all. Actually John Mohan and Sam Lev bested their colleagues on this day. Together, Larry and Fred put you in that big room. They invite you to play every hand, not only as if you were a competitor, but even better. Carefully examining every deal, they rotate the hands so you will face most of the interesting decisions. Very much like Kit Woolsey gives you the same deal by deal vicarious experience for the Cavendish (which is played as an IMP game), Larry gives you a decision by decision, blow by blow for the Life Master Competition which, of course is Match Points where every trick counts. It really is a different game.

Just like Kit's offerings of the Cavendish, this program needs to be taken in moderation. It seems like you need to make 20 decisions on each hand. With each session giving you 26-28 deals, you can

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figure out for yourself just how many decisions in a row you can take. Of course, these deals deserve to be viewed more than once. At \$30.00 for each of the 3 discs you might want to try a few deals as a teaser. You can download these at <http://www.larryco.com/books.htm>. When you decide to part with a few dollars, you can buy the programs there, you can buy them from Bridge Base at <http://www.bridgebase.com> and, of course, they are pretty widely available from most bridge suppliers across the continent.

Can you count the number of times standing around waiting for a club game to start and you hear... "You hold..." You just know this is going to be a hand where the obvious choice is going to be wrong and you only get one chance at one decision. One of the pleasures of the approach taken by Larry Cohen is that these real deals are analyzed as you need to do the analysis in real time. You make one decision and you are corrected if you are wrong. Then you get the second, third, fourth opportunity to make decisions. You get to correct your mistakes and learn from them. And, at the end of the day, you may even come to the conclusion that Larry missed something that you saw that made your considered choice better than his. He is human after all - and he admits it.

Good stuff, well worth the dollars and, more importantly, the time you will spend improving your bidding, your defense, and your play with it. Use it carefully and well and one of these days you may be in that big room playing with the big boys. It is one of my fondest dreams and, I trust, one of yours.



## Peter Nagy

By John Carruthers

We were asked why we made Peter our NPC in memoriam. The answer is simple: we wanted to honour Peter, a long-time friend and teammate. The best way to do it, we thought, was to make him our NPC. For Joe Silver, George Mittelman, Robert Lebi and me, it was, as they say, a no-brainer. Joey and George had been friends with Peter since the early sixties, Robert and I since the seventies.

Peter was renowned for his conservation at the bridge table. He said that for him to jump shift, he needed a hand everyone else would open 2 clubs. Peter represented both Canada and the US in World Championships, winning 2 silver medals in the World Open Pairs Championship and a bronze in the Rosenblum World Knockout Teams Championship. He also won awards for Best Defense of the Year and Best Hand of the Year.

Peter left Hungary with his uncle during the Revolutions in 1956, eventually settling in Montreal. After attending Princeton University, he tried his hand at computers, but soon moved to Wall Street. A successful career in options trading led him to Chicago and eventually to retirement in Las Vegas, where he could indulge himself by playing poker for high stakes. He died while playing his favourite game at the Bellagio.

We are not the only team in the CNTC who decided to honour a dear friend by making him honorary NPC. John and Bill Bowman, Steve Brown, Pierre Diogeneault, David Willis and Waldeman Frukocz did likewise with their good friend from Ottawa, Laurie McIntyre. Laurie was too ill to make the trip west, and, sadly, died on Thursday night.

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## Penticton Trade and Convention Centre a Happening Place

During the planning of Canada Bridge Week 2003, I assumed, it turned out in error, that the event would be hosted in the Convention Centre. After all, this has been in the planning stages for over a year and... how busy can a Convention Centre in a little town like Penticton really be?

It turns out that it can be, and is, a very busy place. Margaret Pearce reports that most dates are booked well over a year in advance and she went to the fine facility at the Executive Inn and Conference Centre a few blocks away not only because it met the need, but because it was, so to speak, the only game in town.

I was curious as to what makes this Convention Centre such a success when compared to the white elephants most metropolitan areas pay for in their property taxes every year.



I still haven't figured out the magical key to success, but I do have some clues. First of all, the centre boasts 60,000 square feet. It can be adapted to meet needs of groups from 35 to 3,500. The atrium, the portable dance floor, the theatre, the multi-media facilities, and, of course, a kitchen that can serve upwards of 2,400 all go together to make

this facility the centre of activity for citizens and visitors alike.

Of course, the existence of 2,400 hotel/motel rooms close by the Convention Centre provides some significant symbiosis. Given that most of our readers are residing in one of those 2,400 rooms, you can understand how the Centre serves the community just as the community serves the Centre. Maybe they should host a convention of convention centre operators so they could show them how it should be done. Ahhhh, mebbe not. They might learn from the masters and give them too much competition.

As bridge players, we are fortunate to have such a fine facility with food services, ancillary rooms, and all the rest. Anyone who wanders the tournament trail will testify that there are few facilities that equal this one and, I would go as far as to say, none that are superior when everything from washroom location to parking are taken into consideration.

Take a moment to pop your head in the door of the Convention Centre office and tell the staff how much you appreciate their facility and their professionalism. I know they will appreciate it.

### Margaret J. Pearce - First Lady of Bridge in Penticton

Whether she is moving through the playing site with her basket full of apples, or berating somebody to do a little better, give a little more, work a little harder, drop their price even further, Margaret is a force to be reckoned with.

After working with Margaret during the run-up to this event and the Regional, I started a rumor that Margaret Thatcher (dubbed the Iron Maiden by the British Press) modeled herself after our own Margaret. After a

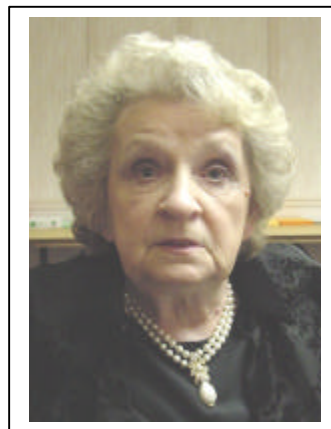
week of this event, I am not at all sure the rumor I started is wrong. In support of the players she is merciless. She berates Larry Chow and Lynda Cole about the price of the supplies and services and rentals they supply. She squeezes every nickel out of every supplier (myself included). She canvasses virtually every restaurant for gift certificates and every merchant for door prizes. She begs, needles, and wheedles free hotel rooms for almost every director (thereby cutting the costs). And, of course, she makes the point that she is bringing a couple of thousand people to the city BEFORE the season gets fully underway. And with the city geared to be a tourism destination, the hotels, motels, restaurants and the remainder of the commercial sector understand that this is a mutual benefit.

I wouldn't be the least surprised if there was a conspiracy of directors, suppliers, and the convention centre staff to bundle her into a large sack and dump her in the deepest part of the lake. When all is said and done, they have to admit that she is more often right than wrong, but things can get quite heated from time to time.

At the end of the day, one must admit that Margaret J. Pearce IS Penticton Bridge. It is no accident that the Regional in this little town was first granted on a conditional basis and then grew and grew until today it is an annual event and is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest Regional on the North American Continent (second only to Gatlinburg and Las Vegas). Imagine - after Toronto and Montreal, the CBF took a chance on EDMONTON, a city of almost 800,000. How they must have shuddered when the only venue stepping up to the plate for 2003 was this little town called Penticton. I can tell you first hand that they shudder no more. They, of course, forgot that they weren't granting the event to Penticton. They were granting it to Margaret. It didn't dare fail. Margaret

wouldn't stand for it. I am guessing that the next time they look west again, they will certainly think about Penticton. Wonderful weather, wonderful facilities, wonderful people. Golf, beaches - and Margaret. A tough act to beat.

Thanks, Margaret. I give you a rough time, but it is only in self-defense. Would that we had such a person in every city where bridge is played. We would be 3 times our size.



### Barry Harper Speaks:

It seems after five days, our bulletin should have a bridge hand:

In a Round Robin Qualifying match in the CNTC-A, many pairs toyed with 3NT vs. the hopeless 4♠.

West	East
KQTx	J9xx
Ax	Q97
xxx	Ajx
K9xx	Axx

If you played 3NT from the East, you probably got a low club away from QJ8xx and made the contract. Gerry McCully, however, declared 3NT from the West seat and received an attitude deuce of hearts lead. It went 9, Jack, Ace. The spade ace was knocked out and a heart lead went to



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dummy. It seems like it all depends on the diamond finesse, but running spades got an early club pitch from South.

Preserving some options, Gerry threw North in with his third heart and either the hearts don't get cashed or south is suicide squeezed with his clubs and diamond king.

The diamond king was bared and Gerry dropped it for +400 and 11 IMPs.

Barry Harper

## No Consolation Game

For those who are reading this prior to playing in the COPC consolation game... there isn't one. Space permitting, the CBF has had consolation games. But today, space just does not permit. Sorry to disappoint you. Kibitz one of the playoff games or take walk on the beach.

## Board Duplication

Next time the Director asks you to suit the cards and then make up 2, 3 or even 4 boards, think about this. During Bridge Week 2003 we have duplicated:

- 12 sets of 12 boards for each of 16 matches in the CNTC-A and CWTC Round Robin = 2304 boards.
- 8 sets of 12 boards for each of 5 matches after the CWTC went into semi finals = 480 boards.
- 4 sets of 22 boards for each of 9 matches for the CNTC-B Round Robin = 792 boards.
- 8 sets of 32 boards for the CWTC and CNTC-B semi finals = 256 boards.
- 4 sets of 36 boards for the CWTC and CNTC-B finals = 144 boards.

- 3 sets of 36 boards for the COPC first round qualifying (just in case) = 108 boards.
- 2 sets of 36 boards for the COPC second round qualifying = 72 boards.
- 4 sets of 32 boards for the CNTC-A semi finals = 128 boards.
- 2 sets of 32 boards for the CWTC Venice Cup qualifying first day = 64 boards.
- 4 sets of 30 boards for the third and fourth sessions of the COPC = 120 boards.
- 2 sets of 36 boards for the CNTC-A final = 72 boards.
- 2 sets of 32 boards for the CWTC Venice Cup qualifying second day = 64 boards.
- 4 sets of 32 boards for the CNTC-A two day Bermuda Bowl Qualifying = 128 boards.

Mind you, this total of 4732 does not include the ones we had to do over when the computer decided it didn't like the deals we gave it and made up its own.

Of course we were well paid and there is no way it could have been done without access to the Duplimate machine, boards, and bar coded cards rented to us by Northern Alberta Unit 391. But the next time you want to complain about the cost of this event, or about having to make up boards at the table, visualize in your mind 4732 boards stretched out before you. It may give you some perspective.

Thanks to Jan Anderson and Matt Smith and his team for their understanding, but I can tell you that if the Swedes ever have a duplicating speed contest, I am up for the gold medal. On Friday evening we did 96 boards in a measured 20 minutes. We may recover by August.

## Gold vs. Gold

The first day of the 2 grudge matches of the event starts at 11:30 today.

On one side - the CWTC champions from 2002, Pat Lopushinsky, Susan Culham, Kismet Fung, and Lorna McDonald have breezed into town fresh and ready to play. Although there are some fears that some rust may have set in what with the long layoff from high level competition.

On the other side is the 6 person Gordon team featuring Dianna Gordon, Beverly Kraft, Brenda Bryant, Francine Cimon, Joan Eaton, and Barbara Clinton. Crowned 2003 CWTC champions less than 24 hours ago,

they are in fighting form, but they are climbing into the ring after a bruising 5 days of bridge. They are 6, but even with 6 there is a limit to stamina.

So it comes down to a fresh 4, to a weary but fighting fit 6. 128 boards lie between Penticton and Monaco and the Venice Cup.

Am I biased. Well, I AM from Edmonton and all four of Pat, Susan, Kismet, and Lorna have long memories. You bet I am biased. My life depends on it.

In all honesty, I will quite willingly let the best team prevail and hold the Canadian flag high in Monaco. Best of luck to both teams. I just wish that the Gordon team weren't so darned NICE.



Edmonton's Favourite Daughters vs. The Gordons

For Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday results, see the CBF website.

