



# CAN-AT HALIFAX 2010

## Bridge Bulletin Issue 1: 29-June

Canadian-Atlantic Regional Tournament, Halifax, Nova Scotia



**CANADIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION LA FÉDÉRATION CANADIENNE DE BRIDGE**

### **PARTNERSHIPS**

*The partnership desk will be open an hour before the afternoon and evening games.*

*There will also be forms on the desk you may fill in requesting a partner/team.*

*Please contact Trish Hattie at the desk and she will do her best to find you a partner.*

[www.unit194.org](http://www.unit194.org)

## A CHANCE TO SAIL AROUND HALIFAX HARBOUR !

### A Midnight Boat Cruise

Come and join the adventure  
Friday, July 2nd

Departure Time—Midnight



Mississippi Style Sternwheeler ~  
the Harbour Queen I

Heated enclosed main deck and open  
upper deck

Cash Bar~Snacks~Live Celtic Music  
Tickets \$20.00

### **Our Directors for the Tournament**

Henry Cukoff

Karl Hicks

Guy Fauteux

Please remember...

Cell 'phones must be silent during the games. If you are expecting an important call, arrange to leave your 'phone with one of the Directors !





**Victor Lamoureux** gets a lot of questions when he plays bridge. Question: How old are you? Answer: 12. Question: How long have you been playing bridge? Answer: Since I was 6. Question: Is this your first tournament? Answer: No, not exactly ...

It may have been the luck of the draw that Victor Lamoureux was born into a family with three generations of bridge players. His aptitude for competitive games of skill and chance began to emerge very early; by the age of four he was already skilled at chess and many card games and could count his points in a bridge hand. But it wasn't until he was six and his grandmother moved in with his family that Victor's future as a bridge player became a matter of fate.

Unable to use a computer or a cursor, his grandmother, Lynn Switzer, asked for Victor's help to navigate a bridge site. After about two minutes of helping out, Victor told her "this is a really easy game – I'll just play it myself" and he did.

At this point his mother decided that if he was going to play bridge he should learn to play it right. She bought him a bridge book, making him the first person in his family's four generations of bridge to have learned from a book.

And learn he did. Within two weeks, at the tender age of 6, he won points at a bridge club on his first visit. A few months later he played his first tournament (the CanAt Regional in Halifax). Although he didn't score any masterpoints, he scored points with a lot of the top players in the area who delighted in introducing him to the world-class players who were in attendance that year.

When Victor was in Grade 2, he helped form a bridge club at his school, Astral Drive Elementary. He helped teach kids in grades 2-6 for the next four years. With his teacher's permission, Victor also missed many afternoons to play bridge. It's hard to play evening sessions when your bedtime is 7:30pm.

For summer vacation in 2009, Victor was 11 years old. Victor went on a bridge tournament vacation. He played at five tournaments in seven weeks: the CanAt in Fredericton, the Valley Forge Regional, the NABC in Washington, the Liverpool Regional, and the CanAm in Montreal.

The NABC in Washington, D.C. was probably Victor's favorite tournament. He got to attend the Youth NABC where he met other kids who really love bridge. He found a partner through the partnership desk, Peter Ku from Princeton, New Jersey who was 14 at the time. They played at the youth tournament and in the I/N team games where they won. This was the first tournament where Victor won more points than his grandmother. He was able to play 2 session events and even enjoyed playing pick-up games between sessions.

He went to Gatlinburg this year, where he played (and made) three different doubled slams, including one missing 3 aces.

Over the past 5 years, Victor has studied every bridge book he could find and his game improved accordingly. He has won trophies and t-shirts (most of them still too big for him). His accomplishments include a Mini McKinney award and an 81% game.

Although bridge is clearly one of Victor's favourite things, he finds time for a few other pursuits. Victor has been involved with the Boy Scouts since he was five and is now a Scout. This year, Victor joined the school band and learned to play the clarinet. In January, he also took up the piano and just had his first recital. In May, he started the tuba. This spring he also played the lead role of Mowgli in his school's production of "Jungle Book Kids". He has finished all ten levels of the Red Cross swimming program and completed the Bronze Star lifesaving award. He also enjoys playing tennis and chess.

On Monday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010 Victor's hard work and dedication to the game of bridge culminated in the goal of attaining the rank of life master. At the age of 12 years and 20 days, Victor became Canada's new Youngest Life Master.

Courtesy of the Canadian Bridge Federation





**CONGRATULATIONS TO VIRGINIA GIZA  
AND JOE CURRIE - FIRST IN THE  
WORLD!!**

Joe and Virginia scored 74.64% in the World Wide Bridge Contest Saturday June 6th - 4895 participants world wide.

**IS THIS YOUR FIRST  
TOURNAMENT ?**

Intermediate/Newcomer Program

Local experts and National Players will be offering “Topics for Advancing Players”

Note: Special 0-299 point game on Friday evening !

Congratulations to Menashe Cieplinski who was chosen as Bridge Base Online Player of the Month for June 2010 !

The person chosen is deemed to be the player who typifies the very best in, friendliness, ethics, and courtesy during ACBL games online.

Like a little late-night hospitality after the games ?

There will be a hospitality room at the Delta, Scotia Square (the host hotel) in Room 220.

All are welcome, toonie bar and nibbles !

**IN MEMORIAM**

- Innis Christie
- Peggy Hirschfeld
- Joyce McNab
- Grant Morash
- Joe Ross
- Pauline Corkum
- Carol Myrden
- Bob Hemming
- George McLennan
- Betsy Bendelier
- Bill Knoll Snr.
- James Leroy

## O CANADA!

Against such a strong USA squad (and water boy) Canada is well represented by a contingent of professionals and local favorites. Two of Canada's all time (and current) greats are George Mittleman and Alan Graves. Professional Gavin Wolpert has been making headlines in North America over the past ten years and is world class. From Toronto, is a team headed by Ranald Davidson and from Fredericton a team featuring Mike Betts, George and Helen Coulter.

Local tough guys include Eric Balkam, Alan Doane, Don Presse, Bill Presse, Bill Halliday, Bill Camp, Terry Shaw, Rod MacKenzie, Stuart Eastwood and Gerry Callaghan. Add to this list, and coming out of semi retirement, are former greats Victor Goldberg and John Stewart.

Halifax is blessed with two excellent teaching bridge clubs. Club managers Kathie Macnab and Linda Tuft will be bringing out their players of all levels in great numbers and they will contribute greatly to the Canadian team.

Team Canada has yet to officially name its' honorary water boy, but the early choice appears to be Doug Hamilton (co-chair), if he can find the time from his administrative duties. The latter should at least, mercifully, keep him away from the bridge table.

Go Canada Go !

GOOD LUCK ! ~ BONNE CHANCE !



**CANADIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION LA FÉDÉRATION CANADIENNE DE BRIDGE**

Are you a member ? Have you paid your dues ?

## USA, USA, USA

The 2010 Winter Olympics are history and Canada prevailed over the USA with the golden goal by our own Sidney Crosby. Certainly we don't expect the same sense of rivalry or importance to be attached to our Can-At tournament. However, a look at the players our Southern friends are sending has one wondering if some small measure of payback is on their minds.

The USA team is led by professional Mark Lair of Texas, currently the # 5 ACBL overall masterpoint leader. Professional Jerry Helms (Ask Jerry in ACBL bulletin) is returning and has been a regular at our event since 1990. Mike Cappelletti, professional and author (as in defense to NT openers) is back for another run at us. Not as well known to the world, but welcomed and highly respected by all Maritimers are Stephanie and Allan Colpitts, Geoff Phipps, Jim 'Flash' Gordon, Ed Spears, Arthur and Kay Lilly.

Arthur has also been a regular since the late 80's, won his 1<sup>st</sup> Can-At masterpoint in the 90's and a T- shirt in 2008. Nothing much is expected of Arthur at the bridge table but he has been named as Team USA's honorary water boy for the tournament.

Thanks for coming guys, look forward to meeting you at the table.

Playing this evening? We have a special gift from Unit 194 - Caddies will be handing them out during the evening session.

## Diamonds Are For Never

Judy and I had just returned from the 2009 CNTC (Canadian National Team Championship) which ended early in June and a good friend asked how it went. I said "Elliot, are you familiar with the Alamo and Little Big Horn?" Despite the bloodshed at the table, I did go up to Toronto with a good marriage and returned with the same (well, wife anyway). I am glad we went and did come away with an exciting new bidding trend (at least in Canada). It seems that a natural bid in the diamond suits requires no cards to be held in that suit. I am not sure if this will take off in the rest of the world, but it certainly did add to the excitement in a couple of hands. Reconstruction of the hands may be approximate. For some inexplicable reason the hand records were lost (destroyed?) on the flight back from Toronto.

Hand # 1

	<u>North</u>	
	Jxx	
	7	
	Kxxx	
<u>West</u>	KJxxx	<u>East</u>
xxx		x
AKQJ109xx		8xx
-		xxxxx
xx		xxxx
	<u>South</u>	
	AKQ109x	
	x	
	AQJx	
	AQ	

West held the 8 card heart suit and over 2C by South overcalled 2D and remained silent for the rest of the auction. The final contract was 6S and West led the low H, East winning the 8. He reasoned that partner was void in clubs and not his bid suit and slam was made.

Hand # 2

East held: xxx, KQxx, void, Qxxxx and after 2C by South, a 2H overcall by West, double (positive) by North, bid 3D with the East hand. The NS pair was cold for 6D, bid at the other table. This tactic however led to a final contract of 4H doubled and an EW result of -200 for a net IMP gain of 1170. East was apparently making a lead directing bid against a likely 6S contract but certainly was happy with the outcome.

I am not sure what to make of it all, but the diamond void bidders should have been 2 for 2 and I expect the Canadian Diamond system could rival the Polish Diamond system in popularity sometime soon. Then again, nothing good ever did come out of the Alamo or Little Big Horn.

Gerry Callaghan

## PRIZES:

After you have won your event you may pick up your prize at the PRIZE DESK next to the Registration Desk. Your prize will be available for pick up the next day (this will allow time for the directors to relay the necessary information to the Prize committee). The Prize desk will be open for ½ hour before and after the afternoon and evening sessions. We will have your prizes available as soon as possible after the final Swiss Team event on Sunday.

T-shirts are awarded on the following basis:

Pairs Games: Section tops (both N-S and E-W), that is 1st place in each Section (not Flight) and to overall winners of each Flight (Limit of 1 shirt per person per event).

Bracketed KO Games: Winning team in each bracket

Swiss Teams: One Session or Two session events – Winning team in each Flight (Limit of 1 shirt per person per event)



## ROYAL NOVA SCOTIA INTERNATIONAL TATTOO

July 1-8, 2010 – Halifax Metro Centre

Tickets: 451 1221 / [www.ticketatlantic.com](http://www.ticketatlantic.com)

Information: [www.nstatattoo.ca](http://www.nstatattoo.ca)