

Sizzling Doston-Lachapelle dominate pairs competition

The District 1 (Western Zone) qualifying stage of the 1986-87 Grand National Pairs attracted 34 pairs from Quebec and Eastern Ontario.

They met at the Ramada Inn on Côte de Liesse Rd. on Oct. 19 and 20 to compete for two spots in the North American final in St. Louis next March.

The event was bizarre from the outset when director Gus Duchêne passed on the bombshell directive (from the Montreal Bridge League) that there would be no smoking during the two-day event. The MBL strives for separate smoking and non-smoking rooms, but if only one room is available, the smokers lose out.

But this was really a District 1 event, not a direct MBL venture, and this was also the third stage of play. Several smokers objected, saying that had they known they wouldn't be permitted to smoke, they would never have entered in the first place.

Eventually, everyone settled for alternate-round smoking.

The next stumbling block was the format. Expecting a much larger turnout, co-ordinator Stan Tench had planned a 28-pair final. To play a whole day to cut out six pairs now seemed ludicrous.

After many calls and heated words, it was decided to adopt a four-session playthrough format, with no cut and no carryover (all sessions treated as equal).

While this was certainly the most equitable method, 14 pairs dropped out grumpily after the first day (despite warnings of disciplinary action for such a move, which ruined the fairness of the movement). The pairs who had racked up big scores in the first two sessions were delighted to learn that they would keep all of their matchpoints.

Daniel Doston and Marc Lachapelle started well and played with great consistency to win by about two full boards.

The favorites for the second St. Louis trip seem to be Mike Gamble and John Gillespie of Ottawa, but they were passed by the surging Boris Baran and Mark Molson at the wire. Terri Verret-Pierre Daigneault finished fourth, Eric Marchand-Gregoire Garinther fifth. André Laliberté-Jean Bernier were sixth, Bob Mirsch-Ethel Major seventh and Jacques Laliberté-Maurice Larochelle eighth.

Under-100 weekend

The MBL holds a special sectional tournament next weekend

BRIDGE

Eric Kokish



(Dec. 6 and 7) for players with less than 100 master points. The venue is St. Leon's Academy, 356 Clarke Ave., Westmount. On Saturday at 1 p.m., there will be separate pair games in three classes (0 to 10, 0 to 49 and 0 to 99). At 7:30 p.m., there will be 0 to 10, 0 to 49, and 0 to 99 pair games. There will be free doughnuts and soft drinks, and an expert panel follows the evening session. On Sunday, there will be a 0 to 100 Swiss teams at noon and 6 p.m., with side games at both sessions. Free coffee throughout. There will be trophies for winners plus hand analyses and special novice club directors. For information, call Mac Pater-son at 631-9348.

Bridge notes

Two CMTC club qualifiers next weekend — five on Dec. 6, 1:30 and 7:30 p.m., 651-2262; Mirabel on Dec. 7, 1:30 and 7:30 p.m., 336-6206.

The Rive Sud club, 341 Longueuil St., Longueuil, announces a new Wednesday afternoon (1.15 p.m.) duplicate session.

The St. Hilaire Golden Age

Club, Salle de Manoir, 280 Radisson St., St. Hilaire, (467-5691) has a new Monday night duplicate session at 8 p.m. Their Thursday night game (8 p.m.) is at the St. Hilaire Civic Centre.

The YM-YWHA has added a 0 to 20 novice game, Thursdays at 12:45 p.m. in the Grover Auditorium, 5500 Westbury Ave., Snowdon.

Montrealers Suzanne Matte and Francois Laporte, with a 73.8 per cent game in their second effort together, won the American Contract Bridge League's continent-wide charity game on July 18. More than 2,500 pairs played the same deals in some 133 sites.

The winners played at the St. Lambert Club.

Both Matte and Laporte are Life Masters, although they have been playing for only about five years.

Laporte was Quebec's Rookie of the Year in 1982.

Killing a queen

You might not think much of South's jump to 3NT in this deal, but he reached a respectable con- with less enterprisingference by East, Brian Fraser. West was George Retek, South Marty Caley of Ottawa.

West started with ♠nine, guided by East's overcall. East won and switched to the ♠10, five, nine, king. Declarer tried a second heart and East won. He knew that declarer had at least eight cards in the majors and he figured to have both missing club honors for his bid, probably with some length to suggest trick-taking potential.

If this were true, then declarer might be short in diamonds, so East advanced the ♠king! This worked rather well, as you can see. Declarer ducked, but won the continuation, throwing a spade. He came to the ♠ace and led a club to the 10, perhaps feeling that East had to have long diamonds to justify his bold play. Two down.

Had declarer ducked the second diamond, pitching a heart, he might have made the hand by guessing clubs and squeezing West in spades and diamonds.

At the other table, where East/West bid and raised diamonds and North declared 3NT, the defenders never led diamonds (with the stiff queen exposed), and the contract was made!

NORTH/SOUTH VULNERABLE NORTH DEALS

NORTH

♠ K Q 4
♥ J 5 2
♦ A 9 5 3
♣ K 10 8

WEST

♠ J 9 8 7
♥ 9 8
♦ J 10 6 4
♣ 4 3 2

EAST

♠ 10 2
♥ A K Q 7
♦ K 8 7 2
♣ J 9 7

SOUTH

♠ A 6 5 3
♥ 10 6 4 3
♦ Q
♣ A Q 6 5

THE BIDDING:

	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		1♦	1♥	1♣
Pass		2♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	

OPENING LEAD: