



# Canadian Seniority

Canada sends veteran squad to Senior world championship.

By Paul Thurston

Canadian Senior Team Championship winners Boris Baran, Arno Hobart, Michael Schoenborn and Marty Kirr. The squad will represent Canada in the Senior Bowl in Brazil. Photo courtesy of Jonathan Steinberg.

In the Canadian Senior Team Championship, some names from the past dominated the event to qualify a squad to represent Canada in the upcoming Senior world championship contest, the Senior Bowl, in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Marty Kirr is now back in Canada after an extended work-related hiatus in Europe and has reunited with longtime partner Arno Hobart. Also on the scene was Mike "The Shoe" Schoenborn, who emerged from high-level bridge retirement to play with Boris Baran.

The veteran foursome started slowly, but qualified for the knockout phase and were then a juggernaut as they destroyed the team led by Bob Todd in the semifinal. Todd played with Doug Fisher, Karl Gohl and Jerry Cohen, and they resigned after two sets, down 125–10. In the final, the Kirr team defeated Ray Jotcham's squad (Jotcham, Lew Richardson, Alan Lee and Steve Mackay), who lasted three sets before resigning with the score at 158–86.

For the Senior Bowl, the winners will add John Carruthers and Joey Silver, a duo who wouldn't look out of place on that event's medal

podium.

On the way to their gold medals, Schoenborn and Baran had this instructive misfire while defending:

Dir: North	♠ A 4		
Vul: Both	♥ 9 7 6		
	♦ Q 6		
	♣ A Q J 5 4 3		
♠ K 9 8 7		♠ Q 10 6 5 3	
♥ K 8 5 3 2	N W E S	♥ A Q 10 4	
♦ 8 7		♦ K 9	
♣ 9 6		♣ K 8	
	♠ J 2		
	♥ J		
	♦ A J 10 5 4 3 2		
	♣ 10 7 2		

West	North	East	South
<i>Shoenborn</i>	<i>Mackay</i>	<i>Baran</i>	<i>Lee</i>
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠	2 ♦
3 ♠	5 ♦	Pass	4 ♦
Pass		All Pass	

West led a third-best ♠8.

After West's preemptive jump raise jammed the auction, North-South overextended a bit to reach 5 ♦, but Lee did manage to bring home 11 tricks even after the opening spade lead established the setting trick.

Declarer won the ace as East con-

tributed the ♠3 — remember that card — in the context of standard signals. South mopped up trumps with the aid of the winning finesse and passed the ♣10 to East's king. Baran next played the ♥A, and in response to his partner's very encouraging ♥8, continued the suit. (South's jack could easily have been a falsecard and, from East's perspective, the location of the ♥K was largely unknown.) Lee leaned forward, however, and claimed the balance.

Returning to trick one, East had meant his spot card to be a count signal, *i.e.*, "I have an odd number of spades," but West had taken it as an attitude signal: "I don't have the ♠K." Thus, when East played the ♥A, West encouraged a continuation not because he didn't know where the ♠K was, but because he surmised his vulnerable partner might well have had a six-card suit for the overcall and that his red king was more likely to take the setting trick than his black one. For his part, East was expecting his partner to know the spade count and to discourage a heart continuation whenever he had the ♠K and knew it would cash. A toughie! □