

## *Famous Hand has Winnipeg Origin*

*By*

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Did You Know one of the most famous bridge hands of all time was played in Winnipeg?

In the early 1970s Omar Sharif's travelling bridge team, named the Bridge Circus, played daily matches against the Dallas Aces, in locations across North America. Both teams included the best players in the world. The events included some social events with local bridge folks, and was prominently aired in the local media.

The hand played by Giorgio Belladonna, whom many consider the BEST bridge player ever, was played in 1970 in Winnipeg! I believe Doug Cannell and others were responsible for arranging to have Winnipeg placed on this tour. I am sure some of Winnipeg's elder bridge players fondly remember this event and hand:

Dummy

♠ 6 5 4 3

♥ K 6 2

♦ J 6 3

♣ K Q 5

♠ K J 8 7

♥ Q 10 9 8 4

♦ 7 4

♣ 3 2

♠ 9 2

♥ J

♦ 5 2

♣ A J 10 9 8 7 6 4

Declarer

♠ A Q 10

♥ A 7 5 3

♦ A K Q 10 9 8

♣ -

Here is the bidding:

West Eisenberg	North Delmouly	East Goldman	South Belladonna
-	-	4♣	5♣
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

Contract: 6♦      Lead: ♣3.

Try it as a double dummy problem, if you like. The solution is below.

Dummy

♠ 6 5 4 3

♥ K 6 2

♦ J 6 3

♣ K Q 5

♠ K J 8 7

♠ 9 2

♥ Q 10 9 8 4

♥ J

♦ 7 4

♦ 5 2

♣ 3 2

♣ A J 10 9 8 7 6 4

Declarer

♠ A Q 10

♥ A 7 5 3

♦ A K Q 10 9 8

♣ -

Here is how Belladonna played. The underlined card is the card led to each to trick.

Trick 1:      ♣3              Q              A              ♦8

Trick 2:      4              3              2              ♦A

Trick 3:      7              6              5              ♦K

Trick 4:      ♥4              J              ♣4              ♦9

Trick 5:      3              ♣K              6              ♠ 10

Trick 6:     ♠7             ♣5             7             ♦10

The position after trick 6, with declarer to play from his hand, having lost no tricks:

Dummy

♠ 6 5 4 3

♥ K 6 2

♦ -

♣ -

♠ K J 8

♥ Q 10 9 8

♦ -

♣ -

♠ 9 2

♥ J

♦ -

♣ J 10 9 8

Declarer

♠ A Q

♥ A 7 5 3

♦ Q

♣ -

Belladonna now led his last diamond and West was squeezed. If he pitched a spade, declarer would pitch a heart from dummy, and play the A♠, Q♠, to set up two extra spade tricks. If instead Eisenberg threw his ♥8, Giorgio would play three rounds of hearts, forcing a spade return into his ♠AQ, and now the good ♥7.