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THE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PRESS ASSOCIATION

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This Bulletin is published monthly and circulated to around 400 members of the International Bridge Press Association comprising the world's leading journalists, authors and editors of news, books and articles about contract bridge, with an estimated readership of some 200 million people who enjoy the most widely played of all card games

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Editorial

The opinions expressed here are solely those of the Editor, and do not necessarily represent those of the IBPA Executive or its members.

In order for any organisation to remain vibrant, it must establish and maintain an infusion of new talent, new ideas and new members. The IBPA is no exception. Each year we do bring in new members, but with the aging bridge population, the rate of attrition is greater for us than it is for other groups. Thus, we need to work harder to keep from becoming moribund. This year has been a particularly tough one for us in terms of member renewals. The net result of this is that membership has dropped.

We need new blood. I have a proposition for you – it's a simple matter. Each current member can help by recruiting one new member. Surely that should not be beyond anyone's capability. Have your prospective member or members check out our website; give them a Bulletin to read; tell them about the chance to network with great players and writers all over the world; let them know that if they attend European and/or World Championships there are outings and lunches free to members. We all know bridge writers and columnists who are not currently members – recruit them!

One more appeal – this one is directed especially to our members in the non-European, non-North American Zones. Please submit an article for publication. We get relatively few submissions from Africa, South America and Asia, despite my efforts to solicit contributions from those areas. Our members love to hear from you. Whether it's a tournament report, an amusing deal, a letter slagging the Editor, or even a request to publish information regarding your tournament or to publicise your new book, we want your input.



Although they work in the background, usually unacknowledged, I would like to pay tribute to my proofreaders and "crack team of analysts" who scour every issue for errors in analysis, fact, grammar and spelling. Spellcheck is not enough! Like me, they are not perfect, and once in a while, something slips through, but they are pretty thorough and efficient, given the short timeframes they operate within. They are P.O. Sundelin from Stockholm, Sweden, Katie Thorpe from Toronto, Canada, Jerry Thorpe (no relation) from Tacoma, Washington, USA and Chris Hough from Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA. Without them, there would be many more errors than actually appear. I particularly enjoy it when P.O. is able to correct my English grammar! And if you know P.O., you will also know that he particularly enjoys it as well!

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The Carrousel Cup, 13-17 April 2004



's-Hertogenbosch, The Netherlands
 Kees Tammens, Amsterdam
 PRO-AM

The fourth edition of the Carrousel Cup started Tuesday night, April 13, at the all-purpose venue in Den Bosch, Azijnfabriek. The first event was a pro-am. Amongst the 'Ams' were sponsors, bobos (the Dutch word for officials), and also former world champions Hans Kreijns, Jet Pasman and Anneke Simons. The juniors acted as 'Pros'. In addition to the Dutch 'Juniors' and 'Schools' Teams, national junior teams from Denmark, England, Germany, Norway, Poland and the USA were invited to participate.

Hans Kreijns impressed his Junior partner with a nicely-timed bid on this deal.

Dealer West. EW Vul.

♠ K 5 ♥ Q J 8 ♦ Q J 3 2 ♣ J 10 8 3 ♠ 10 9 7 2 ♥ A K 10 ♦ 10 8 5 4 ♣ K Q	♠ 4 ♥ 9 7 6 5 4 3 2 ♦ A K ♣ 9 7 2 ♠ A Q J 8 6 3 ♥ — ♦ 9 7 6 ♣ A 6 5 4
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

West	North	East	South
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥	2 ♠
Pass	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

The wise advice from Kreijns to his young Junior: "Why create a problem for partner?" The Pro-Am ended with a win for Eva Bouwman, one of the hosts for the Juniors, and Joe Grue from the USA, a member of the team that won the Junior world title in 2001 in Mangaratiba, Brasil).

TEAMS ROUND ROBIN

The eight teams would meet each other in all-play-all 24-board matches. The Conditions of Contest dictated that the teams play with three pairs continuously: in every session of eight boards, one pair at the anchor table compared their results with both other pairs. So you had better have a good card at the expensive table: a nice plus counted double, but going down in a hopeless slam would mean minus thirteen IMPs twice.

In the first round, the encounter between the Dutch Schools Team (Under-20) and the Dutch Juniors (also with four of the six players just 20) was scheduled. On the following deal, a youthful three club pre-empt probably pushed the opponents to the grand slam in spades, but also made the play relatively easy.

Dealer South. EW Vul.

♠ A Q 10 7 5 2 ♥ A J 5 ♦ Q 10 6 ♣ 8 ♠ J 4 3 ♥ 4 ♦ 9 2 ♣ Q 10 9 7 6 4 3	♠ K 9 8 6 ♥ K 10 7 2 ♦ A K 4 ♣ A J
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------

West	North	East	South
Molenaar	van Munnen	Verbeek	Groeneboom
—	—	—	3 ♣
3 ♠	5 ♣	6 ♣	Pass
6 ♥	Pass	7 ♠	Pass
Pass			

Well bid by East-West; the six-heart cue bid was just what East wanted to hear. After the lead of the club two, declarer drew trumps and noted that it was South who followed suit three times. Then the diamond ace and king followed, after which the South distribution was clear. The heart ace followed by the jack did the work for the younger aspirants. That was a nice plus 2210, especially as it was at the anchor table and good for plus 26 IMPs when both the Dutch Junior East-West pairs stopped in six spades.

Since there were 90 Victory Points at stake in every match, this helped the Schools Team to a big victory over the Juniors (59-30).

The Round Robin Ranking:

1.	England	367
2.	Poland	339
3.	Dutch Schools	329
4.	Denmark	323
5.	USA	314
6.	Norway	284
7.	Germany	276
8.	Dutch Juniors	254

In the Semifinals the Dutch Schools team beat England while Poland were stronger than Denmark. So it would be a strong Polish Junior Team versus the surprising Dutch Schools Team for the 2004 Carrousel Cup.

FINAL

Dealer West. EW Vul.

♠ — ♥ K J 5 3 2 ♦ A K 10 3 2 ♣ Q 6 3 ♠ A 8 5 ♥ A 6 4 ♦ Q 9 6 5 ♣ 10 7 2	♠ K 9 6 3 2 ♥ 9 8 ♦ 4 ♣ K 9 8 5 4 ♠ Q J 10 7 4 ♥ Q 10 7 ♦ J 8 7 ♣ A J
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

West	North	East	South
Hop	Janiszewski	de Pagter	Kapala
1 ♡	2 ♡	3 ♡	3 ♠
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
4 ♡	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

North led the diamond four to the seven, nine and ten. Declarer played a trump to the queen and ace in South, who returned a diamond for his partner to ruff. The club return was finessed with the jack and the ace cashed.

Then a diamond to the ace and a club ruff. Drawing trumps and a useful overtrick for plus 990, with two 620s at the other tables. Good for 14 IMPs for the Dutch Schools Team on their way to a spectacular victory. England won the play-off for third place against Denmark. The winners: Bob Drijver, Jacco Hop, Marion Michielsen, Danny Molenaar, Vincent de Pahter and Tim Verbeek.

Sacrificing Honour

(From the Sydney Morning Herald, April 24, 2004)

Ron Klinger, Northbridge, NSW

How would you plan the play on the following deal?

Dealer West. EW Vul.

♠ 6 5
 ♡ J 10 9 2
 ♦ 9 7 4 2
 ♣ K 3 2

♠ A K J 7 3 2
 ♡ A 7
 ♦ A
 ♣ A J 10 9

West	North	East	South
4 ♦	Pass	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Opening lead: diamond king

In a late round teams match at the Trumps Easter Congress, declarer played the spade ace at trick two. He continued with the spade king, but West showed out, not such a huge surprise.

Next came the club jack, low from West, and declarer went up with the king. A club to the ten held, but West showed out again. Declarer played off the heart ace and exited with another heart, won by West who played a further diamond. The East-West hands were:

♠ 9	♠ Q 10 8 4
♡ K Q 8 5	♡ 6 4 3
♦ K Q J 10 8 6 5	♦ 3
♣ 5	♣ Q 8 7 6 4

Declarer could no longer escape losing two spades, a club and a heart for one down.

Declarer's play had good chances: spades three-two, the spade queen or the club queen singleton, or East holding queen doubleton or third in clubs. Still, there was a better line, as was demonstrated at the other table.

West	North	East	South
	Nunn		Hans
1 ♦	Pass	Pass	Double
3 ♦	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	3 ♡	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Opening Lead: Diamond King

Sartaj Hans' sequence showed a very strong hand, since three spades showed length in spades and yet he had not bid spades earlier. Tony Nunn took the right inference and raised to game.

Hans won the lead and cashed the spade ace just in case the queen was singleton. When all followed low, he played the club jack to the king and led a spade, finessing the jack. He lost just one spade, one heart and one club for plus 420 and 10 IMPs.

"Once all followed to the first spade," said Hans, "the contract was almost certain unless West started with queen-ten fourth of spades, not very likely on the bidding. If the spade jack finesse lost to the queen, the contract was home, unless East could ruff the second round of clubs, again highly unlikely."

Bruce Neill produced a very effective deceptive play on this deal:

Dealer East. Both Vul.

♠ Q 6 3	
♡ 9 7 4 2	
♦ 7	
♣ A J 10 6 3	
♠ 8 5	♠ 4
♡ K 10 6 5	♡ A 3
♦ Q 4 3 2	♦ A K 10 9 8 6 5
♣ K 7 2	♣ 9 8 4
♠ A K J 10 9 7 2	
♡ Q J 8	
♦ J	
♣ Q 5	

West	North	East	South
Nunn		Hans	
—	—	1 ♦	1 ♠
Double	2 ♠	3 ♦	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Opening lead: diamond two

At one table, East won the diamond ace, switched to the heart ace, continued with hearts and scored a heart ruff for one down, plus 100.

The bidding was the same at Neill's table except that West bid two diamonds instead of doubling. The play began the same way: diamond two to the ace, heart ace, heart to the king, but West did not continue hearts. Why not?

Declarer Neill, judging that East had probably shifted to a doubleton heart at trick two, played the heart jack under the ace and the heart queen on the next heart. West was taken in and, with ten, six of hearts remaining, was not about to give declarer an extra heart trick by continuing the suit.

West instead switched to a low club, ducked to the queen. Trumps were drawn and the repeated club finesse allowed Neill to discard his losing heart.

Should West have picked the position? If you can trust partner to play the heart ace, then the heart eight from ace, eight, three, then the ace followed by the three was definitely a doubleton. Still, partners can often be casual in their play from seemingly random low cards. Full marks (and plus 12 IMPs) to Neill for his imaginative play.

The Spring North American Bridge Championships - Reno, March 18-28

Barry Rigal, New York City

THE RIGHT INFERENCE

Tarek Sadek, South, was quick to seize on the inference provided by a trump lead against his six club slam.

	♠ A 5 4		
	♥ A 8 2		
	♦ A K 5		
	♣ A J 10 6		
♠ J 9 3 2		♠ 10 7 6	
♥ Q 10 9 5		♥ K J 7 6 4	
♦ 10 9 2		♦ Q 8 3	
♣ 9 4		♣ K 5	
	♠ K Q 8		
	♥ 3		
	♦ J 7 6 4		
	♣ Q 8 7 3 2		

West	North	East	South
—	2 NT	Pass	3 ♣ ¹
Pass	3 NT ²	Pass	4 ♣ ³
Pass	4 ♥ ⁴	Pass	5 ♣ ⁵
Pass	6 ♣ ⁶	Pass	Pass

1. Puppet Stayman
2. No major
3. What's your exact shape?
4. 3-3-3-4
5. To play
6. Overruled

West led the club nine, which suggested that the king was with East. So, instead of finessing, Sadek flew with dummy's ace, played the heart ace, and ruffed a heart. He then crossed to the diamond ace to ruff another heart and cash the top three spades.

Next Sadek exited with the second trump, and in the four-card ending East was on play to concede a ruff and discard or to lead a diamond and let Sadek put up the jack. Either way, declarer had his plus 920.

TRIPLE SQUEEZE

Lee Ohliger showed me the following deal from a knockout match.

	♠ A K 6 5 4
	♥ 10 7
	♦ A J 6
	♣ K 10 2
♠ J 10	♠ Q 9 7 2
♥ Q 6 5 2	♥ 8
♦ 9 8 4 3 2	♦ K Q 7 5
♣ 8 4	♣ Q J 7 3
	♠ 8 3
	♥ A K J 9 4 3
	♦ 10
	♣ A 9 6 5

Say you reach six hearts and get the jack of spades opening lead. You win and run the heart ten, losing to West. He returns a spade (no defence works any better at this point). You cash the ace of diamonds and run the hearts to reach:

	♠ 6
	♥ —
	♦ J
	♣ K 2
♠ —	♠ Q
♥ —	♥ —
♦ 9 8 4	♦ K
♣ 8	♣ Q J 7
	♠ —
	♥ —
	♦ —
	♣ A 9 6 5

Note that East has more cards than anyone else and is yet to play to the previous trick. If he pitches a club, your hand is high. If he throws his spade or diamond winner, you cash the top card in that suit and the squeeze repeats. As Ohliger ruefully commented, "With the cards cooperating, it was doubly unfortunate that I misplayed the hand and went down anyway." (However, a superior line, points out PO, is to win the second spade and ruff a spade high in case they split three-three. When they do not, draw trumps, cross to dummy in diamonds or clubs and ruff the spade good. Re-enter dummy with the remaining minor winner and lead the fifth, now good, spade. The simple squeeze works against either opponent. - Ed.)

UNBLOCKING A 7!

Board 25. Dealer North. EW Vul.

	♠ 10 9 6 5
	♥ J 9
	♦ K 8 7 6
	♣ J 7 5
♠ K	♠ 8 4 3 2
♥ A 10 7 4 3 2	♥ Q 5
♦ A 9 5 4	♦ J 3 2
♣ 9 8	♣ K 10 3 2
	♠ A Q J 7
	♥ K 8 6
	♦ Q 10
	♣ A Q 6 4

In a knockout event, declarer's play on this deal from the second qualifying session of the North American Open Pairs would have meant little – perhaps an IMP. But that extra trick pays off hugely in a pairs game.

West	North	East	South
—	Pass	Pass	1 ♣
1 ♥	Pass	1 NT	Double
2 ♦	2 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Richie Schwartz, South, doubled at his second turn to show extra values, and Aaron Silverstein, North, bid two spades, finding his side's four-four fit. East led the heart queen to the king and ace, and West continued with another heart to North's jack.

Silverstein took the spade finesse, losing to the singleton king, then ruffed the heart return with the nine. He shifted to a diamond to the queen and West's ace. West returned another diamond to the king. Silverstein drew trumps, leaving this position:

	♠ —	
	♥ —	
	♦ 8	
	♣ J 7 5	
♠ —		♠ —
♥ 10		♥ —
♦ 9		♦ —
♣ 9 8		♣ K 10 3 2
	♠ —	
	♥ —	
	♦ —	
	♣ A Q 6 4	

Silverstein called for the queen of clubs and carefully unblocked the seven from his hand. He was sure East had the king and it seemed very likely that he was down to all clubs. East won his king and returned a club, but Silverstein won with his jack, happy to see West follow with the nine. He led his last club and finessed the six! Making plus 140 for a fine match point score.

AT THE CROSSROADS

Andrew Robson, playing with Rita Shugart, found his way to most of the matchpoints on this deal from the first qualifying session of Open Pairs I.

Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

	♠ Q 10 8 2	
	♥ K Q 4 2	
	♦ Q 9 7 2	
	♣ 10	
♠ K 9 7 6 4 3		♠ A
♥ A 10 8		♥ J 7 6
♦ K J 5		♦ A 8 3
♣ J		♣ A K 8 6 4 2
	♠ J 5	
	♥ 9 5 3	
	♦ 10 6 4	
	♣ Q 9 7 5 3	

West	North	East	South
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

On the helpful lead of a low club, Robson's jack scored, but he still had only eight tricks. He made the natural play of coming to the spade ace, and when South dropped the jack he was at the crossroads. Playing a diamond might set up the opponents' suit. Leading a heart to the ten or the eight would be painful if he guessed wrong. Giving up a club (assuming the five-one split to be virtually a 100% bet with the fall of the ten on the first round of the suit) might well leave him short of entries to set up the suit.

Robson found the best solution at both single dummy and double dummy when he advanced the heart jack from his hand. In practice there was a fair shot that South might forget to cover. As it was, North took the heart queen and was immediately endplayed. He exited with a diamond, and Robson won cheaply in dummy. Then he played the spades each time in dummy and brought home ten tricks.

THE WORST

The worst thing you can do at the bridge table is to squeeze your partner... or is it to endplay him? What if you have the choice?

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

	♠ 9 7 6	
	♥ A 5 4	
	♦ K 3	
	♣ K 8 7 6 4	
♠ A 8 3		♠ K J 10 4
♥ Q 8 7 2		♥ 6 3
♦ A 8 4		♦ Q 9 7 6
♣ Q J 9		♣ 10 5 2
	♠ Q 5 2	
	♥ K J 10 9	
	♦ J 10 5 2	
	♣ A 3	

West	North	East	South
Cohen		Berkowitz	
—	Pass	Pass	1 ♦
Double	1 NT	2 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

David Berkowitz, who won Open Pairs I in partnership with Larry Cohen, saw that he had his work cut out for him when the dummy appeared. South started with the jack of hearts, ducked, and the heart ten, ducked. Berkowitz ruffed the third heart as the ace fell from North. He led a club and South climbed with the ace. Berkowitz unblocked the jack. South could have scored a club ruff at this point by continuing the suit, but apparently he thought he had a trump trick anyway. Instead he led a diamond to partner's king. Berkowitz won the diamond continuation in dummy with the ace.

At this point Berkowitz knew that North had the ace of hearts, the king of diamonds, and the king of clubs, so it was

more than likely that South had the trump queen for his opening bid. Accordingly, he led a spade to the king, passed the spade jack, and crossed to dummy's trump ace. Berkowitz was happy to find the trumps three-three. Now he faced this ending:

♠ — ♥ — ♦ — ♣ K 8 7 6	♠ — ♥ — ♦ Q 9 ♣ 10 5
♠ — ♥ Q ♦ 8 ♣ Q 9	♠ — ♥ K ♦ J 5 ♣ 3

Berkowitz led the club queen...and what was North to do? If North wins with the king, Berkowitz would unblock the ten and win the forced club return in dummy, squeezing South. If North ducks to avoid rectifying the count, Berkowitz would retain the lead in dummy and exit with the heart queen to endplay South in diamonds. Either way Berkowitz has his eight tricks and his contract.

IMPRESSIVE...AS USUAL

Bob Hamman sat down to his first board of the Vanderbilt, imposing his presence on his opponents.

♠ 10 8 5 2 ♥ K 8 3 ♦ J 6 4 3 ♣ A 8	♠ Q 7 ♥ Q J 9 7 ♦ A Q 8 7 ♣ 10 5 2
♠ A K 7 6 4 3 ♥ 6 5 2 ♦ K 10 9 ♣ 3	♠ J ♥ A 10 4 ♦ 5 2 ♣ K Q J 9 7 6 4

West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	2 ♣
2 ♠	3 ♣	Double	4 ♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West cashed the spade ace and continued with a second spade to partner's queen, ruffed by declarer. A diamond went to the ten, jack and queen. East could not lead a heart or diamond to advantage so he played a trump, hoping West could beat the eight. Dummy won cheaply and led a diamond to the seven, two and nine.

West blew the chance for glory that he would have earned had he played a heart. Instead he continued with a spade. Declarer overruffed East and ran the trumps to reach the following position (next column):

♠ 10 ♥ K 3 ♦ 6 ♣ —	♠ — ♥ Q J 9 ♦ A ♣ —
♠ K ♥ 6 5 2 ♦ — ♣ —	♠ — ♥ A 10 4 ♦ — ♣ J

When Hamman led his last trump, East and West were the victims of a putative double squeeze. In practice, East was squeezed in the red suits. The opponents were duly impressed.

SHOW ME THE WAY TO GET HOME

After one diamond - double - redouble - one spade, the North-South auction will remain concealed under the witness protection program. Suffice to say that Brady Richter declared six diamonds as South.

♠ 5 ♥ Q 9 7 6 4 3 ♦ J 10 ♣ A K J 2	♠ Q J 9 8 ♥ J 10 5 ♦ 8 4 3 ♣ 10 6 5
♠ K 7 4 ♥ A K 8 2 ♦ 7 5 ♣ Q 9 8 3	♠ A 10 6 3 2 ♥ — ♦ A K Q 9 6 2 ♣ 7 4

All would have been well on a top heart lead, but West led a trump. Can you find a way home?

Brady won in dummy, played the spade ace, ruffed a spade, ruffed a heart, and ran trumps. That left this position:

♠ — ♥ Q 9 ♦ — ♣ A K J 2	♠ Q J ♥ J ♦ — ♣ 10 6 5
♠ — ♥ A K ♦ — ♣ Q 9 8 3	♠ 10 6 3 ♥ — ♦ 9 ♣ 7 4

On the last trump West is toast. If he pitches a club, the clubs run, so he discarded a heart. Brady pitched dummy's low club, took the club finesse and got out with a heart to West's ace. West had to lead a club, so Brady scored his slam with the top clubs plus the now good queen of hearts. (All true, but...an improvement would have been to ruff a heart, then play ace and a spade, ruffing. Another heart ruff (looking for

ace-king third), then a trump to check that they are three-two before a club to dummy and a third heart ruff. Draw the final trump. - Ed.)

CLUBBING DECLARER

It looks as if declarer has ten tricks, but Pratap Rajadhyaksha had different ideas on the subject.

<p>♠ 3 2 ♥ A 4 3 ♦ K 8 ♣ A Q 9 8 7 3</p> <p>♠ A K Q 5 ♥ K Q 8 5 ♦ 7 4 3 ♣ 5 2</p> <p>♠ 10 9 8 ♥ J 10 7 6 2 ♦ 9 6 5 ♣ K 4</p>	<p>♠ J 7 6 4 ♥ 9 ♦ A Q J 10 2 ♣ J 10 6</p>
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West	North	East	South
1 ♦	2 ♣	2 ♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Pratap led a spade to declarer who shifted to a diamond, taking the successful finesse. Declarer called for dummy's singleton heart, which went to the queen and ace. At this point it looked to Pratap that West probably had the spade ace-king-queen and the heart king-queen. Since his hand couldn't be strong - he passed two diamonds - chances were that he had nothing else in the way of high cards.

Pratap cashed the club ace and his partner unblocked the king! That allowed Pratap to take his club queen and lead a third club, letting partner score his trump nine to hold declarer to nine tricks. (Pratap would have done better to underlead his clubs, thus protecting his partner from making a blocking error. As it was, Pratap's partner shone as well. - Ed.)

DUCK SOUP

Three no trumps was the popular spot here if North opened - and sometimes if he did not.

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

<p>♠ Q 10 6 3 ♥ 7 6 ♦ K Q 9 7 4 ♣ K J</p> <p>♠ A 8 ♥ Q 10 9 4 2 ♦ J 6 5 3 ♣ 8 4</p> <p>♠ K 4 ♥ A K J 5 3 ♦ 10 8 ♣ Q 7 5 3</p>	<p>♠ J 9 7 5 2 ♥ 8 ♦ A 2 ♣ A 10 9 6 2</p>
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When North was declarer, East usually led a club if he'd bid spades, and sometimes even if he'd not bid. Declarer won in hand, led a heart to the ace and passed the diamond ten, which East had to duck. East won the next diamond, cashed

the club ace and exited with a third club, leaving this position:

<p>♠ Q 10 6 ♥ 7 ♦ K Q 9 ♣ —</p> <p>♠ A 8 ♥ Q 10 9 4 ♦ J ♣ —</p> <p>♠ K 4 ♥ K J 5 3 ♦ — ♣ 7</p>	<p>♠ J 9 7 5 2 ♥ — ♦ — ♣ 10 6</p>
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At my table I cashed the heart king to remove any possible exit from East. Then I exited with the spade king, prepared to endplay East with a club for down one. Much to my surprise West produced the ace of spades and could then take only one more trick. In practice, he cashed the queen of hearts. Note that if East ducks the spade king, North can't reach his hand any more, so eight tricks are the limit.

If I'd guessed West had the spade ace, I might have led a low spade away from the king-four. But West could frustrate this plan by rising with the ace.

PITY POOR EAST

The defenders didn't do anything terribly wrong on this deal from the second final session of the Silodor Open Pairs. They could have done better, but John Stiefel found the route to a fine score when the defence slipped a bit.

<p>♠ A 5 ♥ K J 10 7 ♦ A Q 6 4 ♣ J 4 3</p> <p>♠ K Q J 10 9 7 ♥ Q 8 ♦ 2 ♣ 9 8 7 5</p> <p>♠ 6 3 2 ♥ 9 6 4 3 ♦ J 7 5 3 ♣ A Q</p>	<p>♠ 8 4 ♥ A 5 2 ♦ K 10 9 8 ♣ K 10 6 2</p>
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West	North	East	South
2 ♠	Double	Pass	2 NT ¹
Pass	3 ♣ ²	Pass	3 ♥ ³
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Weak hand - asks partner to bid 3 ♣
2. Forced
3. 0-7 high card points

If West had led his singleton diamond, the defence might have fared better, but certainly the spade king is more than reasonable. After some thought, Stiefel decided to win - he didn't want a switch to diamonds. He finessed the queen of clubs successfully and went after trumps. He eyed West's eight with suspicion as he played the ten from dummy and East ducked smoothly.

East was a good player, so Stiefel feared that the heart eight might have been singleton. If that were the case, East would win the next trump trick with the queen, cash the ace and lead a fourth heart. Now declarer would have an extra loser in spades. So Stiefel decided to start on diamonds. He led low from dummy and won with his jack when East played low. When he led another diamond, West ruffed in with the trump queen and cashed the spade queen. Then came the jack of spades, ruffed in dummy with the king and overruffed by East.

East could have done better at this point by switching to a club – it would have broken up the ensuing end position. But he actually led his last trump. Stiefel carefully won this with the ten and then led the heart seven to his nine.

At this point East was down to the king-ten in both diamonds and clubs. Stiefel led his last trump – the six – and pitched dummy's diamond queen. He still had the club ace and two diamonds in his hand and the diamond ace and two clubs in dummy. And East had yet to discard. It was the perfect criss-cross squeeze. If he threw a diamond, Stiefel would cross to the diamond ace, and come back to hand with the club ace for another diamond trick. If East ditched a club, Stiefel would cash the club ace, get to dummy with the diamond ace and cash his good club.

AN UNUSUAL ENDING

This board separated the men from the boys. After South opened an impeccable weak two spades, the auction continued three hearts by West – now what?

Board 22. Dealer East. EW Vul.

<p>♠ K 5 ♥ 9 3 ♦ Q 9 8 5 ♣ A J 10 8 4</p> <p>♠ 10 6 ♥ A K 10 8 7 5 ♦ A 10 ♣ K 3 2</p>	<p>♠ 8 4 3 ♥ J 4 2 ♦ K 7 6 3 ♣ Q 7 6</p> <p>♠ A Q J 9 7 2 ♥ Q 6 ♦ J 4 2 ♣ 9 5</p>
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

The North players who trusted their partners bid three spades, and the East players who trusted their opponents and their partner bid four hearts.

Try the defence to four hearts. The North players who did not trust their partner that much led a trump. Declarer would fool around a bit but would go down when South led clubs when in with spades.

The North players who did trust their partner (too much) led the spade king and a spade to partner for partner to lead a third spade. West ruffed with the ten, drew three rounds of trumps and reached the this ending (see top of next column):

The next-to-last trump catches North in a ruffing squeeze – whichever minor he pitches can be established for an extra trick.

However, if South overtakes the spade king at trick one (or wins the second spade) to shift to the nine of clubs and North remembers to duck and not try to give his partner a ruff, the contract can still be set, but that would certainly be nice defence. It is very tempting to try to promote a trump trick for the defence.

<p>♠ — ♥ 7 5 ♦ A 10 ♣ K 3 2</p> <p>♠ J 9 ♥ — ♦ J 4 2 ♣ 9 5</p>	<p>♠ — ♥ — ♦ K 7 6 3 ♣ Q 7 6</p>
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A COMEDY OF ERRORS

Declarer set up a position on this deal from the first final session of the Flight A North American Pairs that gave him a chance for an overtrick. South didn't see the trap.

Board 21. Dealer North. NS Vul.

<p>♠ Q 8 3 ♥ Q 5 4 3 ♦ K 10 3 ♣ Q J 6</p> <p>♠ A K 9 6 ♥ J 10 ♦ 8 4 2 ♣ K 10 9 3</p>	<p>♠ J 7 2 ♥ A 9 7 2 ♦ 9 6 ♣ A 8 7 4</p> <p>♠ 10 5 4 ♥ K 8 6 ♦ A Q J 7 5 ♣ 5 2</p>
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

West	North	East	South
—	Pass	Pass	1 ♦
1 ♠	1 NT	2 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

North led a diamond to South's ace, and South switched to a club to the jack and ace. Declarer called for a diamond which ran to North's ten. North played a heart, ducked to South's king and he reverted to clubs, declarer taking his king. Declarer passed the heart jack successfully, ruffed his last diamond, cashed the heart ace and ruffed dummy's last heart.

Declarer exited with the club ten to North's queen, South discarding his diamond. Now North was endplayed – he had to lead a trump away from his queen. Declarer had no problem putting in dummy's jack because of North's one no trump bid during the auction. Making plus 140 was a fine score.

South defended pretty poorly. The final, critical error was on the last club trick. Instead of pitching his diamond, he should

have ruffed his partner's trick. Then he could have led a trump or his diamond to take his partner off the endplay, holding declarer to eight tricks.

However, earlier he could have ruffed dummy's last heart with the spade ten, ensuring either a trump and a club trick for his side, or alternatively, two trump tricks. He made two non-material errors as well – he should have played the diamond jack at trick one, clearing that suit up for both defenders, and he could have inserted the jack of diamonds at trick three to play another club through declarer. Whew! It was quite an all-round effort.

If there were an award for the worst-defended hand of the year, this would be an early candidate for that honour!

Illusions & Delusions

PO Sundelin, Stockholm

I was South on the following deal. West dealt.

♠ J 6 4
♥ A 8 2
♦ 8 7
♣ Q J 9 6 3

♠ A 10 8
♥ K Q J 7 3
♦ A 6 5
♣ A 4

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1 ♦	Double
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

One diamond showed a four-card or longer suit with possibly longer clubs, normally unbalanced, since one no trump was 13-17. They open four card majors with a balanced 12-14.

West led the heart four to the two, nine, and jack. I didn't want to play two rounds of clubs in case West had a doubleton so I gave up a diamond, West inserting the ten and East playing the nine, high-low with an odd number. West returned another heart (the five) to the eight. East threw the spade seven (high-low discouraging).

I couldn't afford to finesse clubs at that point, since if West had the king a third trump would kill dummy. But suddenly it all became clear to me. East had five diamonds, and must have at least two of the spade king, spade queen and club king. So I confidently played a diamond to the ace, and ruffed a diamond, and then a spade to the ten. East would have had to split with both honours or suffer a throw-in with four cards remaining (keeping honour doubleton in both black suits).

West took the trick and played back a club. Dummy's queen won and I played a spade to the ace, claiming ten tricks, slightly disappointed that I hadn't been allowed to do my thing. I said to West: Did you have the spade nine? He nodded.

On the train ride home he told me that his spades were king, queen, nine, five. For some reason he believed that I had four spades, thus a singleton club. He had evidently hoped to get an en passant diamond ruff.

So much for brilliancy. The full deal:

♠ J 6 4
♥ A 8 2
♦ 8 7
♣ Q J 9 6 3

♠ K Q 9 5	♠ 7 3 2
♥ 10 6 5 4	♥ 9
♦ 10 4 2	♦ K Q J 9 3
♣ 8 2	♣ K 10 7 5

♠ A 10 8
♥ K Q J 7 3
♦ A 6 5
♣ A 4



ATTENTION IBPA MEMBERS !

IMPORTANT NEWS RE: THE 47TH EUROPEANS

Senior Teams

Many teams which had previously declared their intention to play in this event have withdrawn. Thus, in order to minimise expenses for the participating teams, the European Bridge League has announced a change in schedule, reverting to the originally-announced timetable. This means that the Senior Teams will begin a few days later than anticipated, on Wednesday, June 23. The new schedule is as follows:

Saturday June 19	10.00 - Open & Women's Teams registration begins 16.30 - Open & Women's Captains' Meeting
Sunday June 20	10.30 - Open & Women's Teams 1 st match
Tuesday June 22	14.00 - Senior Teams registration begins 17.30 - Senior Teams Captains' meeting
Wednesday June 23	10.30 - Senior Teams 1 st match

Other Scheduled Events of Interest to IBPA Members

Saturday June 19	19.00 - Opening Ceremony
Thursday June 24	10.00 - Journalists' excursion to Copenhagen and lunch (sponsored by Carlsberg Breweries)
Saturday July 3	19.30 - Closing ceremony 20.30 - Victory Banquet

IBPA Website Notice

The Bulletin

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ihccaT

EXACTLY as it appears here.



World Record Pinning

Jan van Cleeff, The Hague

Pinning the four, thus winning a three one trick later when an opponent was obliged to follow with the deuce, seems like a world record in scooping to me. It happened at the White House International Top Teams in Utrecht on February 28 when the Berry Westra's squad met the Polish national team.

Saturday, Round 5

Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ K J 2
♥ J 10 8 6 3
♦ 9 8 4
♣ K Q

♠ 9 7 5
♥ 5
♦ A 7
♣ A 9 7 6 4 3 2

♠ A 10 8 6 3
♥ K
♦ Q 10 5 3
♣ J 10 5

♠ Q 4
♥ A Q 9 7 4 2
♦ K J 6 2
♣ 8

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1 ♥
3 ♣	4 ♥	5 ♣	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Against Mariusz Puczynski and Bartosz Chmurski, Berry Westra, a former Bermuda Bowl winner, found himself in five clubs doubled.

North led a heart and South switched to a club. Declarer won the ace, played a spade from his hand and ducked when North inserted the jack. After cashing the king of trumps, North proceeded with the diamond eight for the ten, jack and ace. Declarer returned the seven of diamonds for the nine, queen and king, and South played the spade queen.

Westra took the ace and asked for the diamond five. South covered with the six, ruffed by declarer, who of course noticed that North followed with the four. Dummy was reached in trumps and finally Westra got rid of his remaining spade loser on the three of diamonds to which South had to follow with the deuce.

Careful play by Berry Westra. Still the hand cost his team twelve IMPs since at the other table Piotr Bizon and Darek Kowalski defended four hearts minus one after declarer misguessed in diamonds.

Bons Mots

Ib Lundby, Fredensborg, Denmark

(As usual, Ib graciously insists that his material may be freely used by members without attribution.)

Old men love to give advice to console themselves for not being able to set a bad example.

François de la Rochefoucauld

Once a year I play the Danish Senior Pairs with a good, old friend. Recently I visited him to practice for this year's championship, and one of the last deals we played was rather amusing:

Dealer East. NS Vul.

♠ A Q 8 5
♥ 5 3
♦ K Q 5
♣ A K J 4

♠ 4 3 2

♥ K J 10 6 4

♦ 7 3 2

♣ 9 7

♠ 10 9 7

♥ Q 9 8

♦ 10 9 4

♣ Q 10 5 3

♠ K J 6

♥ A 7 2

♦ A J 8 6

♣ 8 6 2

West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	1 ♣
1 ♥	Double	2 ♥	Pass
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	3 NT
Pass	6 NT	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: heart jack

From the West seat, I was happy with partner's support bid, because now it was easy to find the apparently best lead, a heart (in fact, the nine of clubs is the only opening lead with which South always can make his contract, but that's another story).

During the evening South had made lots of successful finesses, so he looked happy – this one seemed to depend only on the club finesse. He won the opening lead with the ace of hearts, cashed four spades and four diamonds and led a club in order to finesse... in fact, that was his intention, but by a mistake he played a heart instead!

It was a private game, so he looked at me with pleading eyes:

"Please allow me to take it back!"

“You know the rules”, was my cold answer, while playing the heart ten, getting ready to take the first undertrick with the heart king.

“I am not sure that it was your trick ...”, North remarked to me before I played.

My dear senior partner was blushing. His remaining four cards were the heart queen and the club queen-ten-five, and so he had to win with her majesty in hearts and lead clubs into dummy’s ace-king-jack of clubs. Twelve tricks.

“Why in heaven didn’t you get rid of that silly woman a little earlier?” I asked my partner, but he had an answer to that:

“With that big mouth of yours, why didn’t you swallow my heart queen with your king? You knew I had the bare queen!”

Young people are always more given to admiring what is gigantic than what is reasonable.

Eugène Delacroix

Martin Schaltz is only 17 years old, but that’s difficult to tell from his bidding and play. He won silver in this year’s Danish Team Championship – and this deal from the final is an example of his skill:

Dealer West. NS Vul.

<p>♠ 8 ♥ 7 5 4 2 ♦ A K 10 7 2 ♣ K 10 6</p> <p>♠ Q 9 5 4 ♥ A K Q 10 9 3 ♦ 8 ♣ 5 3</p>	<p>♠ K J 10 3 ♥ 8 6 ♦ J 6 4 3 ♣ 9 8 2</p>
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------

	♠ A 7 6 2 ♥ J ♦ Q 9 5 ♣ A Q J 7 4		
West	North	East	South
Klaus Adamsen	Søren Christiansen	Dennis Koch-Palmund	Martin Schaltz
1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠	2 ♣
3 ♠	Double	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	4 ♠	Double	Redouble
5 ♥	6 ♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Opening lead: heart king

In the closed room Martin’s parents, Dorthe and Peter Schaltz as E-W, were set 800 in five spades doubled – was it possible to make six clubs?

The Vu-graph commentators (Hans Werge and Steen Møller) declared that Martin would go down. Because of the poor transportation between hands, the only winning line was to take a first-round finesse in diamonds, and Martin probably wouldn’t discover the distribution in time to do that.

Martin trumped the second heart, cashed the club jack and played a club to the ten. It was likely that West had six hearts and four spades, and as he had already shown two clubs, there was only room for one diamond... his next move was the necessary diamond finesse. Eleven IMPs to Schaltz.

No man is a hypocrite in his pleasures.

Dr. Samuel Johnson

The most wonderful bridge club I belong to is “Warburg” – a club where “20 of Copenhagen’s best male players” meet eight times a year to play an individual tournament (followed by rubber bridge, often with high stakes).

This year the club celebrated its 75th year anniversary, and Mathias Bruun became chairman, “Master of the Guild” (the winner of each year’s tournament). This deal is from the final evening:

Dealer South. Both Vul.

<p>♠ 9 7 ♥ A 6 5 2 ♦ K Q 10 ♣ A K J 4</p> <p>♠ K 3 ♥ K 10 8 7 4 ♦ J 6 4 2 ♣ 8 3</p>	<p>♠ Q 10 6 4 2 ♥ — ♦ 9 8 7 ♣ Q 9 7 6 2</p> <p>♠ A J 8 5 ♥ Q J 9 3 ♦ A 5 3 ♣ 10 5</p>
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

	♠ A J 8 5 ♥ Q J 9 3 ♦ A 5 3 ♣ 10 5		
West	North	East	South
Georg Norris	Ole Werdelin	Ulrik Zeeberg	Paul Kriser
—	—	—	1 ♥
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 NT
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Opening lead: diamond two

Surely it looks like one spade and three trump losers, and that was the case at three of the five tables. However, two players managed to make ten tricks. Let us follow one of them, 81-year-old Paul Kriser.

He won the first trick with the diamond ace, and the queen of hearts was covered with the king and the ace, while East discarded a club. This discard probably was from a five-card suit (if East has six clubs, South can’t make his contract anyway), and South therefore hoped for a 2-5-4-2 distribution with West.

A spade went to the king, and West played back a spade to declarer’s jack – a gift South didn’t need. He cashed the two diamond tricks and the two top clubs to bring about this ending, where South needs three of the five remaining tricks:

<p>♠ — ♥ 6 5 2 ♦ — ♣ J 4</p> <p>♠ — ♥ 10 8 7 4 ♦ J ♣ —</p>	<p>♠ Q 6 4 ♥ — ♦ — ♣ Q 9</p> <p>♠ A 8 ♥ J 9 3 ♦ — ♣ —</p>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------

West was end-played first time through with the two of hearts to the three. He won with the four and tried to escape with the jack of diamonds, but declarer ruffed in dummy and continued with a club, discarding both his remaining spades. West was end-played for the second and last time. Ten tricks.

London Swiss Teams

Simon Cochemé, London

Tony Forrester's team (Jack Mizel, Victor Silverstone, Gerald Haase) won the event comfortably, beating off one of their challengers with a game swing on this board:

Dealer East. EW Vul.

<p>♠ — ♥ Q 3 ♦ A K 6 5 ♣ K 8 7 6 5 4 3</p> <p>♠ K Q 10 4 ♥ K 9 8 5 ♦ 9 7 ♣ A J 10</p>	<p>♠ J 6 2 ♥ J 6 4 2 ♦ 8 3 2 ♣ Q 9 2</p> <p>♠ A 9 8 7 5 3 ♥ A 10 7 ♦ Q J 10 4 ♣ —</p>
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

West	North Mizel	East	South Forrester
—	—	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	5 ♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Forrester received a trump lead and spent quite a while deciding on his line. It was time well spent. He won in hand, ruffed a spade high and ran the queen of hearts to West, who returned a second trump. Forrester won in hand again and ruffed another spade high.

Next he played a heart to the ten, drew the last trump and played ace of spades and a spade. He was the only declarer to make game, five diamonds minus one being the most popular result.

North was the declarer in five diamonds at the other table, on the two of hearts lead. He should have followed a similar line to Forrester, but failed to unblock the queen of hearts under the king and ended with only ten tricks.

IBPA COLUMN SERVICE

Tim Bourke, Canberra

This month's deals are also from the Australian Summer Festival of Bridge, held in Canberra from January 14-26. The South West Pacific Teams Championship was a two-section, fourteen-round event of twenty board matches with 250 entries. The prize at the end for the top eight teams from each section was to play in the knockout Australian National Open Teams.

271. This was an early deal of interest from the SWPT:

Dealer West. Neither Vul.

<p>♠ K Q 8 6 4 ♥ 4 ♦ 9 5 3 2 ♣ 8 5 2</p> <p>♠ A J 7 ♥ 6 ♦ K J 10 7 6 4 ♣ 7 4 3</p>	<p>♠ 10 5 3 2 ♥ Q 10 9 8 7 5 ♦ Q ♣ K 6</p> <p>♠ 9 ♥ A K J 3 2 ♦ A 8 ♣ A Q J 10 9</p>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 ♥
3 ♦	Pass	Pass	4 ♦
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	5 ♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the four of clubs to East's king and South's ace. Declarer led his spade and West rose with the ace to play a second trump. On winning the nine of clubs, declarer cashed the ace of hearts and ruffed a heart, West discarding a spade. After throwing his diamond loser on the king of spades, and noting West's jack, South judged that West did not begin with four spades – he might have kept spades in that case. So he ruffed a spade back to hand then drew the last trump with the queen of clubs. These cards remained:

<p>♠ — ♥ — ♦ K J 10 7 6 ♣ —</p> <p>♠ — ♥ K J 3 ♦ A ♣ J</p>	<p>♠ Q 8 ♥ — ♦ 9 5 3 ♣ —</p> <p>♠ 10 ♥ Q 10 9 ♦ Q ♣ —</p>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------

The count on the East hand was known to be 4-6-1-2, so declarer cashed the ace of diamonds to extract East's queen of diamonds then led the three of hearts. East had to win the trick and, no matter which major suit he returned, declarer had the last three tricks.

272. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

<p>♠ K 10 6 2 ♥ A 5 2 ♦ 6 ♣ A Q J 5 2</p> <p>♠ Q J 3 ♥ J 10 9 ♦ K Q 8 7 5 2 ♣ 4</p>	<p>♠ 9 4 ♥ 7 6 4 3 ♦ J 10 ♣ K 10 7 6 3</p> <p>♠ A 8 7 5 ♥ K Q 8 ♦ A 9 4 3 ♣ 9 8</p>
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠
2 ♦	4 ♦	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♣	Double	5 ♦
Pass	5 ♥	Pass	5 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

This was another board from that match, and this time it was North rather than South who overstated his values. The four diamond bid was a splinter, promising a raise to game with four-card trump support, but was about half a trick short of the required values. South checked for key cards and was lucky that East doubled the five club response, warning him not to bid the slam.

West led the four of clubs, clearly a singleton. Declarer rose with dummy's ace then cashed the ace and king of trumps and, as expected, all followed. After cashing the diamond ace, ruffing a diamond and returning to hand with a heart for a second diamond ruff, declarer called for dummy's queen of clubs. If East took the king of clubs and returned a heart declarer would win in dummy and throw his last diamond on the jack of clubs. If East ducked, West would ruff but declarer would only lose a trump and a diamond.

This plan works against 3-3-6-1 and 2-4-6-1 shapes on the left.

273. Dealer East. NS Vul.

♠ A 10			
♥ 10 6 5 4			
♦ A Q 7			
♣ J 8 4 3			
♠ Q J 8 5 4		♠ K 9 6 3 2	
♥ A 7		♥ Q J 9 2	
♦ K 10 8 5 4		♦ 6 3	
♣ 10		♣ 9 5	
	♠ 7		
	♥ K 8 3		
	♦ J 9 2		
	♣ A K Q 7 6 2		

West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	1 ♣
2 ♣	2 ♠	4 ♠	5 ♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The two club overcall promised spades and diamonds and the two spade call promised a club raise, an important way to play for East may not be able to double to show he would have bid two spades over a two diamond cue-bid – usually a double of two spades shows a spade honour. Here, it did not matter.

My friend and partner of 30 years, David Smith, was South and another old friend, Charlie Snashall, led the queen of spades. After winning the ace of spades and ruffing a spade, David drew trumps ending on table then led a heart, ducking East's nine. He also ducked the next heart, forcing Charlie to win the ace then have the choice of leading away from the king of diamonds or conceding a ruff and discard. Either way, David would have eleven tricks.

Well... that's how it should have gone but unfortunately it was East who had the king of diamonds, down one!

274. Dealer North. NS Vul.

	♠ Q 9 8 7		
	♥ A 8 6 5 3		
	♦ 10 7		
	♣ Q 4		
♠ J 4		♠ 6 5 3	
♥ K J		♥ Q 9 2	
♦ A Q 8 6 3		♦ K J 4 2	
♣ 10 9 5 2		♣ J 7 3	
	♠ A K 10 2		
	♥ 10 7 4		
	♦ 9 5		
	♣ A K 8 6		

West	North	East	South
—	Pass	Pass	1 ♣
1 ♦	Double	3 ♦	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

One of my teammates, Arjuna De Livera, was South here and was playing a strong no trump in third seat, rather than the usual 12-14 variety – though the South hand looks closer to a 16 point hand to me – and opened one club. North's double promised at least four cards in each major and East upped the ante with a preemptive raise.

The defenders cashed the ace and king of diamonds and East switched to a low club. Arjuna won with dummy's queen and drew two rounds of trumps. His next move was to cash the ace of hearts, West following with the jack. Next came the ace and king of clubs and a club ruff, which East could not overruff with his lowly six of trumps. A second round of hearts threw West on lead with the bare king and he then had to give a ruff-and-discard. Declarer ruffed with dummy's last trump and discarded the heart loser from his hand to make his game.

275. This deal came from the Round of 16 of the NOT and one of our opponents found a nice technical play:

Dealer West. Neither Vul.

	♠ 7 2		
	♥ 8		
	♦ A Q J 8 6 4 2		
	♣ 10 9 5		
♠ K J 10 9 6 5		♠ 8 4 3	
♥ 6 5		♥ J 7 3 2	
♦ 7		♦ 9 3	
♣ K Q 6 3		♣ 8 7 4 2	
	♠ A Q		
	♥ A K Q 10 9 4		
	♦ K 10 5		
	♣ A J		

West	North	East	South
2 ♠	Fordham		Lasocki
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	7 NT
	Pass	Pass	

I'm not a fan of the three diamond overcall but we have all made such bids. After curtailing the bidding, Arian Lasocki, one of our best Youth players, did likewise in the play after

West led the king of clubs. He cashed the three top hearts and when West showed out could claim his contract on the marked double squeeze. On the run of the diamonds, both East and West would have to reduce to one spade or establish either the ten of hearts or the ten of clubs.

This was a flat board - we reached it after I passed over two spades on the North hand. The only surprise to me was that both Wests led the king of clubs, marking themselves with the queen. I would have led the seven of diamonds, probably forcing declarer to make seven no trump by finessing the ten of hearts.

Italian Interlude

Coriolan Neamtzu, Bucharest

During the winter the most important European tournament takes place in Milan, but I prefer some place a little warmer, so I go to the Cefalù Festival in Sicily in December. In autumn, you can go to unforgettable Venice to play in the 38th International Festival held at the Casino Lido.

Also in the Veneto Region, in the beautiful health resort Montegrotto Terme, near Padua, you have the opportunity to play bridge in the spring. The University of Padua, famous for its College of Medicine, and for its teachers, among them Galileo, is one of the oldest in the world. One of the greatest monuments in Padua is Scrovegni Chapel, with its celebrated frescoes painted by Giotto.

I was captivated by the big tournament at the Hotel Petrarca in Montegrotto Terme. Players from Poland, France, Holland, Hungary, Austria, Sweden, Bulgaria, Croatia, Slovenia, India, Israel, and Romania made for a very cosmopolitan atmosphere. The most famous participants were the Lavazza world champions Bocchi-Duboin (with Lanzarotti-Buratti), the movie star Omar Sharif and Paul Chemla from Paris (playing with De Falco-Olivieri), and the Viennese team of Dr. G. Unger, the Editor of Austrian Bridge magazine and an IBPA member.

One deal from the teams tournament, against a good team from Naples, momentarily gave us the illusion of finishing in the top eight. It occurred in round 10 of 13. In an Olympic year, our consolation remains to accept Pierre de Coubertin's words: "The most important thing is not to win, but to take part." Have a look:

Dealer North. NS Vul.

♠ Q 6	♠ A J 10 9 7 5	♠ K 4 2
♥ 5	♥ A K 9	♥ 4
♦ J 8 6 5 2	♦ A 3	♦ K Q 10 9 7
♣ A Q 9 4 3	♣ J 2	♣ 10 8 6 5
	♠ 8 3	
	♥ Q J 10 8 7 6 3 2	
	♦ 4	
	♣ K 7	

West	North	East	South
—	1 ♣	1 ♦	4 ♥
5 ♦	Double	Pass	5 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The opponents, playing a version of the Neapolitan Club, pushed rapidly to the stratosphere, and with our help, bid one more. It was very important to our chances to beat them.

Declarer won the diamond lead with the ace, eliminated trumps with the heart ace and ruffed a diamond. He then played the three of spades from hand, and I, not wanting to win a trick and the lead with the queen, played the lady. South was delighted to let me hold the trick.

It would have been beautiful for the opponents if my partner had not had a stroke of genius. He promptly overtook my queen of spades with his king and switched to a club into the open jaws of my ace-queen. One down, dear friends, *che prezenza a la tavola*, but the story continues.

Our teammates arrived in the same contract and the lead was also identical. South won the ace, and tried a small deception. He drew trumps with the ace and played ace and another spade. East, not realizing the opportunity to break the rules by playing second-hand-high, followed routinely with a low spade and the eight went to West's queen. West was endplayed, eventually playing ace and another club. Contract made and 13 IMPs in our pocket.

Teams from Poland and Bulgaria strongly contested the Italians' dominance, but after 13 rounds of Swiss (84 teams) the podium was:

1.	Lavazza, Italy	251 VP
2.	Mihov, Bulgaria	231 VP
3.	Croci, Italy	229 VP

Omar Sharif's team managed sixth place on 217 VP.

Results

Yeh Brothers Cup Beijing, April 23-25, 2004

1. Alfredo Versace; Antonio Sementa; Dano DeFalco; Benito Garozzo
2. John Armstrong; Jason Hackett; Justin Hackett; Paul Hackett; Geir Helgemo
3. Pratap Rajhadyaksha; Steve Landen; Dan Morse; Bobby Wolff

Bridge Pro Tour

San Diego Open Overall Tour April 10, 2004 Leaders

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Nina Lubick-Reich | 1. Cecil Cook |
| 2. Edward Kunkel | 2. Nina Lubick-Reich |
| 3. Marjorie Sinnott | 3. Jon Wittes |



Correspondence ...

The Editor reserves the right to shorten correspondence

Email: ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca

John,

I am well aware that the Editorials are all your own work. But that just means that you alone are demeaned by the snide anti-Americanism of your 10th April editorial; written, as it is, from the complacent security of Toronto.

Life is capricious and inherently dangerous. But how can you possibly compare the random risks created by home-grown psychopaths with the targeted malevolence of certain sections of the Islamic world?

Of course, the Americans are right not to go to Istanbul. And of course it would show statesmanlike solidarity for the WBF to move the Olympiad.

Bill Pencharz

(Well, I scarcely know where to begin! Obviously, my attempt at irony failed miserably for Bill; Perhaps I was sardonic, but snide? Demeaning? Anti-American? Never! As I replied to Bill, some of my best friends are American.

We do not live in "complacent security" in Toronto, but realise we are fortunate to have escaped so far. I doubt the victims of violence or their families make such a fine distinction between random psychopathy and targeted malevolence. I was not comparing them, it was simply my opinion that based on risk analysis, Turkey is as safe, or safer, than the USA.

There is no "of course", as you state, and it is proved by the number of Americans who are going to Istanbul anyway. Finally, as to the WBF showing "statesmanlike solidarity" in moving the Olympiad - solidarity with whom? The Coalition of the Willing?

You have really focussed on one sentence in a page-and-a-half Editorial, Bill. Most of the rest was merely factual.)

Dear John,

<http://bridge74.tripod.com/xbric10.htm>

In last month's IBPA magazine there was short letter from Yalcin Pekiner about his "fascinating deal generator". I just wanted to say I went to his page and saw all the wonderful programmes he has devised. I am sure all the IBPA correspondents would be only too willing to promote his website. It is certainly a labour of love and there is lots of good software for all students of the game - Well done, Yalcin.

Yours sincerely,

Harold Schogger, Edgeware, Middlesex, UK

Hi John,

A 9 THAT SPOILS THE TRICK: Problem 262 by Tim Bourke was not quite ok. I thought you would have letters about it, so I did not bother pointing out the flaw. I see no comment in Bulletin 471.

Playing the jacks of spades and hearts on the first round of each suit, as recommended, would be compulsory if dummy's spades would have been eight-three, not nine-three. As

things are, it looks to me like playing ace-king and another heart is just as good, but not spectacular.

Best wishes,
Jean-Paul Meyer

The deal:

262. Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ 9 3	
♥ 8 5 3	
♦ Q 9 8 7 3	
♣ 8 7 2	
♠ Q 8 5 4	♠ 6
♥ 9 2	♥ Q 7 6 4
♦ J 6	♦ 10 5 4 2
♣ J 10 9 5 3	♣ A K Q 6
	♠ A K J 10 7 2
	♥ A K J 10
	♦ A K
	♣ 4

South declared four spades on a club lead and continuation.

Dear IBPA Editor,

Philippe Soulet kindly asks me to let you know he is organizing, from June 1-10, a new Bridge Festival, in one of the most pleasant of our Mediterranean villages:

The FIRST INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE FESTIVAL IN SAINT-TROPEZ (FRANCE)

Tuesday, June 1: IMP Tournament

Wednesday, June 2 & Thursday, June 3: Mixed Pairs (2 sessions)

Friday, June 4, Saturday, June 5, & Sunday June 6: Open Pairs (3 sessions)

Monday, June 7: Business Leaders Tournament

Tuesday, June 8, Wednesday, June 9 & Thursday, June 10: Open Teams (3 sessions)

Endowment: 75,000 Euro in prizes

Registration per session: 15 Euro (For 10 sessions: 150 Euro)

Tournament Directors: Gérard Tissot, Antonio Riccardi,

Patrick Chalard, Benoît Brochu

Inquiries, lodging: "<http://www.saint-tropez.st>"

e-mail: bridgeinter@wanadoo.fr

Guy Dupont, Paris

Dear John,

Could we please have New Zealand National Congress added to the world-wide tournaments? Dates are 3-10 July in Hamilton, New Zealand. I am the contact. The week attracts top Australian and NZ players and includes New Zealand Pairs (3 days) and New Zealand Teams (5 days) plus many side events. It is a great week of bridge, tough and friendly. Many thanks.

Regards,

Richard Solomon, Tuakau, NZ

ph 00649 2328494 fax 00649 2328873

email rksolomon@xtra.co.nz

World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
2004			
May 5-9	Cavendish Invitational Pairs & Teams	Las Vegas, NV	Bill Rosenbaum 1-212-725-2135
May 7-9	17 th OECS Championships	Anguilla, BWI	www.cacbf.com
May 8-16	61 st South of Ireland Congress	Killarney, Ireland	coolickcottage@hotmail.com
May 14-27	55 th Antibes International Festival	Juan-les-Pins, France	www.bridgejuan.com
May 15-23	XVII Internacional de Costa Calida	Murcia, Spain	www.eurobridge.org
May 16-22	3 rd Eilat Spring Festival	Eilat, Israel	www.bridge.co.il
May 18-23	Festival Internationale de Sousse	Sousse, Tunisia	www.itunisie.com/ftbridge/
May 19-20	Bonn Nations Cup	Bonn, Germany	www.bridge-club-bonn.de
May 25-Jun 1	USBF Women's Championships	Raleigh, NC	www.usbf.org
May 27-28	Bridge ProTour	Cleveland, OH	www.bridgeprotour.com
May 27-30	37 th Tallin Bridge Festival	Tallin, Estonia	www.polbridge.pl
Jun 1-10	1 st International Festival	Saint-Tropez, France	www.saint-tropez.st
Jun 2	Bridge ProTour	Sacramento, CA	www.bridgeprotour.com
Jun 4-5	WBF Worldwide Contest	Clubs Everywhere	www.ecatsbridge.com
Jun 4-13	USBF Open Championships	Memphis, TN	www.usbf.org
Jun 5-13	54 th Campeonato Sudamericano	São Paulo, Brasil	www.bridgeargentino.org.ar
Jun 7-13	2 nd Festival de Bridge Golf	Almeria, Spain	http://bridgegolf.com
Jun 17-19	Bridge ProTour	Penticton, BC, Canada	www.bridgeprotour.com
Jun 19-26	Bridge Festival 2004	Novi Vinodolski, Croatia	www.polbridge.pl
Jun 19-Jul 3	47 th European Team Championships	Malmö, Sweden	www.bridgefestival.net
Jun 20-24	Chairman's Cup	Malmö, Sweden	www.bridgefestival.net
Jun 20-Jul 2	10 th Bridge Festival	Malmö, Sweden	www.bridgefestival.net
Jun 22-26	USBF Senior Championships	Las Vegas, NV	www.usbf.org
Jun 24	Bridge ProTour	Cherry Hill, NJ	www.bridgeprotour.com
Jun 29-Jul 11	19 th Biarritz International Festival	Biarritz, France	www.biarritz-bridge.com
Jul 1-2	Bridge ProTour	Chicago, IL	www.bridgeprotour.com
Jul 3-10	New Zealand National Congress	Hamilton, New Zealand	rksoloman@xtra.co.nz
Jul 8-18	ACBL Summer NABC	New York, NY	www.acbl.org
Jul 9-10	North American College Championship	New York, NY	http://web2.acbl.org/html/college.htm
Jul 10-15	17 th Tunis Bridge Festival	Hammamet, Tunisia	www.itunisie.com/ftbridge/
Jul 10-18	5 th Pacific Asia Bridge Congress	Taipei, Taiwan	www.ctcba.org.tw
Jul 13-14	1 st Youth Challenge Cup	New York, NY	www.acbl.org
Jul 14-16	1 st World Junior Individual	New York, NY	www.worldbridge.org
Jul 15-28	Mondial de Bridge de Deauville	Deauville, France	www.biarritz-bridge.com
Jul 16-17	Bridge ProTour	New York, NY	www.bridgeprotour.com
Jul 17-24	World Junior Camp	Nyack, NY	www.worldbridge.org
Jul 20-25	Women's Bridge Festival	Vienna, Austria	anna@ecats.co.uk
Aug 1-7	36 th Wachauer Bridgewoche	Loiben, Austria	www.noeb-bridgesportverband.at
Aug 1-11	19 th European Youth Teams	Prague, Czech Republic	www.worldbridge.org
Aug 7-9	Pesta Sukan	Singapore	www.scba.org
Aug 10-15	Hong Kong Intercities	Hong Kong, China	isawc@cityu.edu.hk
Aug 11-12	Bridge ProTour	Secaucus, NJ	www.bridgeprotour.com
Aug 13-22	1 st Baltic Sea Championships	Ventspils, Latvia	www.balticbridge.lv
Aug 13-22	Brighton Summer Meeting	Brighton, England	www.ebu.co.uk
Aug 24-30	Mind Sports Olympiad	Manchester, UK	www.msoworld.com
Aug 26-27	Bridge ProTour	Santa Clara, CA	www.bridgeprotour.com
Sep 2	Bridge ProTour	Pittsburgh, PA	www.bridgeprotour.com
Sep 8-10	Generali Masters Individual	Verona, Italy	www.worldbridge.org
Sep 16-24	Festival Internazionale	Elba, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Sep 28-Oct 3	Festival Internazionale	Venice, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Oct 8-10	3 rd European Champions Cup	Warsaw, Poland	www.worldbridge.org
Oct 12-16	15 th Sun, Sea & Slams	Barbados	www.cacbf.com
Oct 16-17	Lederer Memorial	London, England	simon@simonx.plus.com
Oct 22	Bridge ProTour	Lake Geneva, WI	www.bridgeprotour.com
Oct 23-Nov 6	12 th WorldTeam Olympiad	Istanbul, Turkey	www.worldbridge.org
Oct 24-30	3 rd Senior International Cup	Istanbul, Turkey	www.worldbridge.org
Oct 31-Nov 6	2 nd World University Teams Cup	Istanbul, Turkey	www.worldbridge.org
Nov 1-6	3 rd World Transnational Mixed Teams	Istanbul, Turkey	www.worldbridge.org
Nov 5-7	Monte Carlo International Tournament	Monte Carlo, Monaco	jcaconseil@monaco377.com
Nov 7-13	IV Internacional Festival	La Habana & Varadero, Cuba	www.cacbf.com
Nov 14-21	10 th Red Sea International Festival	Eilat, Israel	birmand@inter.net.il
Nov 18-28	ACBL Fall NABC	Orlando, FL	www.acbl.org
Nov 24-28	Sicily Open	Cefalù, Sicily, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Nov 26-27	Bridge ProTour	Orlando, FL	www.bridgeprotour.com
Nov 29 & Dec 1	European Simultaneous Pairs	Clubs in Europe	www.eblsims.org
Dec 10	Bridge ProTour	Indianapolis, IN	www.bridgeprotour.com
Dec 16-18	Bridge ProTour	Palm Springs, CA	www.bridgeprotour.com
Dec 17-19	Junior Channel Trophy	England (TBA)	www.ebu.co.uk