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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.*

As a bridge player, there can be few things more pleasurable than going to a World Championship, whether an Olympiad, Bermuda Bowl or Rosenblum. It is such a treat, whatever the circumstances of one's attendance: as a player, a journalist, an organiser, an official. It is even more fun when the tournament is in a wonderful city such as Istanbul and it is exceptionally-well organised, as was the 2004 Olympiad. Most players will agree that the single most important factor in a championship is the playing space. Attractive, spacious, well-lighted, comfortable playing areas go a long way to making participants happy. Such was definitely the case in Istanbul. Other factors are the venue itself, the playing schedule, the efficiency of the organisation, eating facilities, and so on. Again, Istanbul was first-class in all of these.

Nevertheless (you knew there had to be a 'but'), there were areas in which the Olympiad (and other WBF events as well - this is not a problem peculiar to any one WBF Championship) could have been improved. Some of these (in no particular order) are:

- o Scoreboards. It is much easier to see the big picture on a scoreboard than it is on a scrolling monitor. It is annoying to have to wait a few minutes to see the standings you are interested in, then have them disappear before you can digest them. While a scoreboard may be difficult to construct for a 130-team Transnational, it is a simple matter for a Bermuda Bowl or a 20-team Olympiad section. Before the intrusion of technology, this was de rigueur, and occasionally the old ways are still best.
- o Large, publicly-displayed bracket sheets for the knockout phase, with segment-by-segment scores. Perhaps the teams involved knew who they would play next if they won their matches, but the rest of us did not. The ACBL does this particularly well.
- o Easily-readable hand records with Deep Finesse analysis. This is now a fixture at Australian and American tournaments - why not at the world-level? The actual hand records in Istanbul were pitiful: one needed the visual acuity of a peregrine falcon to read them. Although I did not measure it, the typeface seemed about 4-point and not very readable.
- o Datums for each board. This is another easily-obtainable, but mysteriously-absent item (and as Ron Klinger pointed out in last month's issue, hand records, datums, etc., should also be made available on the WBF web site subsequent to play).
- o The Daily Bulletins. Generally, the Bulletins are very good, and there's scarcely a player who would think of sitting down to breakfast without them. In the short time available to them each day, the editors do a great job. However, I for one would like to see, at least once, the names of all the players on each team. Additionally, I'd like some information on how the knockout opponents are chosen, including bracket sheets for future and past matches. There is a middle ground between ACBL policy of publishing the name of every player who placed in every section of every session of every event and the WBF policy of keeping us in the dark as to who is playing in its premier events. True, everyone knows who is playing for Italy and the USA, but what about Japan, Morocco and Venezuela? It was weird that in Istanbul, the only event for which team members were listed was the Transnational. Finally, more timely reporting of the matches would be nice. Other daily bulletins do it, and I see no reason why we can't have the matches played one day reported the next.

My email address at Sympatico (my Internet Service Provider) was disabled for two weeks in January due to technical difficulties in their outsourcing the email portion to MSN. If you sent me material or simply an email to which I have not responded, it means I have not received it. Please resend it. I have no confidence that my ISP or MSN was able to retrieve them all!

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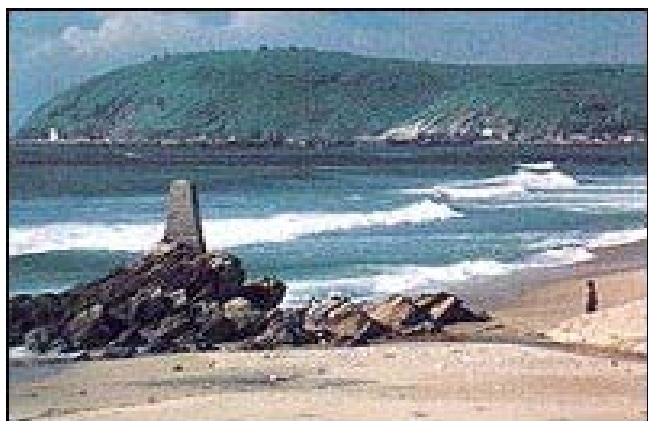
# 46th Winter National Bridge Championships - 2004

VISAKHAPATNAM - 7<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>, DECEMBER 2004

## Indian Winter Nationals

R. Jayaram, Baroda, India

The Indian Winter National Bridge Championships (WNBC) played in the month of December every year is almost like a mela (a sacred Hindu pilgrimage, occurring four times every twelve years, once at each of four locations in India – Ed.). Nearly 1200 players from all over the country converge for ten days of intensely competitive bridge and great camaraderie. This time around it was held at the Waltair Club in the port city of Visakhapatnam in eastern India. The club started functioning in 1883 and the Britishers' stamp can be seen all over the place. It was the British who turned Vizag, short for Visakhapatnam, into a thriving port and even renamed it Waltair. The city's most famous landmark is a huge rock jutting out into the Bay of Bengal, appropriately named *Dolphin's Nose* (photo below - Ed.). The tournament was



sponsored by Navayuga Engineering Company (NEC) whose Chairman, C.V. Rao, is one of the biggest patrons of Indian bridge. The co-sponsor was the club itself, whose Centenary Auditorium served as the Open Room. There was a special shamiana (a large decorated tent used at a fair or bazaar – Ed.) constructed, which served as the Closed Room. The almost unanimous feedback from the participants was that, "It was the best-ever organized Indian Nationals."

One hundred and sixty-one teams, including a team from Sri Lanka, entered the teams-of-four event for the Ruia Gold Trophy, the Blue Ribbon of Indian bridge. Divided into two groups, these teams went through a gruelling 16-round, 10-board Swiss league, with matches over two and a half days. *Mohota* from Nagpur (304 VPs) and Ashok Ruia's India Blues (297) led the list of 32 qualifiers, which included all the three Railway teams, and also both host teams, C.V. Rao and Navayuga Engineering. The 32 teams then went through a further eight rounds of 12-board Swiss league matches to decide the quarterfinalists. Quite a few of the fancied teams, including Kiran Nadar's Formidables, failed to make the last eight. However, all three Railway teams (A, B and C) were in the fray still, as were the host team C.V. Rao and the team

from Sri Lanka. The latter two fizzled out thereafter to India Blues and Railways A respectively, whereas the other two quarterfinals were close affairs, with NALCO and Railways B just managing to reach the semifinals. India Blues continued their good run and easily made the finals at the expense of Railways B; Railways A, India's representative team at Istanbul and winner of this event both in 2002 and 2003, were looking for a hat-trick of wins as they prevailed over NALCO by 21 IMPs.

And, hat-trick it was. The Railwaymen cantered away with a 162-108 win in the 64-board finals. The sixsome representing the Railways did not stop at that. Seeded directly into the BAM event finals, they were miserably placed at the end of Session I; staging an almost unbelievable recovery in the next two sessions, they scored over 70% in both these sessions, thus scoring a remarkable double.

If ever there was a one-horse race in a major Pairs event, this was it. Probably smarting at such an early exit from the Ruia Trophy, Kiran Nadar and B. Satyanarayana produced dazzling form in the elimination rounds of the Holkar Pairs event to go into the finals with a 60 matchpoint carry over, the equivalent of four boards. They were never in danger of being caught at any stage of the finals and emerged easy winners – their first in this event – literally by a distance.

### Catch Them Young – I

It was Kamal Roy – he finished 10<sup>th</sup> in the Pairs Olympiad at Albuquerque in 1994 – who brought the following defence to my notice, in which Kamal himself was declaring four hearts. Sukomal Das, barely thirty, was the defender in the West position:

#### Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1 NT
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 NT <sup>1</sup>
Pass	3 ♦ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. 5 cards in hearts
2. Transfer to hearts

Sukomal led the ten of clubs. Realising that an additional trick in clubs is not going to help, Kamal went up with the king in dummy and played a heart to his jack. Sukomal won with the ace and shot back the eight of spades. If you were declarer, how would you tackle this?

Since the heart finesse is apparently on, you do not mind losing two spade tricks, but you would hate a third round ruff in that suit, probably on the right. Since underleading an ace at this stage is more attractive than underleading a queen (*frankly, underleading an ace-queen would probably not occur to mere mortals like you and me*), you ask for the king which holds the trick. You automatically ask for a second heart and when East shows out on this, you know that you have been hoodwinked out of sight. Sukomal claims two hearts and two spades for down one. "What was amazing, Jay," Kamal told me later, "is the speed at which his defence was contemplated. Mind you, he had planned out the whole thing at trick two!"

### Catch Them Young – II

Saroj Bhattacharjee is a veteran Railwayman and he has quite a few Indian titles tucked away. He was kibitzing another young Kolkatan, Swarnendu Bannerjee – this fellow must be in his late twenties – play out the following deal in the Holkar Pairs, Elimination III.

#### Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1 ♦
1 ♠	Double	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West led his fourth best spade, allowed to run to Swarnendu's (declarer's) jack. "I was looking for a safe way to make eleven tricks, after that lead. Eleven was probably not under the consideration of this youngster. He was looking for twelve, as it turned out," Saroj told me later.

Winning the lead in hand, Swarnendu played a heart to the king, which held the trick. Back to hand with a diamond, and a second heart fetches the ace from West, who continues with another spade, East discarding a painless club. Again winning in hand, Swarnendu tests hearts and gets the bad news. Undeterred, he now cashes dummy's spade winner, reducing East to a pulp! Swarnendu romps home with twelve tricks and an absolute top.

There is a defence which MAY reduce the number of overtricks, but you need to look far ahead (clairvoyance,

they call it), have and a lot of guts to defend that way. Painlessly discard two clubs on the second and third spades. Please tell me the name of the declarer who would not finesse in clubs when faced with that defence, first round overcall not excluded!

### The Stranded Winner!

The following deal has been taken from the Board-a-Match Elimination II. Two declarers, Ajay Khare of Mumbai and Suhas Vaidya of Pune, left a winner stranded in dummy with no apparent entry, the only way to make the contract.

#### Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

Both Ajay and Suhas were South, declaring three no trumps after they had opened a 15-17 no trump. Ajay got a fourth best diamond lead, East put up the king, won by the ace. A heart to the ten lost to the queen and back came a second diamond, taken by West, who shifted to the nine of spades, won in hand. Heart jack to the ace, a third diamond comes back, taken by the queen. Realising that a 3-3 break, or the jack coming down in two rounds, would still add up to eight tricks only (after hearts failed to break), Ajay played a low spade to the ace, back to hand with the spade queen (deliberately leaving the winning ten stranded in dummy), to end-play West in diamonds in this position:

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

In another table in the same contract, Suhas got the lead of nine of spades. Here also, the heart to the ten, the diamond shift, etc leading to the same end position in which Suhas left the spade ten stranded in dummy and end played West in diamonds!

### A Revealing Play

I am obliged to Sudhir Ganguly for providing me with the details of the following deal, taken from one of the preliminary rounds of the team-of-four duplicate event.

**Dealer East. Both Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	1 ♥	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
3 ♦	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

As East, you land in four hearts after exploring for three no trumps (thereby announcing that the diamond suit is wide-open). South cashes two top diamonds, North showing an odd number. Surprisingly, South continues with a third diamond, allowing a ruff and discard. *Why?* Because he knows something, which you may not know. He knows that hearts are not breaking 3-3 for you and with queen-jack sixth missing, your only hope is queen-jack doubleton, which is no hope at all.

Even as you ruff on the table, North following, you must carefully put on your thinking cap before you discard from hand. South has unintentionally told you that North has four trumps and if that is so, can you make this hand?

After some thought, you narrow the possibilities down to a 4-4-3-2 pattern with North, and play for that chance. On the third diamond, you throw a club (not a spade, although that is more tempting; actually it is suicidal), and draw two rounds of trumps on which mercifully the eight and jack appear from the left. You are ready now. Ace of clubs, club queen overtaken by the king and a third club winner from the table finds North discarding a spade. You also do the same, and then play a fourth club from the table. Again North discards a spade, but this time you must ruff low; back to dummy in spades to cash both winners in the suit (poor North has to follow to both) and you are right where you want to be. With dummy to play, North is reduced to queen-seven in trumps and you have ten-six; your ten will make the tenth trick. If you had discarded a spade at the trick three ruff-and-discard, and played for ruffing two spades in hand, North would make the last two tricks in trumps for a one trick set. Try it.

**THE WINNERS**

**RUIA GOLD TROPHY for Teams-of-Four**

Railways 'A' - Manas Mukherjee, Pritish Kushari, Rana Roy, Amar Nath Bannerjee, Sumit Mukherjee and Hasibul Hasan. This was the fifth Ruia title for Pritish and Rana; the fourth for Manas. It completed a hat-trick of Ruia wins for the Railways team, as they had won in both 2002 and 2003.

**BOARD-A-MATCH**

Railways 'A' - Manas Mukherjee, Pritish Kushari, Rana Roy, Amar Nath Bannerjee, Sumit Mukherjee and Hasibul Hasan. A rare double for the same sixsome which won the Ruia Cup.

**HOLKARTROPHY FOR PAIRS**

Kiran Nadar and B. Satyanarayana, the first for each.

**Tales from Norway**

**Knut Kjærnsrød, Tored, Norway**

The Norwegian Teams Championship is underway, and these are three of the most interesting boards from the preliminary rounds.

On this one I was sitting West facing the task of bringing home six no trumps without opposition bidding:

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

North took his time before finally leading the ten of hearts, taken by dummy's ace. Influenced by his hesitation, I placed him with both the key cards and ran the hearts and spades to come down to the ace, queen of clubs and singleton king of diamonds. North bared his king of clubs, but I backed my judgement by playing a club to the ace and collected 17 IMPs, since West at the other table went one down after an identical lead.

Svein H Riisnæs was also at the helm of a six no trump contract:

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

The bidding went:

West	North	East	South
1 ♠	Pass	2 NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass
3 ♣ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	3 ♠ <sup>3</sup>	Pass
3 NT <sup>4</sup>	Pass	4 ♦ <sup>5</sup>	Pass
4 ♠ <sup>6</sup>	Pass	5 ♥ <sup>7</sup>	Pass
5 NT <sup>8</sup>	Pass	6 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Spade support
2. Minimum
3. Asking bid
4. No spade honour
5. Asking bid
6. Diamond king + 1 ace
7. Asking bid
8. Heart king

South started with a diamond to the queen and ace, and Svein Harald laid down the ace of spades which revealed the distribution of that suit. He proceeded to cash his club honours. The suit failed to split evenly, but on the queen South had problems, which he solved temporarily by discarding a heart. Svein Harald continued by cashing his hearts and before the third the situation was:

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

On the queen of hearts South had to part with a diamond and Svein H cashed the king and jack of that suit and finally played a small spade towards dummy. South took his ten but had to concede the last two tricks.

Christer Heitun was faced with a contract on a lower level, but his effort was equally flawless:

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

He was East in two spades and received the lead of three rounds of trumps, the third taken by dummy's ten. The six of clubs was taken by the seven and a second club was ducked to South's nine. A shift to diamonds would have destroyed Christer's communications, but South played a third club taken by the ace. The ace and king of hearts followed and the situation was:

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

When the jack of clubs was trumped with dummy's queen, North was squeezed. When he parted with a diamond, Christer played ace and a diamond and the established seven of diamonds secured his eighth trick and the contract.

## IBPA Column Service

**Tim Bourke, Canberra**

*Members are free to use these deals as they wish, without attributing either the author or the IBPA.*

### 301. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
1 ♥	Pass	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

North's four spades is a lazy bid, for a cue bid of three hearts would see South bid three no trumps and take nine tricks very, very easily. Had East-West been playing them, a preemptive raise to three hearts would have made life more difficult for North-South by eliminating this possibility over South's presumed three spade overcall.

West led the jack of diamonds, won in dummy with the ace. South counted nine tricks; six trumps, the ace-king of diamonds, and a club. As West would have both the heart ace and club ace, there did not seem to be much chance of making a tenth trick unless West began with a doubleton club.

However, South saw another possibility – trumps might be 2-2, with West holding four diamonds; if that was so, he could be end-played. Since East-West were playing four-card majors, this seemed a decent chance, and it was more likely that West had two spades rather than two clubs.

So, declarer called for the king of diamonds and, after that held, ruffed a diamond high. After cashing the ace of trumps, then playing a trump to the queen, collecting all the outstanding trumps, dummy's fourth diamond was played. When East discarded a low heart, South threw a club, forcing West to lead away from one of his aces and give declarer a tenth trick.

Note that declarer had to be careful to retain the four of spades in hand so that he would be able to cross to the five in dummy when West won the diamond and continued with ace and another club.

**302. Dealer South. NS Vul.**

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

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

West did well not to lead a spade, beginning with the ten of diamonds instead. Declarer played the queen from dummy and East covered this with his king. Declarer won the trick with the ace then cashed the ace and king of trumps, discovering he had a trump loser as well as the three in the side suits.

His only chance to reduce the latter to two was that clubs were 3-3. So South cashed the ace and king of clubs and ruffed a club, establishing the suit. Next he crossed to dummy with the jack of diamonds and discarded his diamond loser on a good club. East played the queen of trumps to stop the overtrick but he was ruffing a loser, so the defence took only a trump and two spades.

This theme is well used by columnists and its point is that there is a defence to prevent declarer using the clubs for a discard! East must play low at trick one. After that play, the jack of diamonds is no longer an entry to dummy to play a winning club. So declarer fails by one trick; West takes two spades while East scores a diamond and a trump.

**303. Dealer South. Neither Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	3 NT
Pass	7 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

After North's ostensibly negative two diamonds, South saw that more often than not he would make nine tricks in no

trumps. So he bid what he thought he could make, and so did North.

West led the jack of clubs, dummy and East playing low. Declarer took this in hand with the ace and cashed the ace of hearts, getting the bad news that the hearts were not running.

So South continued with the ace and queen of spades then the three top diamonds, ending in dummy. Next came the king of spades, discarding a low heart from hand. This reduced everyone to five cards.

As East has to keep four hearts he could only keep one club. When declarer cashed the remaining top hearts, West had to throw either his jack of diamonds, establishing dummy's seven, or a club. When he chose to part with a club, dummy discarded the seven of diamonds and the king of clubs was cashed, establishing the eight of clubs as the thirteenth trick.

**304. Dealer North. NS Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
—	Pass	Pass	1 ♥
Double	Redouble	1 ♠	Pass
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Once again North-South avoided the best contract of three no trumps – surely South could bid a forcing two no trumps to ask North's opinion about of the final denomination.

Nevertheless, West led the queen of spades and South saw that he only had nine tricks, so he had to rely on the clubs being 3-3 and trumps breaking. With this in mind, he took the queen of spades with the ace, drew trumps and played the ace of clubs. However, West saw that he might be end-played and dropped his queen of clubs!

Somewhat taken aback, declarer continued with a justifiably nervous king and another club. East won the third round of clubs with the jack and shifted to the diamonds. The defence soon had three diamond tricks for a one trick set.

By now you will have seen that there was a counter to West's clever tactic of dumping his queen of clubs under the ace. It was to duck the first spade! Declarer wins the next spade with the ace, cashes the ace and king of clubs, throws a club on the king of spades then ruffs the clubs good. Next he draws three rounds of trumps ending in dummy so that he cash the established club as his tenth trick.

## Two by Ron

Ron Klinger, Northbridge, NSW

Please attribute the Sydney Morning Herald  
and Ron Klinger if you use any of these deals.

### Double Vision in 3D

For publication Sydney Morning Herald, January 1, 2005

This deal from Round 7 of the 2004 Australian Open Teams  
Playoff was reported in this column on 23<sup>rd</sup> March last:

Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	1 ♣	Bruce Neill 1 ♦
1 ♠	1 NT	2 ♥	Double
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass
Lead: ♣8			

The club jack lost to the queen and East shifted to the diamond five: two – jack – six. The club seven came next, ducked in dummy and ruffed by South. After the spade king and a spade to the ace confirmed the trump position, declarer finessed the heart queen, cashed the heart ace and played a third heart. West discarded a spade and dummy ruffed.

A spade ruff brought South down to the nine of hearts and the ace-ten-eight of diamonds; West had the spade queen and the king-queen-three of diamonds. Neill exited with the heart nine and West pitched the spade queen. East won and Neill simply played the ten of diamonds on East's return, end-playing West in trumps to make his contract for plus 670 and 11 IMPs against the datum of NS plus 80. Beautiful.

Lo and behold, this deal came up in the Australia vs Norway match in the 2004 Olympiad Open Teams:

Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	1 ♦ <sup>1</sup>
Double	2 ♣ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	2 ♦ <sup>3</sup>
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	3 ♦
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. 4+ hearts, 10-17 points
  2. Natural, not forcing, 6-9 points
  3. Genuine diamonds, longer than the hearts
- Lead: ♠A

Just take a look at the similarity in the diamond holdings in the two deals!

West continued with the spade king and Neill ruffed the third spade. After the heart ace and a heart ruff, he cashed the club ace, club king (pitching hearts), ruffed a club and ruffed another heart. He was now down to the ace-ten-eight-seven of diamonds and West had the king-queen-jack-four. When Neill played a spade and ruffed with the diamond seven, West could score two trump tricks, but no more. That was worth plus 670 again, a gain of 5 IMPs against the minus 500 at the other table in four no trumps doubled.

To defeat three diamonds, West needs to switch to a diamond at trick three. This stops the second heart ruff and West will collect two spades, two diamonds and a heart.

### A Happy Ending for Adam

For publication Sydney Morning Herald, January 4, 2005

Two of the finest young players in Sydney are the brothers Edgerton, Adam (age 13) and Nabil (age 12). They recently won the New South Wales State Youth Pairs and, with Robert Meakins-Ronnie Ng, they won the State Youth teams as well.

The prior deal saw Bruce Neill overcoming savage trump breaks offside. Peter Jamieson reported this deal from the NSW Bridge Association Christmas Teams, where Adam Edgerton managed a similar feat.

Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Adam		Nabil	
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			
Lead: ♣3			

South played the club queen and Adam won with the ace. How should he continue?

Declarer has to cope with three losers in trumps, one in hearts and one in clubs. Adam continued by cashing the ace

of diamonds, and finessing the heart queen. Then, diamond ruff, heart to the ace, diamond ruff. He exited with the third heart to leave this ending with North on lead:

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

North tried the spade king (a club is no better), but Adam ducked this, leaving him on lead. If North plays another spade, West wins, cashes another spade and exits with the jack of hearts. North can choose to ruff and be end-played or discard a club.

After the spade king holds, if North exits with a club, declarer takes both clubs and again exits with the heart jack, end-playing North in trumps. That was a well-earned plus 590.

At other tables many West players were also in four spades, not always doubled, but did not find the Edgton path to success.

## Bridge Today Digest Daily 1

Pam Granovetter, Jerusalem

Members are free to use these deals as they wish, but please attribute [bridgetoday.com](http://bridgetoday.com)

Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
2 ♥	Double	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	
Opening lead: ♦5			

You play low from dummy and East plays the nine. Do you see any hope of making this near-hopeless contract?

Jeff Meckstroth declared this hand in a high-level tournament. He won East's diamond nine with the ace and had no choice but to immediately draw trumps. He played the ace-queen-jack (East throwing a low club on the third round of trumps), followed by the six of hearts. West gave it a long look and

then played small - after all, declarer had already showed the ace-queen-jack of spades and the ace of diamonds, and he might have a club honour as well and, therefore, East could easily have the heart king.

Dummy's jack won and Meckstroth continued with a small club. East played the jack and returned a low club to the king and ace. On the club seven from dummy, East put on the queen, and Jeff threw a heart! East continued with his last club, and Jeff again threw a heart from his hand and a heart from dummy! East now had to play a diamond into dummy's king-jack and the game was made.

East-West needed better defensive methods. Either suit preference signals in trump or some method to show club strength would have avoided this embarrassing defence.

## Bridge Today Daily 2

Matthew Granovetter, Jerusalem

This deal from the Open and Women's Board-a-Match Team game (second qualifying session) brought tears to the eyes of a few Souths.

Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

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

If North had led a spade, the defenders would have scored the first two tricks and eventually a diamond trick to defeat five hearts. Then there would be no story. At several tables, the opening lead was the three of clubs, a natural singleton lead. At one table in the women's event, Sue Weinstein (West) won the club lead in dummy, drew trumps and led the ace of diamonds and the diamond six.

South played the queen under the ace, but North played the nine on the six, and South had to win the trick with the jack. South was end-played, forced to lead a black suit to declarer's advantage. Making 11 tricks.

To defeat five hearts, North had to execute the famous Crocodile Coup, going up second hand with the king of diamonds to swallow her partner's jack. You would think in Florida that players would be on the lookout for this play, but the truth is Florida has very few crocodiles - the creatures that float around in the lagoons here are alligators!



In the Open Board-a-Match Teams, Hugh Brown (West) found a fantastic way to avoid giving his opponents the chance to execute the Crocodile.

Brown won the club lead in dummy, and drew seven rounds of trump! This was the position when the last trump was played out:

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

On the lead of the heart five, diamonds were thrown around the table. Notice that South could not discard a spade or a club. He had been squeezed down to one diamond on that last trump. Brown then was able to cash the ace of diamonds, extracting South's last diamond, followed by a club to the king and the jack of clubs, end-playing South to lead from the ace-queen of spades at trick twelve.

This triple-squeeze strip and endplay was beautifully handled, and, though I won't say it left South in crocodile tears, I will say South was impressed enough to show me the deal for the Daily Bulletin.

Enjoy a daily bridge quiz at: <http://www.bridgetoday.com>  
 The Bridge Today website offers the new Bridge Today E-Magazine, bridge courses, and a free learn-to-play-bridge course for new players.

## Chez le Dentiste

Jean-François Boucher, Chicoutimi, Québec

Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	1 ♦	Pass
3 NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass	Pass	Pass
1. 15-17, balanced			

North led the three of clubs which went to West's ace as dummy played the five and South the jack. A diamond to the queen was followed by a small spade to the jack, captured

by North's queen. He played back the ten of spades, ducked by declarer.

North then exited with a diamond to declarer's king, and the remaining diamonds were cashed. South discarded two hearts and North a club. Having a good idea of the opponents' hands by now, declarer cashed two hearts and gave North his heart queen. That defender had to play clubs to dummy's ten for the contact.

If North had instead discarded his heart queen, declarer would have played his club king (the Dentist's Coup), and then exited with a heart, putting South on play. Then South would have had to concede the contract by playing to dummy's king of spades.

## Could You Repeat That, Please?

Bob Pitts, Flint, UK

Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

Mike Tedd was a member of the Welsh Seniors team for the recent World Olympiads and helped them to a respectable 7<sup>th</sup> place, making them comfortably the most successful of any of the UK Seniors teams. He carried some of this form into the Llangollen Swiss Teams event, where he played this hand particularly well. At most tables the contract was six spades, which should make easily, however, after a slightly optimistic auction, Mike declared seven spades from the West seat on the lead of a small club. With only eleven tricks on top, there was some work to do, and whilst the hearts might come in for four tricks, there was no harm in putting some pressure on the defenders before trying for that slim chance.

He won the lead in dummy, played the diamond queen to his ace and ruffed a diamond. He now crossed to his spade king to ruff another diamond and continued by cashing three further rounds of trumps. This caused South immense problems; to discard a heart would give up the whole suit, so he threw his diamonds, thus establishing West's ten.

Declarer could then play dummy's other top club, cross to hand with the heart ace and play the ten of diamonds. This card now squeezed South in clubs and hearts so that whichever suit he discarded from would establish declarer's thirteenth trick. Had South chosen to throw clubs earlier then the club ten would have effected the same repeating squeeze in diamonds and hearts. Mike's team gained 13 IMPs from this board.

# The Play that Never Was

Mark Horton, Romford, UK

The secret to being a successful bridge journalist is to be in the right place at the right time, especially if you hope to discover a deal that might be a contender for one of the IBPA's annual awards. In bygone days that meant you had to sit at the table of the protagonists. Now, thanks to the miracles of the Internet and email you don't even have to attend an event to discover a potential winner.

Seeking out material for *Bridge Magazine's* report on the 6th Generali World Masters Individual in Verona I was delighted to receive an email from one of the medal winners. Modestly claiming to have done nothing spectacular herself, but promising to send a couple of deals, she enquired if I had already received the details of the following brilliantly-played hand, described to her by the successful declarer.

## Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

After North opened one spade, East overcalled two clubs and thereafter North/South bid up to six spades. East, a very tall player, led a top club and thought for a considerable period of time before switching to a low diamond to the jack and ace.

Declarer won and played ace and another heart, ruffing. Then he led a spade, playing the five when East followed with the three! That was crucial, as he could now ruff a heart, ruff a club to hand, then ruff a heart with the ace and then play spades to develop a show-up squeeze on East.

Declarer, who had reported his effort to my informant, was sure that the very tall player would have shifted to a trump if he had had one. It occurred to me that believers in symmetry would be inclined to place East with a trump void, but it was still a spectacular play, surely a contender for hand of the year.

More or less at the same time, Andrew Robson, writing in *The Times*, mentioned this deal in his daily column. He pointed out that when East switches to a diamond there are insufficient entries to ruff three hearts – true even in the scenario I have already described, if West plays the jack or ten of spades on the first round of the suit. What was strange was his failure to mention the brilliancy.

Having no email address for the declarer, I fired off an email to Italy, which quickly confirmed my suspicions – East had switched to a heart at trick two, making it easy for declarer to ruff two hearts and bring off the squeeze.

No doubt there had been a misunderstanding when the play was originally described, but it left me with two thoughts: first, it's best to be at the table; and second, I'm still searching for that elusive prize-winning deal!

**Orlando**  
**Nov 19-28, 2004**

**Barry Rigal, NYC**  
**Michael Rosenberg, New Rochelle, NY**  
**Brent Manley, Memphis**  
**Henry Francis, Memphis**  
*(From the Daily Bulletins)*



## The ACBL Fall Nationals

Barry Rigal, New York City

For many tournament players, the Fall North American Bridge Championships is their favourite: the major events are the Reisinger Board-a-Match Teams and the Blue Ribbon Pairs. There are also a North American Open Board-a-Match and a Women's Board-a-Match Teams and an NA Open Pairs. It is the only NABC without a major knockout event. This fall, the ACBL returned to Orlando, a player favourite, especially at this time of year, and the Marriott Hotel served up a winner for all.

David McLellan knew he had chances when he saw dummy on this deal from the second session of the Blue Ribbon Pairs. However, he had heard the double, and he knew that he might run into some problems, especially in the trump suit.

## Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

West led the heart eight to McLellan's king, and McLellan crossed to the heart ace and ruffed a heart. The finesse to the diamond queen was successful, and McLellan cashed the ace of diamonds before ruffing dummy's last heart with the queen of spades. But West overruffed with the king.

The overruff was fatal. West exited with a diamond for a ruff and discard. Declarer ruffed low in hand, discarding a club

from dummy, and advanced the spade jack to find the expected bad news. He led a club and West correctly discarded rather than ruff a loser.

McLellan won the ace in dummy and exited with a club to East's king. In the three-card ending, dummy had the ace-eight-six of spades over West's ten-nine-seven. When East led a plain card, West ruffed with the nine and dummy underruffed. West was end-played – he had to give declarer the last two tricks, making game despite the 5-0 trump break.

Most declarers missed the successful line on this deal from the second qualifying session of the Reisinger. You play three no trumps as East on a low club lead and take North's ten with the jack. What now?

**Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.**

<p>♠ 10 9 6 3 ♥ A 8 ♦ 8 7 3 2 ♣ 10 3 2</p> <p>♠ A J 7 ♥ K J 3 2 ♦ Q 10 9 5 ♣ 9 6</p> <p>♠ Q 8 5 ♥ 9 7 5 4 ♦ K ♣ K Q 8 7 5</p>	<p>♠ K 4 2 ♥ Q 10 6 ♦ A J 6 4 ♣ A J 4</p>
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The majority of declarers played the heart queen, which went to the ace, then ducked a club, won the next and ran the hearts before taking the diamond finesse – down one.

The correct technical (and psychological) play is to cross to the spade ace at trick two to pass the diamond ten. When South wins the king, he can play a club, but once that is ducked, he is out of options. Note that even if the spade queen is wrong, South will not always play a spade.

This deal exemplifies what you need to be thinking about at board-a-match teams. Some suit combinations don't seem to offer much scope for machination, but there are hidden depths in unexpected places.

**Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	I NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

You play three no trump as South. The queen-jack-four opposite the ten-eight-two looks as if it is worth one trick however you slice it: yes or no?

On a heart lead to the two, ace and four and a heart to the queen and king, hearts are cleared. Declarer cashes a bunch of side-suit tricks, but eventually has to tackle diamonds and hope East had the ace. His luck is in and minus 430 is conceded. Yawn?

Well, consider what happens if South smoothly deposits the queen and jack under the king and ace. Now West has to weigh up whether East has the ace-seven doubleton of hearts or the ace-seven-four and a key control in either clubs or diamonds – in which case he should duck the second heart in order to have a chance to set the contract. If West falls for the bait and ducks, declarer has an 11<sup>th</sup> trick – together with a board-a-match win and an aggravated opponent!

Here's another interesting deal from the same session along the same lines:

**Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.**

<p>♠ Q 5 4 2 ♥ J 9 8 3 ♦ 10 6 ♣ J 9 6</p> <p>♠ J 7 3 ♥ — ♦ K Q J 9 5 2 ♣ A 4 3 2</p> <p>♠ A 10 6 ♥ A K 7 6 2 ♦ A 8 7 ♣ 10 8</p>	<p>♠ K 9 8 ♥ Q 10 5 4 ♦ 4 3 ♣ K Q 7 5</p>
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How many spade losers do East-West have in their diamond contract? Well, it looks as if you have two if you are a good guesser, three if you are not. This was the bidding:

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
—	—	—	I NT
3 ♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

On the eight of hearts lead to the king, ruffed, declarer led a top diamond, ducked. South won the next diamond and carefully exited in diamonds. Declarer won and cashed three clubs, ending in hand to reach this ending:

<p>♠ Q 5 4 2 ♥ J 9 ♦ — ♣ —</p> <p>♠ J 7 3 ♥ — ♦ 9 5 ♣ 2</p>	<p>♠ K 9 8 ♥ Q 10 ♦ — ♣ 5</p> <p>♠ A 10 6 ♥ A 7 6 ♦ — ♣ —</p>
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Now declarer led a low spade toward the dummy, intending to put in the eight. Declarer knew South would be end-played. So did North, who hoped his partner held ace-jack-

ten, in which case he would be a hero by playing the queen. No such luck – declarer covered the queen with the king and lost only one spade trick. South had to lead a spade back to the nine or play a top heart, letting declarer ruff and cross to dummy in clubs for a spade discard on the heart queen.

The key play had come at trick one where South could not tell if the lead was from a jack-nine-eight combination or a doubleton eight-three.

Using a suit preference signal can make a difference in your match point score. Watch what happens on this deal from the second final session of the Life Master Open Pairs as Mark Aquino and Jonathan Green defend a doubled contract. Aquino and Green finished second in the event.

**Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.**

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

Green led the ace of clubs and Aquino followed with the jack. Green got the message and underled his heart ace-queen to Aquino's king, unblocking the suit. Aquino returned a heart to the queen and Green cashed his ace as Aquino pitched a club. When Green led his last heart, declarer called for dummy's trump eight, but Aquino was able to overruff with the nine. Declarer guessed the spade situation correctly, but plus 300 still was worth 81 out of a possible 90 match points.

**Would You Like to Play  
or Defend?**

**Michael Rosenberg, New Rochelle, NY**

I was having dinner with a friend after the second Board-a-Match qualifying session, and we were going over the hands. "Board 23 was a dull push for us," he said. "Four spades making in both rooms."

"I guess it was no problem after a heart lead," I said. Then quickly covering the Deep Finesse analysis result, I asked, "Would you rather play or defend four spades?"

He thought a little and replied, "Play, obviously. Even on a trump lead, declarer wins the second trump and runs diamonds to pitch a heart."

This was the deal:

**Board 23. Dealer South. Both Vul.**

<p>♠ A Q J ♥ A Q J 10 8 3 ♦ J 3 ♣ Q J</p> <p>♠ 7 5 3 ♥ 6 ♦ A K 8 4 2 ♣ A K 10 8</p>	<p>♠ K 8 6 4 2 ♥ 9 5 ♦ 10 7 6 5 ♣ 7 2</p> <p>♠ 10 9 ♥ K 7 4 2 ♦ Q 9 ♣ 9 6 5 4 3</p>
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"And what if North ducks the first trump?" I asked.

"Oh! You're right! I guess I defend."

"But did you notice the club position?" I went on. "Declarer can cash clubs to discard a heart while North is ruffing with a trump trick."

"Oh! You're right! I guess I play."

"Unfortunately you go down.," I said. "North ruffs the club, then underleads his heart to partner who gives him another club ruff with the ace. Then the spade ten is the setting trick."

"Oh, so you can't make," he said.

"Are you kidding?" I exclaimed. "Four spades is cold!"

"But how?" he asked in exasperation.

"All East has to do is withhold the king of spades. Now the defence is left without recourse."

**Bulletin Treats**

**Brent Manley & Henry Francis, Memphis, TN**

There was plenty of good news and bad news on the following board.

**Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	Pass
1 ♥	2 ♦	3 ♦!	4 ♣!
Double	Pass	Pass	4 ♦
Pass	Pass	4 ♥	5 ♦
5 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

I. Limit raise in hearts

This was the auction when Debbie Drury was North and Gail Nye was South. With a fine fit for partner's diamonds, Nye found a bid that most players wouldn't think of – that four club bid. Of course that got her partner off to the right opening lead – a club.

Nye ruffed and then she made a nice play to go with her nice bid – she underled her diamond ace. Drury (no relation to the author of the Drury Convention) (*although the convention bears Douglas Drury's name, I am assured by Eric Rutherford Murray that Murray himself invented it to protect himself from his own third-chair openings; coincidentally, with Drury as his partner. – Ed.*) won with the king. She cashed the ace of spades to set the contract, then led another club when Nye followed to the spade ace with the discouraging deuce. That was a two-trick set worth all 38 match points.

Most declarers made a lot more tricks than that. Without the club bid, it isn't easy for North to lead a club. That brings us to a tale of woe from Brian Senior of England. It is typical of Senior that he tells of how he went wrong instead of how bright he might be. This was the auction:

West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	2 ♠!
Pass	Pass	3 ♣	3 ♦
3 ♥	4 ♠	5 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Senior was North and his partner was Nigel Bird, also of England. The play was over very swiftly. Senior cashed the spade ace, his partner's suit, and Bird followed with the discouraging deuce. So Senior switched to the ten of diamonds, won by Bird's ace, but that was the end of the defence – five hearts bid and made.

Senior has two points to make about all this. First, he strongly criticized himself. "I should have given my lead at trick two a little more thought," he said. "Partner obviously wanted me to switch, but clubs looked wrong – look at those clubs in dummy. So, diamonds looked right. But not the ten! I should have played the king of diamonds to see what partner played. He would have followed with the deuce. Then, of course, I would have led a club because he denied both spades and diamonds. He would have ruffed and we would have beaten the contract."

His second point concerns his partner's bidding. "I think partner should have doubled five hearts. That certainly would have got me thinking – my partner opened with a weak two-bid and now he's doubling. He had already shown two suits, so he probably was 6-5 in spades and diamonds. If he had two singletons he wouldn't double, so there would have to be only one possible answer – he had two trumps and no clubs. Now as long as I was awake I would find the club lead and five hearts doubled goes down."

When Richard Pavlicek and Rich Pavlicek Jr. won the Life Master Open Pairs, they became the first father-son duo ever to achieve the feat. As expected, when asked for key deals from the event, Dad focussed on young Rich. Here are two examples of the fine play by the younger Pavlicek that contributed significantly to the victory. Both come from the first final session.

**Dealer East. Both Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
—	Senior		Junior
—	—	Pass	1 NT
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West led the two of clubs, attitude, and Rich took the queen with his king. At trick two, he played a spade to dummy's jack, then called for the queen of diamonds, covered by the king and ace as West tossed a low heart.

A spade to the king was followed by the diamond eight, ten, jack, club five. Now came the heart king, a heart to the ace and a diamond to the six as West, clearly in trouble, tossed another club. On Rich's last diamond winner, West threw yet another club. Reading the situation accurately, Rich exited with the ten of clubs to West's jack. After cashing the club ace, West had to lead from his spade queen into Rich's tenace. Plus 660 was a tie for top.

Two boards later, Rich had a chance to shine on defence – and he took it.

**Dealer West. NS Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
	Richard Sr.		Rich Jr.
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	3 ♦	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♦	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 ♠	Pass
6 ♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

East-West can make slam in three denominations – clubs, diamonds and no trump – but the play is not trivial. In the

slam bid against the Pavliceks, Rich made a play that caused declarer to take his eye off the ball, with fatal consequences.

Rich led the six of clubs, taken in dummy with the ace. Declarer immediately played a diamond to the queen – and Rich ducked. With a peek at all the cards, declarer would simply have cashed the diamond ace and exited with a third round of the suit. He would then have had ample entries to dummy to ruff the clubs good and claim his slam.

When the diamond queen held, declarer reentered dummy by playing the spade ten to the queen, and when he played a diamond to the jack, Rich won the king and exited with the spade eight. That was it for the slam. Transportation between the East-West hands was completely messed up, and the best declarer could do from there was two down.

When the following deal was over, Samuel leong could only shake his head at the lost opportunity. Still, even thinking about what might have been was fun. The deal occurred in the second qualifying session of the Bobby Nail Life Master Open Pairs. leong was playing with Adam Meyerson.

**Dealer North. Neither Vul.**

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

1. Strong and artificial
2. Negative
3. Relay to show a strong hand
4. Bad hand
5. 20-22 balanced
6. Diamond signoff or invitational in a major suit
7. Forced
8. Invitational with hearts

South started with a low club, which went to the jack and ace. leong played the two of hearts from hand, to the seven, eight and nine. North got out with the seven of clubs to leong's king. Next came the heart ace, on which South tossed a club. South pitched another club as declarer continued with a heart to North's queen. When North cashed his last heart, leong pitched his last club, as did South. This was the position with North to play:

<p>♠ Q 10 3 ♥ J ♦ J 9 6 ♣ —</p>	<p>♠ 6 ♥ — ♦ K 10 7 5 3 ♣ 5</p> <p>♠ A K 9 5 4 ♥ — ♦ Q 2 ♣ —</p> <p>♠ J 8 7 2 ♥ — ♦ A 8 4 ♣ —</p>
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North played his last club (best), and leong had his chance to make his contract by pitching a spade from hand. Observe what happens if he does so. South is caught in an unusual, non-material squeeze. He cannot discard a spade or all of declarer's spades will be good. It doesn't help, however, for South to let go of a diamond. If he does so as dummy ruffs the thirteenth club, leong could then play the queen of spades and the spade ten to his ace, unblocking the suit, then exit with his diamond two.

What can South do then? If he hops with the diamond ace, leong has only two diamond losers, and he makes his contract for the loss of three hearts and two diamonds. If he plays low, leong plays any diamond from dummy and sits back and waits for North to continue a diamond to South's bare ace, leaving South on lead with the spade jack-eight as leong waited with the king-nine.

Alas, as leong confessed, "I got greedy." Instead of pitching a spade, leong discarded the diamond two, the correct play if spades were breaking – he would then take nine tricks. Once he pitched the diamond, however, leong could not make his contract. His score for down one was not terrible – many pairs were higher – but leong was annoyed with himself for missing the opportunity.

A cardinal rule of bridge is, 'never ruff your partner's ace.' But 'never' rules are never quite never.

**Board 26. Dealer East. Both Vul.**

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

Mike Shuman, West, broke the rule – the only way to set the contract at the point where he ruffed. Alan Truscott, the

declarer, came by to tell us about it. Shuman led a heart to Truscott's ace, and Truscott crossed to dummy with a trump to cash the two hearts and discard two diamonds from his hand. Then he got out with a diamond to East's queen. East continued with the diamond king, ruffed by declarer. Truscott went after clubs, his jack losing to the queen. East attempted to cash his club ace, but Shuman was having no part of this. He ruffed and led a trump.

That left Truscott with one too few trumps to ruff out all his losers and he went one in the soup. If Shuman had allowed the ace of clubs to win, Truscott could have crossruffed to victory.

The only problem for declarer on this deal was the queen of clubs. Naturally he went on a fishing expedition to find it.

♠ A K 10 8 6 4

♥ 2

♦ 10 2

♣ K J 10 9

♠ Q J 9 7 5

♥ K 5 4 3

♦ A

♣ A 8 7

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1 ♠
2 ♦	3 ♣	4 ♦	5 ♣
5 ♦	6 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West led a diamond to the ace, and declarer crossed to dummy with a trump to ruff the other diamond. He went back to dummy and led the singleton heart. East played the jack, and declarer, not unnaturally, decided to duck (*There is nothing to gain by this play.* – Ed.). East led another heart, ruffed in dummy. Declarer came back to hand with a trump and led another heart to ruff, and down came the ace from West.

Declarer now had a reasonable count on the hand. West had one spade and three hearts. He had either five or six diamonds, so he also had to have either three or four clubs. So, following the odds, he took the club finesse against West – and lost his slam. This was the full deal:

♠ A K 10 8 6 4

♥ 2

♦ 10 2

♣ K J 10 9

♠ 3

♥ A Q 8 7

♦ K J 9 7 6 5

♣ 3 2

♠ 2

♥ J 10 9 6

♦ Q 8 4 3

♣ Q 6 5 4

♠ Q J 9 7 5

♥ K 5 4 3

♦ A

♣ A 8 7

Do you see why declarer got the count wrong? Magy Mohan, from Mexico, had false carded the heart ace on the third round of the suit, deliberately setting up declarer's king and giving him a chance to go wrong on the count as well. She

knew a discard on the king of hearts wouldn't help declarer – he had to get rid of two clubs from dummy, not one.

What an incredible false card! Who would ever read West for four hearts when she plays the ace? How did Magy ever think of that play? One player wasn't surprised – her husband, John Mohan.

"She's a great player, and almost nobody knows it," he said. (*Well done by Magy, but a poor effort by declarer. If he simply wins the diamond and plays a heart from hand, he can get a true count of hearts.* – Ed.)

The Tony Ames squad, winners of the Senior Knockout Teams, had a big lead going into the second half of their semifinal match against the all-star group led by George Rosenkranz. It was a battle royal all the way.

Ames led 82-55 with 32 deals to be played, and Rosenkranz wiped out the entire lead to get to even with a quarter to go. This deal helped Rosenkranz to a double-digit swing.

**Dealer West. Neither Vul.**

♠ Q 5 4

♥ J 9 8 5 2

♦ A

♣ K 9 7 6

♠ 2

♥ K Q 7 6 4

♦ 7 6 5 3

♣ A 8 2

♠ A K J 8 3

♥ —

♦ Q J 9 8 4 2

♣ Q J

♠ 10 9 7 6

♥ A 10 3

♦ K 10

♣ 10 5 4 3

West	North	East	South
Egan	Reygadas	Beery	Rosenkranz
Pass	Pass	1 ♦	Pass
1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
5 ♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

Rosenkranz led the four of clubs and Rod Beery ducked. Miguel Reygadas won the king, and the defence still had two trump tricks coming. Plus 50 for Rosenkranz.

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
Schermer	Ames	Chambers	Koch
Pass	Pass	1 ♦	Pass
1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
3 ♦	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♣	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
5 ♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

John Koch also led a low club to start the defence, but Neil Chambers went up with the ace, played the heart king, tempting a cover if North had the ace, ruffed the heart, then cashed the top two spades, pitching a low club from dummy. Declarer then ruffed a low spade, and when North's queen fell, Chambers ruffed another heart to hand and played the jack of spades, pitching dummy's last club. There was nothing North-South could do, and Chambers was home with his game. That was 10 IMPs to Rosenkranz.

This deal from the first qualifying session of the Blue Ribbon Pairs was, in the considered opinion of Robert Levin, a beauty to behold. On the surface, it seems to be a rather mundane part score that failed. There was much more to it than that, however, and the result helped Levin and Stevie Weinstein to second place in the event.

**Dealer North. Neither Vul.**

♠ K J 6 4 ♥ Q 8 ♦ Q 9 8 5 3 2 ♣ K  ♠ A 8 3 ♥ K ♦ 7 6 4 ♣ Q J 10 9 7 2  ♠ Q 7 5 2 ♥ A 10 7 5 2 ♦ — ♣ 8 6 5 4	♠ 10 9 ♥ J 9 6 4 3 ♦ A K J 10 ♣ A 3
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West	North Weinstein	East	South Levin
—	1 ♦	1 ♥	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	Pass	3 ♠
4 ♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

Levin didn't want to make a negative double with the South hand because he had so much in hearts, and he was void in his partner's suit. When three clubs came back around to him, however, Levin was willing to bid three spades because he could draw the inference from the bidding that his partner almost certainly had four of them.

"I figured it was about 90% that he had four spades," Levin said. For one thing, considering his own length in clubs, Levin was sure that Weinstein was short in that suit. It was also unlikely, considering that he and East had at least ten hearts, that Weinstein had very many of that suit. That left room in the North hand for diamonds and spades.

Levin was correct, of course. That was inference number one. The auction was over and now it was Weinstein's turn to do some thinking. He had to figure out how Levin could infer that he, Weinstein, held four spades.

Weinstein reasoned that Levin could infer spade length in the other hand only if he, Levin, was looking at length in clubs and hearts, meaning Levin was very short in diamonds. Weinstein's inference about Levin's inference led him to find the best opening lead: the nine of diamonds, suit preference for spades.

Declarer could have made the contract by inserting the diamond ten at trick one – he should have been working on his own inferences – but he went up with the ace. Levin ruffed and made the killing return of a low spade.

Declarer had to go up with the ace or Weinstein would win and give his partner another diamond ruff, with the ace of hearts still to come. Declarer won the spade ace and played the queen of clubs to the king and ace. He could pull trumps and take a diamond finesse, but he had no fast entry back to hand to take a second one. West tried to sneak a heart past

Levin, but Levin went up with the ace and returned a spade. The defence collected a diamond ruff, one heart and two spade tricks for plus 50!

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