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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.

Mark Horton of *Bridge* magazine in the UK has proposed the idea that the IBPA offer a new annual award for excellence in bridge column writing. We think this is a terrific idea, especially since we are, for the most part, an organisation of bridge writers! We currently offer awards in a number of areas: for best-played, best-bid and best-defended hands, for best junior deal, for book of the year and for personality of the year. The hands of the year result in awards to both the perpetrator and the journalist reporting the deal. An award for column writing would be in keeping with the goals of IBPA. One can easily think of a dozen worthy winners.

All that would be needed to set the wheels in motion for such an award would be a sponsor. Perhaps *Bridge* magazine itself would consider sponsoring the award. The *Bridge* Magazine Columnist of the Year has a ring to it, don't you think?

Since OK Bridge ended its sponsorship of the Junior award a year ago, the Junior Deal of the Year has gone without a sponsor, despite attempts to secure a successor. Surely, there must be someone out there willing to sponsor this award. Contact our President, Patrick Jourdain, with suggestions.

Congratulations are again due to Poland, with yet another success in a junior championship, this time the Amsterdam Junior International last month. This year, there were eight invited national teams for the event, and Poland defeated first Norway, then England in semifinal and final action respectively. Well done to Ewa Grabowska-Patryk Kuczera Dyga, Piotr Madry-Lukasz Brede, and Robert Dyczkowski-Jan Sikora, with Marek Markowski as non-playing captain. It would seem that they should be installed as early co-favourites, with the USA, for the World Junior Bridge Team Championship in Sydney later this year.

This is becoming rather monotonous. In adult bridge, Italy has won another major international tournament, the Weh Brothers Cup in China, held April 17-19. Once again led by Maria Teresa Lavazza, the team this time consisted of Norberto Bocchi-Giorgio Duboin, Andrea Buratti-Massimo Lanzarotti and Mario d'Avossa-Guido Ferraro. They defeated the grandly-named "The Shanghai Flag Is Loyal" team in the final by the precise margin of carry-forward, 6 IMPs.

My spies tell me that Israel, although qualified for the Venice Cup in Estoril, will not send a team. If that rumour is true, Germany will be rejoicing, as they finished in sixth place in the European Championship in Malmö, just missing qualification, and will now comprise the fifth European team in the event. Either team would have had a shot to win it all.

Please let Awards Chairman Barry Rigal know of any worthy contenders for Master Point Press Book of the Year. Any member can nominate a book for the award.

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Winning without the Hat

Larry Cohen, Boca Raton, FL

(The following article appeared in *Bridge Today* magazine. It is reprinted here courtesy of Matthew Granovetter and Larry Cohen. A little additional editing has taken place.)

A year ago, at the Spring Nationals in Reno, after years of broken promises to Matthew Granovetter, I finally joined him for a Friday night Sabbath candle-lighting service (his room was next to mine in the hotel). After that religious experience (my first), David Berkowitz and I ended up winning the pairs event.

Hmm. I told Matthew I'd be back in his room the following Friday night for services. That second Friday, our team was at half-time in our semifinal Vanderbilt match. We trailed the powerful Nickell team by a huge margin. As Matthew lit the candles, I couldn't help but think that maybe there would be another miracle in the cards. There were no more Friday-night promises to make (this being the last weekend of the tournament), so instead, I vowed to Matthew: "If we come back and win this match, I will wear your big black Chassidic hat tomorrow during the finals!"

Sure enough, we won the match, so I went to get the hat from Matthew to wear (on VuGraph, with cameras!). My team captain thought it a bad idea. He didn't want any religious symbols or omens to ruin our team karma. (Little did he know that it was my trip to Matthew's room that had us on this great roll!). He forbade the hat, and we lost the match.

A year later, I found myself back in the Vanderbilt final in Pittsburgh. Matthew was 7,000 miles away in Jerusalem, so we'd have to try to win again without the hat.

Here are two interesting deals from our semifinal match. On the first, David and I reached six no trump on these North-South cards:

♠ A K 10 6 5
♥ 9 4
♦ A K J 4 3
♣ A

♠ Q 7
♥ A K 3
♦ Q 6
♣ Q 10 8 4 3 2

If spades and diamonds behave, you have thirteen easy tricks. I received a heart lead, so I tested the diamonds first and saw everyone follow to two rounds. Now I could afford a safety play in spades (this was IMPs) to guard against RHO holding a low singleton. I played the spade queen and a spade towards dummy, but on the first round RHO had

played the eight (some sort of signal) and on the second round, LHO played the nine, so I no longer needed a safety play. I played spades from the top and when they split 3-3 I claimed thirteen tricks for plus 1020. I assumed this would be a push board (they wouldn't bid seven at the other table, would they?).

No. The other table played a small slam, but in clubs! Declarer won the heart lead and played a club. LHO followed with the nine. What would you do now?

It turns out that when the nine of clubs dropped, declarer could have played LHO for jack-nine doubleton (his actual holding) but didn't. After the club ace wins, declarer can come to hand and play the club queen to pin the now-bare jack and make his slam. In retrospect, a better play by West would have been to false-card with the jack on the first round of the suit. Then declarer has to guess if it is jack-nine or king-jack doubleton and could more easily go wrong.

The other semifinal deal of note was:

Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

At both tables, after West opened with a weak two-bid in spades, South reached four hearts. West led the top three spades, RHO playing high-low. What should declarer do on the third round of spades? When faced with this problem, my table opponent, Mike Passell, found the solution. He discarded a diamond from dummy. Now the defence could do nothing. Even on a trump shift, declarer can ruff a diamond, take his discards on the clubs, ruff a club with the ten of hearts and draw trumps to make 420.

Our team lost 10 IMPs when, surprisingly, my expert teammate failed to find the winning line. He ruffed the third spade in dummy and East over-ruffed and the contract had to fail by two tricks on a trump return. I can't give my teammate all the blame. Had I led a trump at trick one, two, or three, we could have defeated four hearts.

The Final

Our team grabbed a huge half-time lead in the match. The knock-out punch (from my point of view) was these back-to-back deals. First...

With both vulnerable, I held as North:

♠ 3 2
♥ K 9 5
♦ A Q J 10 9 6 4
♣ 7

David opened one diamond, Precision. This showed 11-15 HCP and at least two diamonds. RHO passed and I bid two

diamonds (inverted raise). LHO doubled for takeout. David passed (typically indicating a weak no trump hand 11-13) and RHO jumped to three hearts. What now?

West	North	East	South
—	Cohen	—	Berkowitz
—	—	—	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♠	Double	Pass
3 ♥	??		

I had hearts stopped and the most likely game was three no trump, so I just bid it. What does partner rate to have? Probably a balanced hand with four spades and a doubleton heart. If he doesn't have clubs stopped, so be it - they will then have to find the right lead. Sure enough, that was the case. This was the full deal...

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

Opposite that South hand, there is no game, but I received a heart lead, the queen, and when my king won the first trick I tabled my hand and scored plus 630. We can all see that East's queen of hearts lead wasn't such a good idea, but it's easier in hindsight.

This deal turned out to be a problem for the defenders at the other table as well. South started with a standard one club. North responded one diamond, South rebid one no trump and North raised to three no trump. West led the heart three, a fourth-best lead, and declarer (in desperation) put up dummy's king.

How should the defenders figure out that they have the first seven tricks? East should be suspicious (usually, declarer won't play high from dummy at trick one in such situations). Probably declarer is afraid of a black-suit switch, but which one? East cashed the heart queen at trick two. Can West signal suit-preference? Would the lowest remaining card, the heart seven, suggest a club switch? Or should West play the heart ten to deny the jack and make sure West at least shifts to something? Or maybe you prefer a high club lead at trick one from West? That would make things easy, but leading the king of the opening bid suit is a rare lead. Our teammates guessed wrong. West signaled with the heart eight and East shifted to spades, so the board was pushed at 630.

The next deal did produce a gain (and it stretched our lead to 60 IMPs). (See top of next column.)

We both pushed a bit, but you know what they say about bidding close vulnerable games at IMPs. Again, we had no legitimate play (best defence also beats four spades), but opening leads and defence aren't always perfect.

Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	Berkowitz	—	Cohen
—	Pass	Pass	1 NT
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the diamond nine (promising the ten and maybe a higher honour). I won dummy's jack and played the spade jack to trick two. East won and did not have an easy decision. Should he return his partner's diamond suit? This would be necessary on many layouts (for example, suppose that West holds: ♠A-10-9-x-x or ♠K-10-9-x-x and a side entry).

East guessed wrong and continued diamonds. That was all the help I needed. (A reverse *Smith echo* by West would have worked. The spade eight says: "I don't like my suit." - editor.) I drove out the other spade and when the heart ace was right, I had the timing for nine tricks and plus 600. Our counterparts rested sensibly in a spade partial making nine tricks for 140 and we won 10 lucky IMPs. This built our lead to nearly 60 IMPs and the match never got close.

The entire first half went this way - we kept bidding pushy vulnerable games and they kept on making. David likes to go with the flow. If he sees that the games are not making, he gets conservative. Here, however, he saw that everything was making and he became aggressive. This may not sound so scientific, and maybe we should all follow the formula that works so well for Meckwell: Bid every close game, period. I recall reading in *Bridge Today* about the standards for three no trump declining each year. On the above two deals we had 22 and then 24 HCP, which seems about the norm these days. As long as they keep making, we'd better keep bidding them, hat or no hat.

Pittsburgh Spring NABC II

Brent Manley, Memphis TN
Karen Walker, Champaign IL
 (& others where noted)

(From the Daily Bulletins. Some additional editing has taken place.)

Continued from last issue...

The Jack Coup

Jacques Sormany of Chicoutimi, Québec reported this deal from a Saturday afternoon pairs game. (See next page.)

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

North opened one no trump and South raised to two no trump, which was passed out. As South tabled the dummy, he commented, "Sorry, partner – eight points, but including four jacks."

East led the spade four, taken in dummy with the jack. A diamond went to declarer's king and East's ace, and a club was returned to West's king. Later in hand, declarer led a heart to dummy's jack, ducked by West. Back in hand, declarer took a winning club finesse of the jack. Finally, West was down to the bare ace of hearts and was thrown in with it. With nothing but diamonds left, he could only cash the queen and surrender the eighth trick to dummy's diamond jack. Two no trump made two – the jacks took half the tricks.

**Sweet Ending
Barry Rigal**

Mike Kamil found a neat play on this deal from the second final session of the Silodor Open Pairs.

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

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

West led a low spade, taken by Kamil (South) in hand. Technically this is not a problem – you start diamonds and hope to survive a club shift if diamonds do not behave. Kamil, who was not having a stellar set, decided to try something else. He played a low diamond from hand at trick two, attempting to confuse the defenders.

When West showed out, pitching a heart, Kamil played dummy's diamond eight, taken by East with the nine. A spade

went to West's ace and a third spade cleared the suit. Now Kamil ran the hearts, and this was the six-card ending:

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

On the last heart, East had to discard a club or Kamil's diamond suit would run. Kamil pitched a club and noted that West discarded a spade (he did not know Kamil had such good diamonds, so he was worried that Kamil might have the ace of clubs). This was the clue that East had the club ace.

Kamil played the three of diamonds to the ten and ace, and when he exited with a club to East's now-bare ace, East had to lead into the diamond tenace (king-queen-seven) at the end for the overtrick.

**The Squeezer
Barry Rigal**

On this deal from the North American Pairs, Bart Bramley read the cards nicely, and then found the way to extract the maximum from the deal (spots approximate).

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

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

1. Inverted raise.

Playing three no trump on a fourth-highest spade lead, Bramley (South) won in hand. He advanced the ten of clubs, covered to his pleasure by the queen and ace. He won the spade return in dummy and ran three clubs. West pitched two low hearts and a low diamond.

Bramley now reflected on why West would let go of a diamond. The carding had marked West with 4-4-4-1 shape. Why did he pitch a diamond? Bramley presumed that West thought

he could afford it – hence West’s most likely holding was K-Q-x-x. Trusting his judgment, Bramley cashed three hearts, ending in hand. West was squeezed on the hearts. He was forced to pitch a spade, so Bramley cashed his spade king and exited with a low diamond, end-playing West to concede the last two tricks to Bramley’s ace-jack of diamonds.

Bramley called it the “ace squeeze.” Some might call it an immaterial squeeze. Whatever you call it, I call it very elegant.

Bluff, Double Bluff, or What?

Barry Rigal

From the second round of the Vanderbilt Knockout Teams, two declarers were faced with an intriguing percentage problem.

♠ A 4
♥ A K Q 7 6 2
♦ Q 10 5 3
♣ 3

♠ K Q J 5 3 2
♥ 5
♦ K 9 6 2
♣ A 5

With both sides vulnerable, you bid to six spades. West leads the four of clubs (fourth best). The obvious choice is among (1) ruffing a club with the spade ace (say, a 68% line); (2) ruffing a club low, cashing the ace of spades and leading a diamond to the king; (3) and simply drawing trumps and testing the hearts, then trying to guess diamonds. It’s not clear which line is best – both of the first two require a 3-2 split in a suit where you are missing five cards. For better or worse, one declarer followed line three – at the other table he went for line one.

If you draw trumps, you find them 4-1, with the length on your right, so at least you’ve avoided immediate defeat. On the fourth trump, to your surprise, West pitches a heart. That looks ominous, and indeed it is. When you test hearts, you find them 5-1, with the length on your left. This is the ending:

♠ —
♥ 7 6
♦ Q 10 5
♣ —

♠ 5 3
♥ —
♦ K 9 6
♣ —

You are in dummy. You can ruff a heart to set up the suit and lead the diamond king from hand – this brings in the suit for one loser whenever the diamond jack is on your left or the ace of diamonds is doubleton on your left, better than a 50% chance. But should you play that way? Would West have allowed you to set up hearts, given that he must have the option of pitching a club? Is he trying to persuade you to follow this losing line?

For what is it worth, declarer did ruff a heart to lead the king of diamonds. East ducked and showed declarer his ace-jack of diamonds for down one. Well defended by West (Billy Cohen), albeit for a flat board. The entire deal:

♠ A 4
♥ A K Q 7 6 2
♦ Q 10 5 3
♣ 3

♠ 10
♥ J 10 8 4 3
♦ 7 4
♣ K J 9 4 2

♠ 9 8 7 6
♥ 9
♦ A J 8
♣ Q 10 8 7 6

♠ K Q J 5 3 2
♥ 5
♦ K 9 6 2
♣ A 5

Stepping Up

Philip Silverstein and Alene Friedman of New York City weren’t having much of a game in the first qualifying session of the Mixed Pairs on Tuesday, but Silverstein did have the rare pleasure of executing a stepping stone squeeze for a tie for top. It was reported by Steve Conrad, the victim of the squeeze who appreciated the elegance of the play if not the result.

Dealer East. NS Vul.

♠ 7 2
♥ 9 2
♦ Q 8 5
♣ A K Q 10 4 3

♠ A K Q 10 8 3
♥ K Q
♦ 10 9
♣ 8 7 6

♠ J 5 4
♥ A 8 5 3
♦ K 7 6 3
♣ 9 5

♠ 9 6
♥ J 10 7 6 4
♦ A J 4 2
♣ J 2

West	North	East	South
Silverstein		Friedman	
—	—	Pass	Pass
1 ♠	3 ♣	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

North started with the top two clubs. She could have defeated the game by switching to a diamond, but she continued with a third round of clubs. Silverstein ruffed with dummy’s spade jack and, guided by the preemptive jump overcall from North, did not seriously consider simply leading up to dummy’s king of diamonds for his tenth trick. Instead, he ran off all six of his trumps, reaching this ending, with South still to play.

♠ —
♥ 9 2
♦ Q 8
♣ —

♠ —
♥ K Q
♦ 10 9
♣ —

♠ —
♥ A 8 5
♦ K
♣ —

♠ —
♥ J 10 7
♦ A J
♣ —

South (Conrad) is stuck. If he discards a heart – which is what he did in practice – declarer simply cashes the heart king and overtakes the queen with the ace to enjoy the heart eight as his tenth trick. It doesn't help for South to keep his hearts and discard the jack of diamonds. Declarer then cashes the hearts from his hand and exits with a diamond to South's bare ace. South must then play a heart to East's ace for the tenth trick.

One Man's Bad Luck...

Barry Rigal

Not many people know David Berkowitz's middle name: it's chutzpah. You know what chutzpah is, as in when someone murders his parents and then throws himself on the mercy of the court as an orphan.

Anyway, David came out of the second set of his third-round Vanderbilt Knockout Teams match with a card so good he could hardly carry it. Still, he found a way to complain.

Dealer East. NS Vul.

♠ Q 5
♥ 9 6 4 3
♦ 7 6 3
♣ K 9 6 4

♠ A K 10 2
♥ A K J 10 5 2
♦ —
♣ Q 8 2

West	North	East	South
—	—	2 ♦	Double
5 ♦	Pass	Pass	5 ♥
Pass	6 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Against the slam, West led the ace of diamonds, ruffed by Berkowitz with the heart ten. He cashed the ace of hearts, dropping East's singleton queen, crossed to the heart nine and ruffed a diamond high, crossed to the club king and ruffed dummy's last diamond high, then played the last trumps and the queen of spades – a dummy reversal plus a squeeze.

This was the ending that was reached:

	♠ 5	
	♥ —	
	♦ —	
	♣ 9 6 4	
♠ ? x x		♠ x x
♥ —		♥ —
♦ —		♦ K
♣ A J		♣ 10
	♠ A K 10	
	♥ —	
	♦ —	
	♣ Q	

You will notice that West still has five cards while everyone else has four. To keep spades guarded, West must pitch his jack of clubs. Now a club to the ace end-plays West to lead into the spade tenace. Berkowitz therefore claimed his contract – then discovered that East had held three spades to the jack all along, so any line of play would have succeeded.

P.S.: Berkowitz gained about 100 IMPs on the set, and was still complaining to anyone who would listen what an unlucky player he is.

Saving Tricks

On this deal from the Vanderbilt Knockout Teams, Italian star Fulvio Fantoni made an inspired guess to save a trick in a sacrifice. The deal was reported by Elio Catalfamo (hands rotated, spots approximate).

Dealer South. EW Vul.

♠ 7 4
♥ 10 9 6
♦ Q 10 9 8
♣ K 9 5 2

♠ K Q J 8 3 2
♥ K 8
♦ K J 6 2
♣ 7

♠ A 10 6 5
♥ 7 4 3 2
♦ 7 5 4
♣ A 6

♠ 9
♥ A Q J 5
♦ A 3
♣ Q J 10 8 4 3

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	Fantoni
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠	1 ♣
4 ♠	5 ♣	Pass	3 ♣
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

West started with the king of spades and continued the suit. Fantoni ruffed and played the club jack to East's ace. Back came a low heart, and Fantoni considered his play for some time before rising with the ace. He picked up the last trump and exited with a low heart.

West was in and forced to concede a ruff-sluff, on which Fantoni would discard the losing diamond from his hand – or play a diamond, eliminating the loser that way. That was minus 100 instead of 300, a very good save.

Brilliant Display

On the first deal of his team's match against the Roy Welland team, Bill Pettis managed to bring home a very difficult contract, playing it practically double dummy. His squad emerged with a 6 IMP win over the No. 3 seed, thanks in large measure to this deal. Pettis was playing with Frederick Allenspach against Roy Welland and Björn Fallenius.

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

♠ 7 4 3
♥ K 5 4
♦ A Q 9 7 5 3
♣ 6

♠ A K Q 10 8
♥ 6
♦ K 4
♣ K 5 4 3 2

♠ J 9 5 2
♥ Q 10 8 7
♦ J 10 8
♣ 9 8

♠ 6
♥ A J 9 3 2
♦ 6 2
♣ A Q J 10 7

West	North	East	South
Welland	Allenspach	Fallenius	Pettis
—	—	—	1 ♥
1 ♠	2 ♠	Pass	4 ♥
Double	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
Pass	5 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Welland started with two high spades. Pettis ruffed the second round. At trick three, he played the club ace, followed by the club queen. Welland did not cover, so Pettis discarded dummy's last spade. Welland again refused to cover when Pettis played the club jack, so he discarded a diamond from dummy.

Fallenius ruffed the club and offered an unhelpful ruff-sluff by playing the jack of spades. Pettis pitched a club from hand as he ruffed the spade in dummy. A heart went to the nine in declarer's hand, then Pettis finessed the queen of diamonds, cashed the diamond ace and ruffed a diamond to hand, leaving this end position:

	♠ —	
	♥ K	
	♦ 9 7	
	♣ --	
♠ Q		♠ 9
♥ —		♥ Q 10
♦ --		♦ --
♣ K 5		♣ --
	♠ --	
	♥ A J	
	♦ --	
	♣ 10	

Pettis ruffed the ten of clubs with the heart king as Fallenius undertruffed, leaving the lead in dummy for the contract-fulfilling trump coup. Had Pettis gone down in his contract (four hearts was successful at the other table), his team would have lost the match.

A Stout Declarer Play Effort

Alan Stout and Lynn Deas had worked their way up to sixth place going into the last round of the Mixed Pairs. On the first board, they bid a 17-point six spade slam, got doubled and made an overtrick. On the last board, Stout faced a challenging declarer-play problem on this deal...

Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

East	South	West	North
—	Stout	1 ♣	Deas
—	—	1 ♦	1 ♦
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠	Double
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

The opening lead was a low spade, won by dummy's ace. Stout, who's not normally a slow player, took several minutes to play out the rest of the hand. His line was:

Trick 2: diamond two from dummy to West's queen

Trick 3: club to South's queen

Trick 4: heart to dummy's king and East's ace

Trick 5: club to South's club ace

Trick 6: spade ten, diamond pitched from dummy, to East's jack

Trick 7: spade to the nine and king, heart four ruff.

Stout led a low diamond from dummy and ruffed, felling West's ace. He had five tricks in, and this was the position at trick nine:

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

Stout played the heart queen and the spade queen, ruffing in dummy. Diamonds from dummy now allowed him to take nine tricks - the heart nine could have scored en passant otherwise. Nevertheless, Stout and Deas could only come second.

Egyptian Defence

Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
el-Ahmady	—	Sadek	
—	—	—	1 ♣ ¹
Pass	1 ♦ ²	1 ♥	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	1 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Strong
2. Value showing

El-Ahmady led the heart eight to the nine, ducked correctly by declarer. Sadek shifted to the seven of diamonds, ducked, and a heart was returned to dummy's king. When the nine of spades was led from dummy, Sadek hopped up with the ace to play a second diamond to scuttle the contract by two tricks.

Playing Time
Roger Lord

Mike Flader is a busy tournament director who also writes the Ruling the Game column for the ACBL Bridge Bulletin. As such, he doesn't get to play a lot. He managed four sessions in the Lebhar IMP Pairs, finishing an impressive eleventh overall with Warren Foss of Omaha, Nebraska as his partner.

This deal from the first final session shows that Flader, of Eagan MN, can make good plays as well as good rulings. The opponents were Chip Martel and Martin Fleisher.

Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Flader	Fleisher	Foss	Martel
—	—	—	1 ♣
Pass	1 ♥	1 ♠	2 ♣
2 ♠	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♣
Pass	5 ♣	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

Flader started with the ace of spades and continued with a spade to his partner's jack. Martel ruffed the third round of spades low, then entered dummy with the ace of diamonds, followed by a club. When Foss showed out of trumps, Martel put in the queen from his hand (*the ace is better - Ed.*). Flader won the king and, instead of carelessly playing back a low trump, he got out with the nine of clubs.

Consider how the play would go if he exited with the club five. Martel wins the club six in hand, ruffs a diamond in dummy, cashes the top hearts, pitching his other losing diamond, then ruffs a heart to hand high, pulls Flader's trumps and claiming for one down.

After the return of the nine of clubs, it's a different story. Martel wins in hand with a high club, ruffs the diamond with dummy's club eight, and when he attempts to get back to his hand with a heart ruff, Flader's club seven turns into a trick.

Also of interest: on a double-dummy basis, Martel could have made ten tricks for down one without a diamond ruff simply by winning the trump return and running his trump winners, catching East in a red-suit squeeze. But that could have been beaten by West returning a heart upon winning the club king.

I BPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

309. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

Three no trump promised 5-7 points and a spade raise based on three small trumps. West led the jack of hearts; declarer took this in hand with the ace and cashed the ace and king of trumps, revealing he had a loser there. Despite this, he saw a way home. He cashed the king of hearts, the ace of clubs and the ace of diamonds before putting West on play with a trump. As West had only clubs and hearts left, the slam was made.

If West had held another low diamond it would have done him no good, for when he led it, declarer would call for dummy's ten; if East followed diamonds would be breaking 3-2 and the suit would play for four tricks; if West started with four diamonds, dummy's ten would hold and declarer's jack of diamonds would be discarded on one of dummy's winners.

Note that if declarer does not cash the ace of diamonds before exiting with a trump, West avoids giving a trick away by leading a diamond. Then, no matter whether dummy plays the ten or low, East covers North's card as cheaply as possible. From there, East will make a diamond trick – provided, of course, he never discards a diamond.

310. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

Again, three no trump promised 5-7 points and a spade raise based on three small trumps. Again, West leads the jack of hearts, won by South's ace. This time, the ace and king of trumps reveal that it is East who has the trump trick.

After cashing the king of hearts, ace of clubs, two lines offer themselves:

1) Cash the ace of diamonds and exit with a trump. This wins if there is a singleton queen of diamonds, or if East has either that card or a small singleton. The total chance is around 62%.

2) Cash the ace and king of diamonds before exiting with a trump. This wins when there is a singleton or doubleton queen of diamonds and when East has a small singleton or doubleton diamond. The total chance is a little over 73%.

So adopt the second plan.

311. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

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

This hand occurred in Round 7 of the 2005 South-West Pacific Championships held in Canberra. I was South and my bidding in three suits suggested a singleton heart. My partner, Stephen Lester, now decided to bid six clubs, despite the obvious worry that his trump support was underweight in honours.

The defence now had to do several things right in order to beat the slam. The first was to attack hearts which West did as the auction all but demanded he do so.

I took the lead with dummy's ace of hearts and led a trump. If you had been East, would you follow with the seven or insert one of your honours?

At the table, hoping that I would finesse the queen, East followed with the seven. However, I had no intention of finessing the queen immediately, because there was a second chance; that East might hold J-10-x. So I covered the seven of trumps with the eight and was somewhat amazed when it held the trick.

Now came the ace of spades and a spade ruff, dropping East's queen. A trump to the queen was followed by another spade ruff and I could now claim the contract whether or not East was able to over-ruff.

To defeat six clubs, East needed to insert the jack or ten of trumps on the first round. The difference then is that East will gain the lead at some point and force declarer with a heart and so promote a second trump trick for himself.

312. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
4♥	Pass	Pass	6 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

After West's preemptive opening South had no sensible way to investigate slam. Instead, he decided to make a classic slam try; bid the slam then try to make it!

West led the ace of hearts and declarer ruffed and drew the trumps. Now all he had to do was manage the clubs for a one loser.

Next, South led a club and finessed the ten, thereby losing two clubs and finishing one trick short. Without the preemptive opening this would undoubtedly be the best line for three tricks in clubs.

However, playing a low club to the queen is a better choice. Why? Well, this succeeds when West has a doubleton ace or jack (assuming East would not duck the club queen with ace-third). It also succeeds when East has a singleton or doubleton jack of clubs.

So what are the odds? Well, the long answer is that they depend on the assumptions you make about the West hand. For example, if West could have seven or eight hearts then finessing the ten of clubs wins about 33.6% of the time compared to 41.7% for my suggested line. If West is known to have eight hearts then these odds change to 28.5% and 40.1% respectively.

On the other hand, if you suppose West started with eight hearts and would have led a singleton diamond or club and would have led a lower heart with a diamond void, then West's possible shapes are:

♠ x ♥ AKQxxxxx ♦ xx ♣ xx 33.33%
 ♠ x ♥ AKQxxxxx ♦ xx ♣ Jx 33.33%
 ♠ x ♥ AKQxxxxx ♦ xx ♣ Ax 33.33%

So, the suggested line wins in both cases 2 and 3, or twice as often as finessing the club ten.

Still, no matter what assumptions you make, the odds are always in favour of leading a club to the queen, provided of course East never ducks with the ace-third of clubs - and such a duck is highly unlikely against a slam!

Hong Kong Intercity Quiz

Paul Marston, Double Bay, NSW
Nigel Rosendorff, Nedlands, WA

(From the Daily Bulletins)

1. How would you handle three no trumps as South on the following layout?

Dealer East. Neither Vul.

♠ K 4
 ♥ K 8 6 5
 ♦ 8 5 4 3 2
 ♣ Q 7

♠ Q 9 3
 ♥ A Q 3
 ♦ A Q J
 ♣ K 10 6 2

West	North	East	South
—	—	1 ♣	1 NT
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West leads the jack of spades to the king, ace and three. You duck the next spade to West's ten. West then switches to the nine of clubs, ducked round to your ten. What now?

At the table, declarer played ace and queen of diamonds without luck:

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

The winning line is to play three rounds of hearts ending in dummy. When hearts fail to break, play a diamond to the jack and exit with a club to the queen and East's ace. East will exit in turn with a club to South's king. But South cashes the spade queen and exits one last time with a club to East

who has nothing left but diamonds, allowing declarer to take a second finesse.

2. Want to try your hand again? This time you are West.

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

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

North leads the diamond ace, king and queen. South follows twice then discards a low heart. North then cashes the spade ace and exits with another spade. You win with the king of spades in dummy. How do you continue?

North is known to hold five diamonds. From the bidding it is clear that North also holds three spades. What about the heart position? If South held four hearts along with his four spades, he would surely have responded one heart, not one spade. Therefore, it is a bridge certainty that North has four hearts. So his distribution must be 3-4-5-1.

Top marks if you cashed the club king and played a club to the nine! As North shows out you return to dummy with the heart queen and take the club finesse again.

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

You can be sure that South will feel aggrieved about not making a single club trick. When he petulantly asks, "How did you figure that out?" to really annoy him, you should reply, "Hold your cards back!"

3. Youth player Tzu-Lin Wu has all the attributes of becoming a master player (if he is not already), following in the footsteps of other champion Chinese Taipei players. See if you can do as well as he on this board. This time you are East.

Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

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

South leads the spade six and your jack wins in dummy. You lead a club to the queen, which wins. Plan the play from this point on.

<p>♠ 5 ♥ Q 9 7 5 ♦ K Q 2 ♣ K 9 6 4 3</p> <p>♠ J 10 8 7 4 ♥ K J 3 2 ♦ 10 8 3 ♣ 8</p>	<p>♠ A 3 ♥ A 10 8 ♦ A 7 6 ♣ A Q J 7 5</p> <p>♠ K Q 9 6 2 ♥ 6 4 ♦ J 9 5 4 ♣ 10 2</p>
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From the auction, a diamond lead looks right, but South started with the spade six. Tzu-Lin won the spade jack in dummy and led a club to his queen. Then he made the key play of a low club. South won the ten and belatedly switched to diamonds. Tzu-Lin ducked two rounds of diamonds and won the third. Then he made the fine play of cashing the ace of spades in this position:

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

North, squeezed, chose to discard a heart. Wu then led the heart eight to the king and a low heart back to his ten and cashed the ace. He then exited with the seven of clubs to North's nine and won the forced club return with the queen and cashed the ace of clubs for a well-deserved nine tricks.

More from the 2005 NEC

Eric Kokish, Toronto; Richard Colker, Wheaton, MD; Steve Landen, Detroit

The Preliminaries

Hana v. Russia. Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Hayashi	Gromova	Maeda	Ponomareva
1 ♥	Pass	3 ♥ ¹	Pass
6 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Weak

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Karpenko	Nagasaka	Vasilkova	Hanayama
1 ♣ ¹	Pass	1 ♦	Pass
2 ♥ ²	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Polish-style, FI

2. Strong, FI

With no top losers, six hearts would seem to have legitimate chances, the disgusting dummy notwithstanding. Nobu Hayashi ruffed the opening spade lead and could have succeeded either by conceding a diamond, taking a diamond ruff, and leading the jack of hearts, or by leading the heart queen from hand at trick two, either forcing a trump entry to take the diamond finesse while keeping control, or, if South ducks, depriving him of his trump winner. Not unreasonably, Hayashi played heart ace, heart nine, planning on taking a diamond finesse and hoping for 2-2 trumps or a singleton king. Not this time.

Ponomareva won the king of hearts on the second round of the suit and played a second spade, and declarer could not quite get home: if he crossed to the jack of hearts, he would need two diamond ruffs with dummy's sole remaining trump, and if he did not use dummy's heart entry he would have to lose a diamond trick. One down, minus 100, and 13 IMPs to Russia when Karpenko finished plus 650 in a non-challenging four hearts.

Japan v. USA. Board 17. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Landen	Furuta	Casen	Chen
—	2 ♥ ¹	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 4+ hearts/4+spades, 0-10 HCP

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Shimizu	Mori	Nakamura	Koneru
—	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
3 ♦ ¹	Pass	3 ♥ ²	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Three-card limit raise

2. 'Last Train' game try

A featherweight Chen/Furuta two-bid stole the pot. Three hearts went three down, minus 150.

Against Nakamura's four spades, Koneru led the club queen, Rusinow. Declarer won with the ace, cashed the ace-king of trumps, crossed to the diamond ace, and led toward the ten of spades. Mori won with the jack and returned his remaining club to get a ruff. However, with the queen of diamonds onside and the ten of clubs available to discard a heart, Nakamura had the rest for plus 420. 7 IMPs to Japan.

Imagination
Steve Landen

Japan will be a force to be reckoned with in future World Bridge Federation events. Witness Japan Hana on this deal in their round robin match versus the USA team.

Board 14. Dealer East. Neither Vul. North

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kobayashi	Mori	Shimizu	Koneru
—	—	Pass	Pass
1 NT	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Landen	Nagasaka	Casen	Hanayama
—	—	Pass	Pass
1 ♣	1 NT	2 ♣ ¹	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	3 ♥	3 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Stayman

Kobayashi decided to muddy the waters with a slightly off-shape third-in-hand one no trump opening. He continued the charade by showing his four-card major in response to Stayman and arrived in four spades. His partner Shimizu showed no sense of humour.

Mori led the heart king and continued with the queen. Declarer ruffed, drew trumps and claimed the rest; plus 480.

In the other room Landen opened a rather unimaginative one club, and Casen eventually took the push to three spades. Nagasaka led the heart king, then shifted accurately to diamonds. Hanayama won the third round and played the thirteenth, putting paid to the contract; minus 50. Japan Hana outplayed USA by four tricks and went on to win the match and to finish second in the round robin. Good luck, guys!

In one semifinal match, Israel led Japan Open at the start of the second half by 2 IMPs, 42-40. But the match would open up in a hurry...

Board 21. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

Open Room/Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Doron	Nakamura	Israel	Shimizu
Chen	Barel	Furuta	Campanile
—	Pass	1 ♦	Pass
1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠	2 ♦
3 ♣	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Although three no trump was made at three of the four tables in play, it is not an easy contract to play. Consider the fate of Kazuo Furuta, who got the lead of the diamond six from Migry Campanile. When Michael Barel could not cover the eight, Furuta decided not to waste any of his potentially-important diamond honours and followed with the five.

Next, he led a heart to the ten and jack, and back came the club nine to the jack and king. He knocked out the ace of hearts, won the passive heart return, cashed his two remaining hearts (pitching first a spade and then a club), and led the three of spades to the king and ace. Campanile exited with a spade, Furuta flying with the queen to exit with a third round of the suit to North's jack. North exited with the club queen, smothering declarer's now vulnerable ten, and Furuta could no longer count nine tricks - in fact, he couldn't even count eight, and the contract ended two down, minus 100.

In the Open Room, Yasuhiro Shimizu boldly led the nine of clubs to the jack and king, so Israel Yadlin could attack hearts from the right side, Shimizu covering the ten with the jack, then ducking the eight on the second round. The spade king was taken by the ace and Shimizu exited with a spade, but Israel rose with the queen to drive out the ace of hearts, simultaneously end-playing Shimizu, who had to play a diamond, giving declarer his ninth trick.

Israel took four hearts, one spade, two diamonds, and two clubs for plus 400. 11 IMPs to Israel.

In Russia/Poland versus Japan-Hana, three no trump was made at both tables (once with an overtrick and once with two overtricks) for a 1-IMP pickup for R/P.

"What were the opening leads?" you might ask?

Takeshi Hanayama led the diamond king, Adam Zmudzinski the heart ace, both well-reasoned choices. All of this suggests

that this would be a good lead problem for a bridge magazine panel. I guess we'll see soon enough whether diligent magazine editors read this rag.

Board 22. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Doron	Nakamura	Israel	Shimizu
—	—	Pass	1 ♦
3 ♦ ¹	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
5 ♣	5 ♠	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Bid 3NT with a diamond stopper

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Chen	Barel	Furuta	Campanile
—	—	2 ♦ ¹	Pass
2 NT ²	Pass	3 ♣ ³	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Weak 2♥ or weak 2♠
2. Asking
3. Five-card weak two

I'm not sure how Dawei Chen planned to extricate himself if his two no trump inquiry had caught a different reply, but here two no trump worked marvelously: plus 110 in three clubs, the defenders combining nicely to arrange an over-ruff in spades (diamond king to the ace, spade to the king, spade queen, overtaken, spade jack...).

Meanwhile, back in Deadwood Gulch, where the bidding started more traditionally, the Negev's Lone Ranger tried the effect of asking for a diamond stopper. Lesser men would deliver some serious help in the other side suits, but Doron Yadlin is not generally concerned with incidentals of that nature. If his brother couldn't bid three no trump (no matter that Yoshiyuki Nakamura showed a good hand), then Doron couldn't very well stay out of five clubs, and his decision worked well, pushing Nakamura to five spades, where he was doubled for penalty by Israel Yadlin. Three rounds of hearts and a club trick defeated five spades doubled two tricks, minus 500. 9 IMPs to Israel.

The Final (Israel v. Russia/Poland)

Israel reached the final for the second consecutive year. Coincidentally, they would play their quarterfinal opponent from 2004. Would the Russians and Poles get their revenge?

You may have heard this somewhere before, but the fireworks started immediately.

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Doron	Gromov	Israel	Dubinin
—	Pass	Pass	1 ♥
1 ♠	1 NT	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zmudzinski	Barel	Balicki	Campanile
—	Pass	2 ♥ ¹	Pass
2 ♠ ²	3 ♣	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Hearts + another suit
2. Pass or correct

Whether Gromov was uncharacteristically trying to throw sand in the Israeli's eyes with his one no trump bid or whether he was systemically showing clubs (or the minors?) only his psychiatrist may know. But whatever the motive, the Yadlins had no trouble reaching their cold four spades and Doron took twelve tricks when Gromov led the heart seven to the queen and Dubinin tried to cash the ace at trick two. Plus 480.

At the other table the wheels came off for the Poles. Kokes thinks the blame lies with the hopeless two heart convention: two spades could be based on three small if responder is short in hearts, so East cannot risk competing with three spades over three clubs.

Cokes think that obstructive methods such as these come with a price: much of the time they confuse the opponents, but occasionally they confuse the users. If one is philosophically wedded to their use, one must be prepared to pay the piper when called to do so and get on with life. In this case the ticket to getting on was minus 470 when Barel scored up three clubs doubled: spade to the ace, king of diamonds to the ace, club to the jack and queen, diamond to the queen, diamond ruff, claim. 14 IMPs to Israel.

Since Cokes and Kokes have both weighed in with their opinion on the cause of this opening-board disaster, I'll (JC) offer mine as well. The rot is not due to the convention itself, but its misuse by the practitioners: the decay started with Zmudzinski's two-spade response to the opening bid. If that is truly pass-or-correct (it strains credulity), then their bad result was already assured. If Barel had not interrupted their auction with his bold (Edgar Kaplan's euphemism for a questionable action which has the merit of succeeding) three-club bid, two spades would have become the final contract.

As it was, the West player must ask himself (as in all pass-or-correct situations) where do I want to play if Partner's other suit is spades? Certainly in game – so two spades as a choice is out. What about three clubs? If he judges that that is the limit, then three clubs (pass or correct) should be the call. If he judges that his hand is worth an invitation in clubs, then three diamonds must be the call. It's possible of course that three clubs and three diamonds have some arcane meaning in the Balicki-Zmudzinski system; if so, the system needs some re-working.

The principle is the same for all multiple meaning bids – you simply make the cheapest bid you want your partner to pass. The implication is that you are strong in each of the denominations bypassed.

Another point deserves scrutiny – Balicki's pass of three clubs. I believe, in theory, that that should show spades. Since Zmudzinski bid a pass-or-correct two spades (albeit inaccurately describing his hand), it would have been incumbent upon Balicki to bid three diamonds with that as his second suit (and perhaps to double with clubs as his suit, although that may be more controversial). In any case, what he could not do on this auction with his actual hand was anything other than pass. Obviously Zmudzinski was not on the same wavelength, but I'll bet he is now!

Board 47. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Doron	Gromov	Israel	Dubinin
Zmudzinski	Barel	Balicki	Campanile
—	—	—	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Both West players led the four of diamonds, fourth best leads, against four spades. East took the king with the ace and returned the spade seven. Declarer took the ace, and passed the jack of diamonds, Doron following with the seven, Zmudzinski with the deuce. On the third round of diamonds Doron (sheepishly, we'd bet) followed with the two. Dubinin elected to let the ten run, but when West covered the fourth diamond, he ruffed in dummy and was over-ruffed with the jack. Israel returned the heart king. Dubinin ruffed, got the bad news on the spade king, and lost the club finesse for minus 100.

Campanile did better by ruffing the third diamond in dummy and cashing the ace of hearts to discard her last diamond. She ruffed a heart to hand, cashed the spade king, and took

the losing club finesse, but had lost only one spade, one diamond, and the king of clubs, for plus 620. 12 IMPs to Israel.

Israel had led since Board 1 of the final, and Russia/Poland had started the fourth quarter 37 IMPs in arrears. R/P had closed the gap to single digits, only to lose a couple more swings to get back to the 20s. The next deal effectively ended their chances...

Board 59. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Doron	Gromov	Israel	Dubinin
—	—	—	1 ♦ ¹
1 ♠	2 ♦ ²	2 ♠	Pass
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

- 1. Precision, but 4+ diamond
- 2. Hearts

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zmudzinski	Barel	Balicki	Campanile
—	—	—	1 ♣
1 ♠	2 ♥	3 ♠ ¹	Pass
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

- 1. Preemptive

With the Russians stopping in three hearts and the Israelis in four hearts, there was sure to be a swing. A spade was led at both tables to the nine and ace, and a low heart went to East's king. Israel Yadlin continued spades. Gromov ruffed, drew trumps, led to the club ace, ruffed himself in with a spade, and led the ten of clubs to dummy's king; plus 230.

The stakes were higher for Barel in four hearts. Balicki switched to the diamond three when he won the heart king, and West played three rounds. Barel ruffed, drew trumps, led to the club ace, ruffed dummy's last diamond, and eventually dropped the queen of clubs, believing East would not have bid three spades with that card in addition to the heart king and diamond queen already shown; plus 420. Israel gained 5 IMPs.

Barel had an alternative, and superior, winning play after leading to the club ace, and that was to ruff a spade and run trumps. Balicki would have been show-up squeezed into reducing to two clubs. Perhaps he was not confident enough that the Poles' carding was true. Then, perhaps Balicki should have switched to clubs rather than diamonds. In any case, the final score was 158-130 to Israel, who had improved upon their 2004 finish.

News & Results

Larry's Favourites

"MY FAVORITE 52" — by Larry Cohen — is a collection of his favorite deals — played at his table the past 30 years (he can't really be that old!). It is on an interactive CD (the user gets the story, but also can 'play along.'). It is now available for sale at U.S. \$20 + shipping at <http://www.larryco.com>. IBPA members may obtain a free review copy: e-mail Larry at l@larryco.com to get a copy by free download.

Loiben Tournament

Fritz Babsch writes to invite all to the Loiben, Austria tournament, July 31 to August 6, where he is the organiser and Chief TD. Details can be found at www.bridgeaustria.at or by emailing bridge.noe@aon.at or by phoning +43 (0) 676 72 57 213.

Pula Tournament

Jeff Easterson would like to help publicize the 44th International Bridge Festival at the Hotel Histria in Pula, Croatia, to be held from September 10-21, 2005. The organisers are Tihana & Miljenko Brkljacic. Further details can be gleaned from www.crobridge.com/pula or by telephoning +385 98 288 199.

Amsterdam Junior International April 11-15, 2005

1. **Poland:** Ewa Grabowska/Patryk Kuczera Dyga, Piotr Madry/Lukasz Brede, Robert Dyczkowski/Jan Sikora
2. **Netherlands:** Merijn Groenenboom/Danny Molenaar, Bob Drijver/Bas Tammens, Andor van Munnen/Richard Ritmeijer
3. **England:** Michael Byrne/Alex Morris, Ollie Burgess/Andrew Woodcock, Ben Green/Duncan Happer

Yeh Brothers Cup, April 17-19, 2005

1. **Italy:** Norberto Bocchi/Giorgio Duboin, Andrea Buratti/Massimo Lanzarotti, Mario d'Avossa/Guido Ferraro
2. **The Shanghai Flag Is Loyal:** Shaolin Sun/Xin Li, Zhong Fu/Jie Zhao, J Chen/JF Peng
3. **Canada:** Eric Kokish/George Mittelman, Fred Gitelman/Geoff Hampson
3. **Shanghai Wen Guang:** SX Wu/WM Wang, Zejun Zhuang/HJ Shi, LX Yang/JM Dai

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<http://www.bridgebase.com/>
<http://www.swangames.com/main/index.html>

Tournament Bulletins

<http://www.worldbridge.org/competitions/>
<http://www.eurobridge.org/index2.html>
<http://www.acbl.org/play/nabc3.html>
<http://www.pabf.org/competitionCorner.asp>
<http://www.bridgeplaza.com/>
<http://bridge.cplaza.ne.jp/necfest.html>
<http://www.thecavendish.com/>

Miscellaneous Information

<http://www.greatbridgelinks.com>
<http://www.ecatsbridge.com>
<http://www.math.aau.dk/~nwp/bridge/>

Online Transmissions

May 3	Schapiro Spring Foursomes	BBO
May 4-7	Norwegian Club Team Championship	BBO
May 4-8	Cavendish Invitational	BBO
May 6-8	Swedish Team Finals	Swan
May 15-22	USBF Team Trials	BBO
May 22	Scotland v All Stars	BBO
May 26-28	Tallin Invitational Pairs	BBO
May 28-29	Polish National Trials	BBO
Jun 18-Jul 2	European Open	Swan
Jul 7-12	Nordic Championship	Swan
Jul 9-17	Danish Bridgefestival	Swan
Aug 3-4	Swedish Chairman's Cup	Swan
Sep 2-3	Polish Team Grand Prix	BBO
Sep 23-25	Polish First Division	BBO
Dec 16-18	Polish Pairs Grand Prix	BBO

IBPA WEBSITE NOTICE

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www.IBPA.com/484hb.pdf

You can download a copy of the Handbook from www.ibpa.com (click on the link at the page bottom). When you try to open it will ask for a password, which is: **ihccaT** EXACTLY as it appears here.

World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
2005			
Apr 29-May 12	Festival International de Bridge	Juans-les-Pins, France	www.bridgejuan.com
May 4-5	Bonn Nations Cup	Bonn, Germany	www.bonn-bridge-club.de
May 4-8	Cavendish Invitational	Las Vegas, NV	the_man001@mindspring.com
May 11 & 12	European Simultaneous Pairs	Clubs in Europe	www.eblsims.org
May 12-16	Autumn Nationals	Adelaide, Australia	www.abf.com.au
May 12-22	USBF Open Team Championship	Houston, TX	www.usbf.org
May 14-21	23 rd CACBF Zonal Championships	San José, Costa Rica	www.cacbf.com
May 16-22	XVIII International Tournament	Costa Calida, Murcia, Spain	http://bridgecc.com
May 22-29	7 th Deutsches Bridge Festival	Binz auf Rugen, Germany	www.bridge-verband.de
May 26	Bridge Pro Tour	Cleveland, OH	www.bridgeprotour.com
May 28-29	19 th International Team Tournament	Amsterdam, Netherlands	info@bhs.nl
May 31	Bridge Pro Tour	Sacramento, CA	www.bridgeprotour.com
Jun 3-4	Worldwide Simultaneous Pairs	Clubs Everywhere	www.ecatsbridge.com
Jun 4-12	USBF Women's Team Championship	Las Vegas, NV	www.usbf.org
Jun 6-12	III International Bridge-Golf Festival	Almeria, Spain	bridgegolf@bridgegolf.com
Jun 9-18	SA Bridge Congress 2005	Capetown, South Africa	www.sabf.co.za
Jun 15-19	XV th European Summer Games	Clermont-Ferrand, France	www.eurosportfestival2005.org
Jun 17-Jul 2	2 nd European Open Championships	Tenerife, Canary Islands	www.eurobridge.org
Jun 23	Bridge Pro Tour	Cherry Hill, NJ	www.bridgeprotour.com
Jun 23	Bridge Pro Tour	Las Vegas, NV	www.bridgeprotour.com
Jun 23-Jul 3	6 th PABF Championships	Seoul, South Korea	www.abf.com.au
Jun 24-26	Carta Mundi Bridge Festival	Ostend, Belgium	chris_leysen@cartamundi.com
Jun 30-Jul 1	Bridge Pro Tour	Long Beach, CA	www.bridgeprotour.com
Jul 1-3	Hans Christian Anderson Open	Odense, Denmark	www.bridgeopen.dk
Jul 1-7	International Festival	Hammamet, Tunisia	ftbridge@planet.tn
Jul 4-7	USBF Senior Team Championship	San Antonio, TX	www.usbf.org
Jul 7-10	18 th OECS Bridge Championships	Dominica	www.cacbf.com
Jul 7-12	Nordic Teams Championships	Vingsted, Vejle, Denmark	dbf@bridge.dk
Jul 8-11	Scottish BU National Congress	Peebles, Scotland	www.sbu.dircon.uk
Jul 9-17	Danish Bridge Festival	Vingsted, Vejle, Denmark	www.bridgefestival.dk
Jul 10-21	17 th Maccabiah Games	Israel	www.maccabi17.com
Jul 13-23	20 th European Youth Championships	Riccione, Italy	www.eurobridge.org
Jul 18-31	Festival de Bridge	Deauville, France	www.ffbridge.asso.fr
Jul 21-31	ACBL Summer NABC	Atlanta, GA	www.acbl.org
Jul 23-Aug 6	Australian National Championships	Sydney, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Jul 31-Aug 6	Wachauer Bridgewoche	Loiben, Austria	bridge.noe@aon.at
Aug 6-9	Pesta Sukan	Singapore	www.scba.org
Aug 7-17	10 th World Youth Team Championships	Sydney, Australia	www.worldbridge.org
Aug 12-21	Brighton Summer Congress	Brighton, England	www.ebu.co.uk
Aug 15-18	Prize Money Bridge University	Las Vegas, NV	www.bridgeprotour.com
Aug 16	Bridge Pro Tour	Secaucus, NJ	www.bridgeprotour.com
Aug 16-21	Hong Kong Inter-City	Hong Kong, China	www.hkcba.org
Aug 18-28	Festival de Bridge	la Baule, France	www.ffbridge.asso.fr
Aug 20-21	Selangor Congress	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	www.scba.org
Aug 22-26	9 th European University Bridge Cup	Rotterdam, Netherlands	www.eurobridge.org
Sep 1	Bridge Pro Tour	Santa Clara, CA	www.bridgeprotour.com
Sep 1	Bridge Pro Tour	Pittsburgh, PA	www.bridgeprotour.com
Sep 10	International Pairs Tournament	Verona, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Sep 10-21	44 th International Bridge Festival	Pula, Croatia	www.crobridge.com/pula
Sep 24-31	National Congress	Hamilton, NZ	www.nzcba.co.nz
Sep 28-Oct 2	Festival	Venice, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Oct 11-15	14 th Sun, Sea & Slams	St. Michael, Barbados	www.cacbf.com
Oct 13-16	4 th European Champions Cup	Brussels, Belgium	www.worldbridge.org
Oct 15-16	Lederer Memorial	London, England	simonx@simonx.plus.com
Oct 22-Nov 5	37 th World Team Championships	Estoril, Portugal	www.worldbridge.org
Nov 13-20	11 th Red Sea International Festival	Eilat, Israel	www.bridge.co.il
Nov 17-27	ACBL Fall NABC	Denver, CO	www.acbl.org
Nov 19-25	5 th International Bridge Festival	Cuba	www.cacbf.com
Nov 23-27	Sicily Open	Cefalù, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Nov 28, 30	European Internet Simultaneous Pairs	Clubs in Europe	www.eurobridge.org
Dec 2-4	International Teams Tournament	Milan, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Dec 12	Bridge Pro Tour	Palm Springs, CA	www.bridgeprotour.com
Dec 16-18	Junior Channel Trophy	Belgium	www.ebu.co.uk
2006			
Mar 7-12	Commonwealth Games	Melbourne, Australia	a.halmos@mit.edu.au
Mar 30-Apr 9	ACBL Spring NABC	Dallas, TX	www.acbl.org
Jun 9-24	8 th World Championships	Verona, Italy	www.worldbridge.org
Jun 30-Jul 2	6 th World Youth Pairs Championship	Piesztany, Slovakia	www.worldbridge.org
Jul 3-10	7 th World Junior Camp	Piesztany, Slovakia	www.worldbridge.org
Jul 13-23	ACBL Summer NABC	Chicago, IL	www.acbl.org
Aug 12-26	48 th European Team Championships	Warsaw, Poland	www.eurobridge.org
Nov 23-Dec 3	ACBL Fall NABC	Honolulu, HI	www.acbl.org