



BULLETIN

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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.

The ink was barely dry on the Terence Reese/David Rex-Taylor Buenos Aires story when the "Cars", Massimo Lanzarotti and Andrea Buratti, winners of this year's Cavendish Pairs, were thrown out of the Open Teams in the 2nd European Open Bridge Championships in Tenerife last month. What's more, their team, Lavazza, was penalised, in effect, 25 Victory Points in their match against Israel. The Italians had won the match 25-2, but after a lengthy, high-level Appeals Committee hearing into the conduct of the Italian pair during the match, the match score was changed to 18-0 Israel. What circumstances could produce such an unusual occurrence? Read on (reprinted verbatim from the Appeals Report in Daily Bulletin No. 11 of 28 June)...

Disciplinary Hearing No. 2. Italy v Israel

Appeals Committee: Bill Pencharz (Chairman, England), Herman De Wael (Scribe, Belgium), Jens Auken (Denmark), Grattan Endicott (England), Jean-Paul Meyer (France)

Open Teams Swiss "A" Round 6 Board 23. Dealer South. All Vulnerable.

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

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

Contract: Six Diamonds, played by South
Lead: ♥A

Play: ♣9, taken by the King, ♦J-6-2-7, claim

Result: 12 tricks, NS +1370

The Facts: At the end of the play, East called the Director to explain what he had seen.

The Director: Told the facts to the Chief Tournament Director, who decided to call upon the Appeal Committee to hold a Disciplinary Hearing. Present: All players, the Captain of East/West, and the Coach of North/South.

The Players: The Chief Tournament Director explained to the Committee what the East player had told him. Dummy, North, had leaned across to take a look into East's cards. East had then noticed that North had held his arms crossed, and had signalled with three fingers on his arm. East had seen a signal with three fingers three times. Declarer had then played the ♦J at trick three, and had let it run, thus making his contract.

East then told the same story in his own words. He had not shown his cards, but North had taken a look into them anyway. East had seen three fingers on three occasions, and he had called the Director after Declarer had successfully finessed in diamonds. East complained that he had been so shaken about the whole thing, that he could no longer play to his full capacity. They had lost the match 2-25. West related the play to the first three tricks: West led the ♥A, East contributing the ♥8; West then asked a number of questions, particularly about the ♥K, which South confirmed having shown in the auction; West switched to the ♣9, taken by the King. After some thought, South called for the ♦J, East contributing the ♦6 in tempo; South thought for some more time and let the ♦J run.

East once more showed what he had seen North do: the left arm lay before him on the table, the right hand lay across it, with the

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middle three fingers pointing downwards. East showed that he had seen the three fingers once across the wrist, once across the forearm and once free on the table in front of the arm.

South was asked to confirm the play as described above, which he did. South was then asked to explain why he played the diamonds in the manner he did. He gave the following responses:

- The lead of the ♠A was curious because dummy had not made a cue-bid in hearts;
- After all the questions he decided to play diamonds 1-3;
- The first two boards were bad for him and he needed 20 VP to qualify for the next round;
- Diamonds are always badly divided in this tournament.
- He had also found the ♦Q on board 24 (West commented that he had made lots of bids on that board, so finding that Queen was clear-cut).

North explained that all through the day, when dummy, he had laid both arms on the table and rested his head on them. This could not be confirmed by East/West since this was the third board of the match and he had not been dummy on the first two. North told the Committee he had only 20% vision in his left eye, and the red honours were all the same to him from that side.

When confronted with East's statement, North denied that he had looked at East's cards. The Coach of North/South, in the name of their Captain (who was absent), explained that he had told his team to win the match by at least 19 or 20 VP. He had never heard allegations of this kind in 30 years' work for the federation and this particular team. West finally added that South had also put his head on his arms while thinking about running the ♦J.

The Committee's Deliberation: The Committee addressed the issue of their jurisdiction under the Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge. Under law 91B: *Right to Disqualify, The Director* (and on a reference, the Committee) is specifically empowered to disqualify a contestant for cause. The Committee also addressed certain technical issues raised by North/South:

- The Committee rejected the argument that "Diamonds are always badly divided in this Tournament".
- The Committee noted that bidding and making Six Diamonds by normal play was quite likely to win the board as the slam was not straightforward to bid.
- The Committee noted that tackling diamonds (trumps) by leading the Jack was singularly against the odds; except in the specific circumstances when declarer knows that East has exactly three diamonds. In this case the odds are 3-1 in favour of leading the Jack.
- The Committee noted that East's duck of the Jack of Diamonds was correct technique. South could have had five diamonds, in which case it is a normal gambit to lead the Jack to induce a cover with Q10x.

The Committee's Reasons: In the play of the hand, East/West believed that Declarer had acted upon improper information conveyed from dummy. They suggested how this information was possibly passed. When asked to explain his reasons for playing the hand in such a fashion declarer gave a number of reasons which the Committee found unconvincing. It was adjudged that the nature of these explanations by a competent player was self-incriminating.

The Committee's Decision:

- Lanzarotti-Buratti to be disqualified from the teams event - Law 91B.
- Match Score adjusted to 18-0 in favour of the team of East/West.
- Matter to be referred to the Credentials' Committee with reference to the Pairs' event in these Championships.

After the preliminary rounds were completed, there was a Captain's meeting to determine the opponents for the knockout portion of the Open Teams. When it was

announced at this meeting that Buratti-Lanzarotti had been disqualified and their team penalised for their conduct (*everyone* knew about it), the Appeals Committee received a standing ovation! This was possibly the first time in the history of bridge that a Committee decision was greeted in such a fashion.

It was not over, however. In Daily Bulletin #14, the Appeals Committee published the other results of this board.

Statistics on Board 23 from the Open Teams Qualification Session 3. Disciplinary Hearing No. 2

The Scoring department has provided the Appeal Committee with the following information concerning the board that was the subject of the Disciplinary Hearing No. 2. This board was played in 41 matches, at 82 tables.

- 2 tables played unconventional contracts (6♣ -4; 2♥X -5 by West)
- 49 tables played No Trump contracts (43 in 3NT, 1 in 4NT, 4 in 6NT)
- 31 tables played in Diamonds (4 in 5♦, 27 in 6♦). Of these 80 (49+31) contracts, 2 declarers made only 10 tricks, 73 made 11 tricks, and 5 made 12 tricks.

Those five declarers were:

- The South players for teams:
- Tor: 6NT= on the lead of the ♦7
- Goded: 6NT= on the lead of the ♣3 (incidentally these two teams played each other)
- Sazonov: 6♦ making on the lead of the ♠8
- Queran, 6♦ making on the lead of the ♦7
- and Mr. Buratti, 6♦ making on the lead of the ♥A.

As if all this were not momentous enough, now the FIGB, the EBL, the ACBL and the WBF have difficult decisions ahead of them regarding further disciplinary action. Let us hope they will not be deterred from supporting the Appeals Committee. Inaction would send the wrong message to Appeals Committees everywhere.

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Synchronicity

The 2005 Bonn Nations Cup

John Carruthers, Toronto

The 20th Bonn Nations Cup was held May 4-5 at the Stadthalle Bad Godesburg in Bonn. The organisers invited 24 national teams to take part, including one from Canada. Fortunately, my Canadian team had other commitments, and I was able to inveigle the powers-that-be into allowing me to play with a transnational squad including Sabine and Jens Auken and P.O. Sundelin! Only later did I learn that this was the only time in the history of the event that this had happened.

The tournament is co-sponsored by the Bridge Club of Bonn and the German Bridge Federation. Two 12-team sections each play a round robin to produce the two finalists whilst the other 22 teams soldier on through three rounds of Swiss to decide third place.

In the Group B round robin, with one match to go, it was possible for Poland, France and Canada(!) to qualify for the final, and since Poland was playing France (narrowly in the lead over Canada), we had high hopes. A 17-13 win was not enough, however, as France also won 17-13 and pipped us by 1 Victory Point. It was worse than that: if we had scored one more IMP in the final match, or our opponent, Belgium, had scored one fewer, or if France had scored one fewer or Poland one more, we'd have tied France in VP and won the tie-breaker (our head-on match). Arghh!

Sundelin showed his class early and often. Witness this effort against Switzerland:

Match 2. Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

♠ 7 5
♥ 10 4 2
♦ A 5
♣ K Q J 7 5 4

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

♠ 10 6 2
♥ Q 7 3
♦ 10 9 7 6 4
♣ A 6

West	North	East	South
Carruthers	L.Weiss	Sundelin	F.Weiss
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

South found the effective lead of the ace of clubs, then continued with a club when his partner encouraged. North won the continuation and exited passively with a third club, ruffed in the dummy. Sundelin drew trumps and tried the diamond jack, not quite believing North would have the ace. Nevertheless, North won and played another club, ruffed by declarer.

Sundelin then cashed the king and the queen of diamonds. As unlikely as it seemed, North had started with:

♠ 7 5
♥ ???
♦ A 5
♣ K Q J 7 5 4

Feeling it impossible for him to hold the heart queen in addition to these solid values and have been silent during the auction, Sundelin played the heart jack from hand. This was covered by the queen and won with the ace on the table. A heart to the eight saw him home with plus 420.

Declarer contrived to give Sundelin a chance to shine on defence on the following deal from our match versus Finland.

Match 5. Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

♠ 7 5
♥ K 6
♦ A J 5
♣ A K J 7 4 3

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

♠ A 4
♥ Q J 8 5 2
♦ K 6 4 3
♣ 9 6

West	North	East	South
Carruthers	Bergroth	Sundelin	Raunto
—	1 NT	Double ¹	Redouble
Pass	Pass	2 ♠	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. 1-suiter or both majors

I led the spade two and declarer ducked the ten and won the spade king continuation with the ace, six, seven. Declarer next played a heart which I won with the ace to attack diamonds, leading the nine (0/2 higher). Declarer rode this to his king, played a heart to his king and tried to cash two club tricks. Sundelin ruffed in this position:

♠ —
♥ —
♦ A J
♣ J 7 4 3

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

♠ —
♥ Q J 8
♦ 6 4 3
♣ —

It is tempting to exit with a reflex spade in this position. Look what happens if Sundelin does that. Declarer ruffs and draws the last trump – what am I to discard? Declarer does not even have to know what he is doing to execute the 'automatic' trump squeeze on the West hand. Instead, Sundelin exited with his diamond into dummy's ace-jack and declarer no longer had the entries to execute the trump

squeeze. "Did you just break up a trump squeeze?" I asked Sundelin. He nodded modestly.

The next deal was very painful for me, coming as it did in the final match of the round robin (against Belgium), with qualification for the final at stake. Was I careless, or merely unlucky?

Match 9. Board 24. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

♠ A
 ♥ A J 10 5 4
 ♦ J 9 5 2
 ♣ A 7 5

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

♠ 9 8 6 3
 ♥ 3
 ♦ A Q 10 4 3
 ♣ K 8 3

West	North	East	South
DE Donder	Carruthers	Amsel	Sundelin
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	5 ♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

East led the club queen. I won the ace, cashed the spade ace, travelled to dummy with the club king and ruffed a spade with the diamond five. East dropped the king on this, but his partner had shown an odd number. I continued with ace and another heart, ruffing low in dummy.

When I played the next spade from dummy, I had to decide whether to place any credence whatever in West's signalling, or whether to believe East's spade king. It looked to me that ruffing with the nine was safe, and that's what I did. So long as I could safely ruff a second heart low in the dummy, it would not matter how the trumps were divided, I'd lose at most the diamond king and a club, or two trumps. Alas, West over-ruffed the diamond four with the six. When the trump king turned up offside as well I was one off.

Had I instead chosen to ruff two spades with the diamond deuce and five, I could have afforded to ruff the third heart with the ten, and I'd have lost just one trump trick. Oh well, we made France very happy.

As the final went on (Germany won easily), the non-qualifiers continued with three additional Swiss matches. As the final match was being played, the Netherlands, Poland, Denmark and Canada had a chance for third place, with Netherlands playing Poland and Denmark facing Canada. The same sequence of events which had kept us out of the final now transpired to grant us third place. We finished 1 VP ahead of the Netherlands team. One IMP fewer by us, one more by our opponent, one more by the Netherlands, or one fewer by their opponent, would have resulted in a Victory Point tie. This time the tie would have been broken in their favour. Synchronicity.

- Germany** – Encho Wladow; Michael Elinescu; Tomasz Gotard; Josef Piekarek

- France** – Alain Nahmias; Dominique Beaumier; Gaston Mejane; Patrice Dumazet
- Transnational** – Sabine Auken; Jens Auken; PO Sundelin; John Carruthers

It was a great pleasure to attend this truly well-organized event with its many fine touches in such a beautiful city. We hope to attend many more.

The Australian Senior Trials

Ron Klinger, Northbridge, NSW

Six teams competed in the 2005 Seniors Playoff. The event began with a round robin at the end of which WALSH (Barbara McDonald – Alan Walsh, Edward Griffin – Mike Hughes, Robert Krochmalik – Paul Lavings and NEILL (Bill Haughie – Zoli Nagy, David Lilley – George Smolanko, Bruce Neill – Ron Klinger) were the two leaders and went straight to the semi-finals.

Third was NIXON (John Ashworth - Terry Piper, Robert Gallus - David Smith, Grant Kilvington - Charlie Snashall, Roy Nixon npc), who chose as their quarter-final opponents the YEZERSKI team (Alex Yezerski - Gary Lane, Egon Auerbach – Judy Marks, William Westwood - Ian McKinnon). YEZERSKI won that match 77-50. The other quarter-final was between NEWMAN (John Newman - Henry Christie, Peter Buchen - Andrew Markovics, Pauline Gumby - Avi Kanetkar) who won 116-59 against NOBLE (Barry Noble - George Bilski, Chris Hughes - Wally Malaczynski, Terry Brown - Peter Chan).

In the semi-finals WALSH defeated NEWMAN 176-101 and NEILL beat YEZERSKI 217-143. NEILL defeated WALSH in the final by 167-38.

This deal from the round-robin stage produced the most diverse results:

Match 6. Board 18. Dealer West. NS Vul.

♠ 6
 ♥ 9 7 3
 ♦ K J 10 8 7 6 3 2
 ♣ J

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

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

With YEZERSKI North-South:

West	North	East	South
Pass	3 ♦	4 ♥	4 ♠
5 ♥	Pass	Pass	5 ♠
Pass	Pass	6 ♥	6 ♠
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

This went two down for minus 500. After a diamond lead, ruffed, declarer still has a spade and a club to lose. At the other table, with NOBLE North-South:

West	North	East	South
Pass	3 \diamond	4 \heartsuit	6 \spadesuit
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Lead: \heartsuit K

Declarer ruffed and played four rounds of spades. West won and, thinking East had the diamond ace, unfortunately switched to a diamond. That was worth plus 1660 to North-South and 15 IMPs to NOBLE.

With NIXON North-South:

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	4 \heartsuit	4 \spadesuit
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	5 \diamond	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

This was the only table at which North did not open with a pre-empt. There is no defence to five diamonds. To hold declarer to eleven tricks, East has to lead the club ace, followed by the the heart ace. On any other defence, declarer can make twelve tricks and so it proved for plus 950 North-South.

At the other table, with WALSH North-South:

West	North	East	South
Pass	3 \diamond	4 \heartsuit	4 \spadesuit
Double	5 \diamond	5 \heartsuit	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

There is no defence to five hearts and that was plus 650 to East-West and 17 IMPs to Nixon.

With NEWMAN North-South:

West	North	East	South
Pass	3 \diamond	4 \heartsuit	6 \spadesuit
Pass	Pass	7 \clubsuit	Double
7 \heartsuit	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Declarer had to lose a spade and a club for two down and 300 to North-South. At the other table with NEILL North-South:

West	North	East	South
Pass	3 \diamond	4 \heartsuit	4 \spadesuit
Pass	Pass	5 \heartsuit	5 \spadesuit
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Lead: \heartsuit 2

Declarer ruffed and played four rounds of trumps. West shifted to a club, holding declarer to his contract. That was plus 850 to North-South and 11 IMPs to NEILL.

Should West find the diamond lead? Is the double of five spades Lightner, asking for the lead of dummy's first suit, or is it a penalty double based on high cards? Perhaps the clue here is that South has bid five spades at unfavourable vulnerability. That strongly suggests that South is bidding to make and that in turn means that East's double asks for a diamond lead. However, East could have saved West's anguish. Instead of rebidding five hearts, East might have produced

the excellent bid of five diamonds. That would have ensured a diamond lead if South bids on.

After the three-diamond opening and four hearts by East, what action should South take? Three tables bid four spades, two bid six spades. Neither of the six-spade bidders won the board, although looking just at the North-South cards, six spades is a fair bet.

South should bid only four spades. South expects North to have at most three hearts because of the three-diamond opening. Therefore, the opponents have at least ten hearts. Even if North-South can make six spades, East-West will have a cheap save in seven hearts. South should aim to win the contract at whatever level is possible, starting with four spades, then bidding five spades and, if they bid six hearts, by bidding six spades (even though this fails on the actual layout).

Both sides reached a poor slam on this deal from the final. It was particularly difficult for both declarer and the defence.

Dealer West. N-S Vul.

\spadesuit 10 8 7 6 4			
\heartsuit —			
\diamond J 10 9 5 3			
\clubsuit K Q 5			
\spadesuit A 5		\spadesuit 3	
\heartsuit A Q J 10 9 8		\heartsuit K 6 3 2	
\diamond K 7		\diamond A 8 6 4	
\clubsuit 10 3 2		\clubsuit A 9 7 4	
	\spadesuit K Q J 9 2		
	\heartsuit 7 5 4		
	\diamond Q 2		
	\clubsuit J 8 6		

At one table it went:

West	North	East	South
1 \heartsuit	2 \heartsuit ¹	3 \spadesuit ²	4 \spadesuit
4 NT	Pass	5 \diamond ³	Pass
5 \heartsuit ⁴	Pass	6 \heartsuit	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Michaels Cue, 5+ spades and a 5+ minor
2. Splinter, short in spades, 4+ hearts, good hand
3. 0 or 3 key cards for hearts
4. In case it is no key cards

Lead: \diamond J

Declarer won with the diamond king, cashed the spade ace and ruffed a spade and ran the trumps. North held on to the ten-nine-five of diamonds and the king-queen of clubs, while South retained the diamond queen and the club jack-eight-six. Nothing good had happened for declarer and the contract was one down. At the other table:

West	North	East	South
Nagy	McDonald	Haughie	Walsh
1 \heartsuit	Pass	3 \spadesuit ¹	Double
4 \diamond ²	4 \spadesuit	5 \clubsuit ²	Pass
6 \heartsuit	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Splinter raise of hearts
2. Cue-bid

Lead: \spadesuit 8

The slam is a pretty poor prospect. Having splintered with three spades, East has no extra values. Perhaps a pass over four spades would have been enough to stay out of the slam, but then there would be no story.

Zoli Nagy won with the spade ace and played the club two: five, nine, jack. South returned a heart, won by West, and Nagy ruffed his spade loser. He drew South's trumps and continued with two more trumps. This was now the position:

```

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

When Nagy played his trump, North was squeezed. Whichever minor North discarded, declarer would pitch a low card from dummy's other minor and have the last four tricks. Well done, Nagy, particularly to visualize the possible squeeze position so early.

Still, the defence had a chance to prevent the squeeze, but it is not easy. When Nagy played a club to the nine and jack, he isolated the menaces in the minor suits. North was now the only one guarding both minors. To prevent that North needed to play the queen or king of clubs on the first round of the suit. Whether declarer takes that with the ace or ducks it, South can now hold the club suit and North need retain only the diamonds.

This deal comes from the last session of the final:

Dealer West. NS Vul.

```

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

At both tables West opened four clubs, passed to South who bid four spades, all pass. At both tables West led the heart queen, king, ace, and East returned a heart, ruffed. West then cashed the club ace.

At our table West continued with the club ten and East ruffed with the spade five, over-ruffed. Thinking that no one would be ruffing if holding queen fourth in trumps, I unwisely continued with the spade ace, spade king for one down.

Had West led the club queen at trick four or East not ruffed the club ten, there is neat trump-reduction line to make four spades. After ruffing the club, cross to the diamond ace and take the spade finesse, followed by the spade ace, West showing out. Now a low heart to the ten, ruff another club and cash the heart jack. This is the position:

```

      ♠ —
      ♥ —
      ♦ K 10 9
      ♣ —
  ♠ —
  ♥ —
  ♦ Q
  ♣ J 8
      ♠ Q 9
      ♥ —
      ♦ J
      ♣ —
      ♠ K J
      ♥ —
      ♦ 6
      ♣ —
  
```

A diamond to the king and another diamond traps East's trump holding.

At the other table Bill Haughie foresaw the danger of the trump coup. After heart ace, heart ruff, club ace, he switched to the diamond seven! Now declarer lacks the entries to achieve the trump reduction and finish in dummy after trick eleven. One down. No swing.

Bridge with the Hackett Family

Paul Hackett, Manchester

(From the Sunday Express, March 27 & April 17, 2005.
Further editing has taken place.)

Dealer East. EW Vul.

```

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

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

Ross Harper (with an assist from Paul) found a top-class defence on this deal from the Dubai teams.

Ross led the jack of hearts, which was won by the ace. The heart queen produced the king, which West ruffed. The king of clubs now looks like an automatic switch. However, look what happens if that occurs. Declarer can win the club ace and ruff a club. Now he trumps his last heart in dummy and leads a low spade from the king (guarding against a trump promotion).

East can duck and win the next spade but now West starts to get squeezed. No matter what East returns South can get back to hand and cash all his spades. West cannot guard both minors so declarer makes his contract

Ross was much more thoughtful. He returned a small diamond. Declarer won in dummy and played a small spade to the jack and the queen. He now trumped his heart and played the spade. East won and played his last diamond, taking the vital entry out of dummy. There was no way off table except the ace of clubs and a ruff and declarer had to lose his third diamond for one down.

We recently played in the invitational White House tournament, held in Utrecht, Holland. It was a superb tournament, with top teams and attractive cash prizes. All the invited teams were taken out to an excellent dinner on the Saturday night. This was one of the most interesting deals from the tournament.

Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	1 ♦
Pass	1 ♥	1 ♠	5 ♣ ¹
Pass	5 ♠ ²	Pass	6 ♣ ³
Pass	7 ♦ ⁴	Pass	Pass ⁵
Pass			

1. Exclusion Key Card
2. 2 key cards outside clubs, no heart queen
3. Anything extra?
4. Mais, oui! Could we play diamonds, perhaps?
5. Of course we could!

Often a failure to bid can provide as many clues in the play as a bid itself. This is the case in this deal, where East's decision to enter the bidding on the second round proved very expensive. East's overcall of one spade was questionable, given he didn't particularly want a spade lead from partner, and that it helped South out in the bidding and the play.

West led his partner's suit and, of course, finding the heart queen was the key to the hand. South won the spade in hand and played a low diamond to the queen in case East had all the outstanding diamonds, and ruffed a club.

He drew trumps and crossed to the spade ace, played the ace of clubs, then ruffed a club. Now, knowing East had five or six spades, one diamond, and three or more clubs, South consulted the East-West system card. He ascertained that East would have opened two spades to show five spades and a four-card minor and 4-9 points. Since he had not opened two spades, six spades, three clubs and one diamond left East with three hearts.

South duly led a low heart from hand, thrilled to see the ten appear. He won the heart king and now finessed East's heart queen for a well-deserved thirteen tricks and a 19 IMP swing.

A Fine Wine

Bob Pitts

Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

In major Swiss Teams events in Wales, the team with the highest IMP total for each match wins a bottle of wine for each member of the team. Fortunately, the organisers only allow each team to win this award once, otherwise some of the players I know would be trying for this on every round. During the Spring event in Llandudno, this good piece of declarer play by my wife Margaret helped our team towards its wine-winning match.

At both tables the contract was four spades, which goes down quickly on a diamond lead, however, sitting West, I started with a club, which partner won with the ace to return the suit. Declarer ruffed and saw nothing better than trying for either the spade king or the diamond ace to be onside. When they weren't, he was one down.

At the other table, Margaret declared the contract and saw that if the spade king is in the East hand, then it will often not be necessary to take the finesse as an elimination combined with the possibility of a three-three heart break provide much better chances.

The line she saw was: at trick three, cash the ace of spades. When the king does not drop, cross to a top heart, ruff another club and repeat the process. Now a further heart to dummy and if, as here, they break three-three, a diamond can be discarded for immediate success. If they do not break, and East has the long heart, you can ruff the fourth round of the suit and then exit with a spade to end-play East to lead up to the king of diamonds. If West has the fourth heart, then you don't need to ruff the fourth round. If the spade ace is with West and the diamond ace is on-side all along, declarer still has time to play for that possibility.

New Junior Award Sponsor

IBPA is delighted to announce that Ernesto d'Orsi of Brasil will sponsor IBPA's "Junior Deal of the Year" for the next three years.

IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

317. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1 NT
Pass	6 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

South opened one no trump rather than one heart simply because it gave the best description of his hand; the point count is right and he felt the hearts too threadbare to warrant an opening bid of one heart.

West led the jack of spades and declarer could count eleven tricks; three spades, one heart, four diamonds and three clubs. Some would attack this hand too quickly, playing top clubs at tricks two, three and four, then complaining, "How could I tell that clubs were four-two?"

The more astute declarers delay playing clubs until they have more information about how the suit might lie. After winning the king of spades, a low heart should be played from dummy. East wins the queen of hearts and returns a spade. On this layout when declarer takes the king and queen of spades he discovers that West began with a five-card suit there. Next, the ace of hearts exposes West's singleton heart. The penultimate step is to cash four rounds of diamonds, discarding hearts from hand. When West discards a spade on the fourth diamond his original distribution, 5=1=3=4, becomes public knowledge.

So declarer cashes the ace and queen of clubs and then finesses West's known jack of clubs for his twelfth trick.

Of course, if West had shown up with four diamonds he would have begun with 5=1=4=3 distribution and would arrive at the same result as the original South player.

And finally, if East had shown up with an original distribution of 2=5=2=4, he would have been squeezed on the run of the spades and diamonds.

318. (See top of next column.)

After a simple auction with a long-suit game try of three clubs, asking for help in that suit, West sensibly led a trump in an effort to protect his potential club tricks from being ruffed away.

Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

There were nine top tricks and without a trump lead the play would be straightforward. For example on a heart lead, declarer takes his three red suit winners before playing ace and another club. The defence returns a trump, wins in hand and South plays a third club. No matter what the defence does he ensures his tenth trick by ruffing his last club with dummy's jack of trumps.

The average player might not find a plan to make a tenth trick after a trump lead, but it is simple to do so once you have seen this type of deal before. The important thing for declarer to recognise is that he is unlikely to be able to ruff a club in dummy – the trump lead suggests either a pathological delight in leading trumps or, more probably, some fear that clubs may be ruffed in dummy.

What can be done? Well the idea is to score as many trumps as possible! So, with this in mind, declarer cashes the ace and king of hearts at trick two then plays a diamond to the ace to ruff dummy's remaining heart with the ace. A diamond play follows.

Suppose West wins the second diamond and exits with another trump. South wins with dummy's nine and ruffs a diamond. After a club to the ace and another diamond ruff, declarer has made five trumps in hand, two heart tricks, the minor suit aces and there is still the good jack of trumps in dummy to make his the tenth trick on a dummy reversal.

319. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

This is a simple hand with a theme that has been around for years. All it requires is a little care on declarer's part in keeping track of his potential tricks during the play... and acting on the result.

West leads the unbid suit of course, choosing the ten of clubs. After winning the trick with dummy's ace of clubs, declarer calls for dummy's queen of diamonds. East takes this with the king of diamonds and finds the menacing shift of the nine of hearts. South plays the jack of hearts from hand but his luck is out when West covers it with the queen.

After winning the trick with the king of hearts, South will regret playing a second diamond immediately. East will win the trick with the ace and continue the attack on hearts. No matter when declarer takes his ace of hearts, he has only seven tricks before East gains the lead to defeat the contract; the defence takes a spade, two hearts and two diamonds for a one trick set.

If declarer counts his tricks before leading the second diamond, he should be able to avoid this fate. As he has only seven immediate tricks if he plays second diamond, he should realize that he needs two tricks from the black suits before he knocks out the ace of diamonds. As a result, his next move should be to play the queen of spades to the closed hand's king.

It does East no good to play the ace of spades on this trick for then declarer makes four spades, three clubs and two hearts. What happens when the king of spades holds? The answer is that South cashes a top club, discarding a heart from dummy, and only now plays a second diamond. He scores a spade, two clubs, two hearts and four diamonds for nine tricks.

320. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

Being a bridge book and magazine collector can sometimes have advantages. For example, recently I came across this deal in a newly-acquired bridge magazine from 1938 published on the US West Coast. It was a double dummy puzzle for readers to solve once West led the king of diamonds.

The solution was held over to the next month and alas I do not have the relevant magazine – well, yet anyway. However, the answer must surely have been to duck the opening lead! When West leads a second diamond declarer can arrange a diamond ruff. On the other hand a trump shift does the defence no good for declarer can win, draw trumps, unblock the ace of hearts and use the ace of diamonds as an entry to the king of hearts, on which declarer's remaining diamond will disappear.

If instead declarer takes the ace of diamonds at trick one the defenders can prevent him ruffing a diamond and from ever seeing dummy again! Consequently, he finishes a trick short of his contract.



The U.S. Bermuda Bowl Trials (From various scribes)

The 2005 Trials in Houston, Texas would produce the US2 team for the Bermuda Bowl later this year in Estoril. US1 would be the NICKELL team, winner of last year's Trials for the Istanbul Olympiad. But the WELLAND team was the US representative in Istanbul, you say. Yes, but the United States Bridge Federation, in the wake of US State Department warnings about the safety of Americans in Turkey, had decreed that the 2004 Trials winner would have the choice of the 2004 Olympiad or the 2005 Bermuda Bowl. NICKELL had won the Trials and had declined to go to Turkey, opting instead to be US1 in Estoril. Not a bad consolation prize!

No one had any qualms about visiting Portugal, however, least of all the 18 teams vying for the coveted second US Bermuda Bowl berth. Sixteen of the teams (there was one bye to the quarterfinals and another to the semifinals) would play a round robin, with 13 of them qualifying for a 'Round of 16' spot with the WELLAND team (Roy Welland, Björn Fallenius, Michael Rosenberg, Zia Mahmood). Then, those seven winners would join the SCHWARTZ team (Richie Schwartz, Michael Becker, Larry Cohen, David Berkowitz, Jim Krekorian, Drew Casen) in the quarterfinals. From there on, no new teams would join the fray.

In recent years, the US Trials has become an international affair, with many foreign players moving to the US to make their mark in the bridge world. This year, four Canadians (Mark Molson, Billy Cohen, Geoff Hampson, Fred Gitelman), two Scots (Barnet Shenkin, Michael Rosenberg), a Swede (Björn Fallenius), a Pakistani (Zia Mahmood), an Indian (Pratap Rajadhyaksha), an Israeli (Schmuel Lev), and a Pole (Jacek Pszczola) would take part.

If there was a favourite, it was probably WELLAND, runners-up the two previous years and VERY hungry after their close

loss to Italy in the Round of 16 in the Istanbul Olympiad. Nevertheless, no one would be surprised if any of half a dozen others took the prize.

They Say...

Rich Colker, Wheaton, MD

They say that if you could get off to the best lead, or make the right switch at trick two on every deal that you defend, you'd be a threat to win every event you enter. To see if you're a candidate for such stardom, try your luck on this one from the first match in the round-robin stage of the United States Bridge Championship. With everyone vulnerable, second in hand, you pick up:

♠ 7 6 5 4
♥ K
♦ J 10 7 6
♣ A 9 8 2

RHO opens a 15-17 no trump, you pass (this isn't the test), LHO bids two hearts (transfer to spades), and partner doubles. RHO bids two spades (showing at least three spades), you pass, LHO bids three no trump, partner passes, and RHO bids four spades, all pass.

You're on lead and try the heart king. (Keeping partner happy is important, and he won't be for long if you ignore his helpful intrusions.) Dummy comes down and you see:

Dummy
♠ K Q 9 3 2
♥ Q J
♦ 9 3
♣ K J 7 5

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

Partner follows with the heart six (standard signals) and declarer with the heart four. Well, this is the test. Are you up to finding the 'killing' continuation?

When Bobby Wolff, many-times U.S. and World Champion, held this hand, he thought for quite a while before leading to trick two. Let's consider what he might have been thinking about. Partner has hearts, but if he held eight of them he would surely have bid three hearts (or even four hearts) over two hearts instead of doubling. So, declarer likely holds at least three hearts and partner ace-sixth or ace-seventh.

Declarer likely also has three spades for his two spade bid, so declarer probably has at least six and possibly seven minor-suit cards, while partner has at most a singleton trump. Declarer also has 15-17 HCP, and partner the heart ace (your king did hold at trick one), which means partner can't have more than another jack—and if he has that it must be the spade jack (since you can see the other three).

So, declarer is marked with the diamond ace-king queen, the club queen, as well as the spade ace (and possibly the spade jack). Not much to work with if you're going to set this contract. Counting your potential tricks, you can see two hearts and one club, but you'll need another trick which can only come from a ruff. Since partner can have at most one spade, he must cooperate and have another singleton.

The only other singleton he can have which does your side any good is a singleton club, since then you can play the ace and continue the suit for partner to (hopefully) ruff with his other singleton - a trump.

So you cash the club ace, partner following with the ten (you don't bother to look at the spot: even if it's the 'discouraging' deuce - it's the only one partner has, you hope), and continue with the club nine. Partner, bless him, ruffs with the spade jack and cashes the heart ace for down one. Congratulations!

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

Maybe you are a threat to win any event you enter!

Science - Ain't It Grand?

Rich Colker, Wheaton, MD

Science in bidding can be wonderful, but on this next deal it worked against the bidders. As South, with East the dealer and both sides vulnerable, you pick up:

♠ 10 8 7 3
♥ K 5 3
♦ 8
♣ 9 7 5 4 3

The actual auction was both artificial and complex, but the gist of it was that RHO opened a 15-17 no trump and LHO showed a 4=1=3=5 hand with 13-14 HCP before they settled in six diamonds. It's your lead.

Remember, you're still only a probationary member of the Order of Killing Leaders. Our actual South was none other than 1998 World Open Pairs Champion and 2000 World Olympiad Teams runner-up Jacek "Pepsi" Pszczola. "Pepsi" knew he could account for at least twelve of the thirteen clubs in the deck: LHO showed five in the auction, RHO had at least two for his opening one no trump bid, and he was looking at five more of them. That left partner with not too many - at most one - and maybe he could even ruff the opening lead. (Yes, partner didn't double for a club lead but he knew you had heard the auction and could work out what to lead.) So South tabled a low club. Now, to fully appreciate what happened next, we need to look at the full deal. (See next page.)

Put yourself in declarer's, Peter Weichsel's, shoes. Against suit contracts most good players lead aggressively, and South was certainly a good player. In addition, Peter knew that South knew from the auction that dummy would have five clubs, and if he (South) held a club honor (onside) it might be a good idea to force declarer to decide at trick one whether or not to finesse rather than allowing him to wait

until later in the hand when he would know whether he needed to finesse or not.

Sam Lev

♠ K 5
♥ J 8 7 6 4 2
♦ Q 10 6 4
♣ Q

Alan Sontag

♠ A J 4 2
♥ 10
♦ 9 7 2
♣ A K J 8 6

Peter Weichsel

♠ Q 9 6
♥ A Q 9
♦ A K J 5 3
♣ 10 2

“Pepsi”

♠ 10 8 7 3
♥ K 5 3
♦ 8
♣ 9 7 5 4 3

So Peter, with lots of controls but missing several important intermediates, had to make a crucial decision right away. Was South trying to talk him out of a winning finesse or was he leading a singleton? Or was he leading from length, hoping to give North a ruff (in which case he was odds-on to hold the queen himself)?

Peter finessed at trick one. Unlucky. Sam Lev won the club queen and returned a heart. Peter won the ace, ruffed a heart, finessed the diamond jack and cashed the diamond ace. When he discovered that trumps were four-one he cashed the diamond king and played a club to dummy’s ace for a quick heart pitch. But Lev was able to ruff in and play a heart to Pepsi’s king; down two and still a spade trick to lose. Ugh! Those who live by Science occasionally die by Science.

Sharp as a Knife

Barry Rigal, NYC

At these trials you can normally assume that there is a host of defenders so sharp they will cut themselves. On today’s hand there were no less than two who found the winning defence.

Deal 18 (rotated 90 degrees). Dealer North. Both Vul.

♠ Q J 10 9
♥ K 10 7 5 3
♦ —
♣ A J 9 5

♠ K 4
♥ A 8 6
♦ A Q J 6 5
♣ Q 6 3

♠ 8 7 5 2
♥ J 4 2
♦ 9 7 4
♣ 8 7 4

♠ A 6 3
♥ Q 9
♦ K 10 8 3 2
♣ K 10 2

Both Brad Moss and Jeff Aker heard the unopposed auction go:

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

Both led a low diamond to the nine and ten. Against Aker, declarer led a club to the ace to pass the spade queen. Aker ducked and won the next spade, led a low heart to the jack and queen, won the next heart, then played the diamond ace and queen. South won and now could unblock the spade ace but then had to lead the club king and another club, letting Aker cash a second diamond trick, for down one. If you had told declarer he would score three diamond tricks, I’m sure he would have expected to make the hand!

Brad Moss also led a low diamond to the nine and ten. His declarer played the heart queen at trick two - which looks better, does it not? Brad won and returned the diamond queen to the seven and king. Now came a club to the ace, the spade queen – also allowed to hold, and the spade jack, losing the trick. Moss exited with a heart, and declarer finessed the ten, for a diamond to come back and set the hand TWO tricks.

The Round Robin portion concluded with O’ROURKE (Lou Ann O’Rourke, Mike Passell, Eddie Wold, Curtis Cheek, Joe Grue) on top, closely followed by MILNER (Reese Milner, Marc Jacobus, John Mohan, Mark Molson, Sam Lev, Jacek Pszczola) and LYNCH (Dennis Dawson, Roger Bates, Bobby Wolff, Dan Morse, Pratap Rajadhyaksha, Steve Landen). None of these three teams survived their first knockout match.

This deal from the quarterfinals is a candidate for best-bid hand of the year.

Science’s Revenge

Rich Colker, Wheaton, MD

Previously, I wrote an article in which scientific bridge led to a poor result. Well, in order to get back into the good graces of the scientific community, here’s science at its best. Steve Robinson and Peter Boyd bid to an excellent seven heart contract that was missed at the other table in the fifth segment of their match against the JACOBS team.

Board 71. Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ 8 7 5
♥ 10 6
♦ Q 7 5 4 3
♣ 6 4 2

♠ A 10
♥ A K J 7 4 3
♦ 6 2
♣ A 10 3

♠ K 9 4 3
♥ Q 8 5 2
♦ A K 9
♣ K 5

♠ Q J 6 2
♥ 9
♦ J 10 8
♣ Q J 9 8 7

West	North	East	South
Boyd	—	Robinson	Pass
—	—	—	Pass
1 ♥	Pass	2 NT ¹	Pass
3 ♦ ²	Pass	3 ♥ ³	Pass
3 NT ⁴	Pass	4 ♣ ³	Pass
4 ♦ ⁵	Pass	4 ♥ ⁶	Pass
4 NT ⁷	Pass	5 ♥ ⁸	Pass
6 ♥ ⁹	Pass	7 ♥ ¹⁰	Pass
Pass	Pass		

(Explanations are on the next page.)

1. Jacoby - forcing heart raise
2. Balanced with extra values
3. Asking for further description
4. Six-card heart suit
5. 2=6=2=3 distribution
6. RKCB
7. One or four key cards
8. Sign off: in case only one key card
9. Four key cards
10. Well, if you can bid six...

As you can see, making the grand was a lot easier than bidding it. Boyd drew trumps and was able to simply ruff his third club in dummy for his thirteenth trick. At the other table East-West stopped in six hearts when West was unable to find out whether his partner was short in clubs.

Now, isn't science wonderful?

Landing on My Feet Larry Cohen, Boca Raton, FL

Much will be written about the dramatic semifinal and final matches in the U.S. Team Trials that took place in Texas in May, 2005. In the quarterfinals, two deals piqued my interest. Both deals caused me great discomfort in the auction. First, with nobody vulnerable, I held:

♠ Q 3
♥ A Q J 9 7 6 4 3
♦ Q 8 6
♣ —

My partner, David Berkowitz, opened a strong club and my RHO overcalled one spade. I bid two hearts, game-forcing. LHO raised to two spades and partner bid three clubs, natural - not a surprise. I persisted with three hearts, planning on reaching at least four hearts, maybe six. Partner jumped to five clubs. Ugh! He has long clubs and wants to play in five clubs.

Can his suit be better than mine? Am I really going to table an eight-card suit in dummy (a bridge no-no)? Are we really going to play in five of a minor when I have ace-queen-jack-eighth of hearts? I reluctantly passed and this was the full deal:

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q 3 ♥ A Q J 9 7 6 4 3 ♦ Q 8 6 ♣ --</p> <p>♠ 9 8 7 6 4 ♥ K 10 2 ♦ A J 5 2 ♣ 4</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ A J 5 ♥ 8 5 ♦ K 10 9 7 4 ♣ 7 6 3</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">♠ K 10 2 ♥ -- ♦ 3 ♣ A K Q J 10 9 8 5 2</p>	

West	North	East	South
—	Pass	Pass	1 ♣ ¹
1 ♠	2 ♥	2 ♠	3 ♣
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	5 ♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Precision

After long thought, West led a spade and declarer claimed 11 tricks. On the ace of diamonds lead (and a diamond continuation), the contract would fail. Anyway, they don't always make the right lead, and I was pleased with our plus 400. So, not only was it right to be in five clubs, but hearts plays so poorly that the limit of the hand in that strain is only eight tricks! (The other table also played five clubs making for a push).

Soon after that freak result, I picked up this hand:

♠ A Q J 9 8 7 5
♥ 9 8 7
♦ —
♣ A K 4

At unfavorable vulnerability, I opened a strong club (points schmoins). At least I had 1 more high card points than David had for his big club on the previous deal. LHO jumped to five diamonds. This is not a good auction for a strong-club system. After long thought, my partner jumped to six no trump. Again, this was not what I had in mind. Should I table another long suit in dummy? Should I bid seven spades? I didn't know what to do. I guessed to pass and the full deal was:

Dealer North. NS Vul.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ A Q J 9 8 7 5 ♥ 9 8 7 ♦ -- ♣ A K 4</p> <p>♠ 6 3 2 ♥ J 10 5 4 3 ♦ 3 ♣ Q J 5 2</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ -- ♥ 6 2 ♦ A Q J 9 8 7 6 5 4 ♣ 10 3</p> <p>♠ K 10 4 ♥ A K Q ♦ K 10 2 ♣ 9 8 7 6</p>
---	---

West	North	East	South
—	1 ♣ ¹	5 ♦	6 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	
	1. Precision		

On any lead the result would be plus 1440 -12 tricks. Had I bid seven spades, we'd have made it on the diamond ace lead, but would have gone down otherwise. We'll never know. The other table played in game, so we won 13 IMPs.

For this pair of deals, it was strange that on neither one did I get to play in my suit - ace-queen-jack eighth or ace-queen-jack seventh. In both cases, I landed on my feet. We went on to win our quarterfinal match, but that merely set us up for the drama of the semifinals.

Highlights from the Round of 8 Donna Compton, Dallas

JACOBS v. ROBINSON. After two sets against ROBINSON, the JACOBS team was sailing along, until it ran into a hurricane and lost the set 70-14. This was one of the deals that produced a game swing for ROBINSON:

Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

Admittedly, three no trump might have been less of a struggle today than four hearts but I like both Norths' decision to look for hearts on identical auctions. On an initial lead of the club jack both declarers won in hand and led a spade to the king for a heart toward the jack, finding the bad news.

Both defences played three rounds of hearts, but there matters diverged. For JACOBS, declarer cashed the club king before ruffing a spade, upon which West pitched a club, then ruffed the next club and exited a heart, sitting back to wait for a diamond trick.

Mark Feldman played the spade ace and ruffed a spade as West pitched a club. In this ending:

♠ — ♥ — ♦ A 5 4 ♣ A 9 5 ♠ — ♥ 7 5 ♦ K 3 2 ♣ 10 ♠ — ♥ K ♦ Q 10 9 ♣ Q 6	♠ J ♥ — ♦ J 8 7 6 ♣ 7
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Feldman crossed to the club queen, played out the master trump pitching a diamond from dummy, then led out master clubs. West could ruff, but then had to lead away from the king of diamonds to concede the game-going trick. Discarding diamonds is equally fatal.

EKEBLAD v. CAYNE. Watching Geoff Hampson in the middle of the match against CAYNE, I thought he judged well here.

♠ Q J 9 4
 ♥ A 8
 ♦ A J 8
 ♣ A 10 4 3

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

1. GF with clubs and a major
2. Waiting
3. KCB
4. One key card

Having opened a 14-16 no-trump you are truly at the upper range of your bid with excellent trumps – good enough to go to slam? This was the full story.

Deal 71. Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ 10 8 7 ♥ 9 6 5 ♦ 7 5 3 2 ♣ J 8 2 ♠ Q J 9 4 ♥ A 8 ♦ A J 8 ♣ A 10 4 3	♠ 6 3 ♥ K J 3 2 ♦ K ♣ K Q 9 7 6 5 ♠ A K 5 2 ♥ Q 10 7 4 ♦ Q 10 9 6 4 ♣ —
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Hampson signed off in five clubs, which went all pass. When I asked him why, he said that if his partner had had second round control in both spades and diamonds he would surely have used key-card himself. So his failure to do that suggested a lack of second-round spade control.

Right he was! In the other room North cue-bid four hearts over four clubs and South drove to slam. Admittedly, on a non-spade lead there would have been an excellent play, but East was on lead with the spade ace-king and the slam was dead in the water.

The only real upset through to the semifinals was the exit of MELTZER (Rose Meltzer, Kyle Larsen, Alan Sontag, Peter Weichsel, Lew Stansby, Chip Martel), Bermuda Bowl winners in Paris in 2001, in the Round of 16, at the hands of MAHAFFEY (Jim Mahaffey, Barnet Shenkin, Mark Lair, Garey Hayden, Gary Cohler, Chris Willenken). None of the other winners could truly claim to have been big underdogs in their matches, despite some having been less fancied than their defeated opponents.

In the semifinals, SCHWARTZ (the original #1 seed) would face EKEBLAD (Russ Ekeblad, Ronnie Rubin, Fred Gitelman, Brad Moss, Geoff Hampson, Eric Greco, the #5 seed) and WELLAND (#2) would face ROBINSON (Steve Robinson, Peter Boyd, Fred Stewart, Kit Woolsey, Bart Bramley, Mark Feldman), the original #11 seed. Most of the combatants had either won or come second in a world championship, so it would be unfair to characterize any win from here on as an upset. Still, the early money was still on WELLAND.

On to the semifinals...

Defensive Wizardry

Donna Compton, Dallas

On this deal, a candidate for the best defence of the year, declarer committed a slight inaccuracy, but it is my view that the defence deserved to beat the game for their efforts. What do you think?

Board 26. Dealer West. Both Vul. (Rotated 180 degrees)

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

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

Bart Bramley led the diamond jack, promising the queen. Let us look at the deal and speculate how many tricks you expect declarer to come to.

Well, there are clearly nine tricks available by dislodging the spade ace before playing on hearts, but let us see what happened at the table.

Roy Welland ducked the opening lead, won the next diamond, pitching a spade from dummy, and led to his heart ace – he could see the danger in taking the heart finesse. Now he planned to duck a club to West, win the return, and drive out the spade ace. But when he led a low club from dummy, Mark Feldman played the queen!

It was not safe to duck this, so Welland won and crossed to the heart king (hoping that the fall of the ten or queen would make his life easy). No luck there; so he played a spade to his king – and Bramley ducked!

Now declarer played two more rounds of clubs and committed the very slight error of leaving his own hand with the re-entry when he saw that West was about to win the third club (it seemed irrelevant to him, since he knew East had the spade ace). In this position:

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

The defence had two tricks in, and Bramley now led a heart to his partner's queen for the diamond switch. When declarer won and played a second spade, Bramley had the rest.

QED

Donna Compton, Dallas

Put yourself in the East seat on the following deal; you hear partner overcall a one club opening bid with a jump to three hearts. What is your plan on this round – and what if LHO bids spades at his next turn?

Once you've decided on that, plan the defence to five spades on the auction shown, looking only at your hand and dummy's, on a low diamond lead.

Deal 40. Dealer South. Neither Vul. (Rotated 90 Degrees)

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

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

David Berkowitz had the East hand and followed the auction shown to drive his opponents to the five level and attract the diamond lead. When his partner led a low diamond he won his ace...and shifted to a club, then took the spade ace and played a second club to get the ruff for down one. Simple arithmetic had told him that declarer must be 6-5, so partner had a singleton club. Q.E.D.

Here's a candidate for declarer play of the year:

Declarer-Play Wizardry

Tim Bourke, Canberra

Board 107. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Boyd	Welland	Robinson	Fallenius
—	—	—	3 ♠
3 NT	4 ♠	5 ♠	Pass
6 ♣	Pass	6 ♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

South led the eight of clubs, taken in dummy. Declarer played diamond king, diamond nine to the ten, then the diamond ace for down one.

West	North	East	South
Rosenberg	Bramley	Zia	Feldman
—	—	—	3 ♠
3 NT	4 ♠	5 NT	Pass
6 ♣	Pass	6 ♦	Pass
6 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Rosenberg took the queen of spades lead with the ace, then ran the clubs, reducing everyone to five cards. North kept only two diamonds and so the suit ran. WELLAND 14 IMPs.

In the other match...

West	North	East	South
Moss	Cohen	Gitelman	Berkowitz
—	—	—	3 ♠
3 NT	4 ♠	5 NT	Pass
6 ♣	Pass	6 ♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Gitleman took the eight of clubs lead with the king, played the diamond king and ran the nine, keeping the lead in dummy. Next he played the ace of spades and threw the club ace from hand. Then he played on clubs. North ruffed the third club but Gitelman over-ruffed, cashed the diamond ace and claimed the contract on a three-three heart break or South having an unlikely heart ace. EKEBLAD plus 920.

West	North	East	South
Krekorian	Greco	Casen	Hampson
—	—	—	3 ♠
3 NT	4 ♠	5 ♠	Pass
6 ♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

There were no calls for the spectacular here. No swing.

The Last Two Deals

Barry Rigal, NYC

These two deals determined the fate of both semifinal matches:

Deal 119. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

Going into this deal, ROBINSON led WELLAND by 4 IMPs, while SCHWARTZ and EKEBLAD were all square. On this deal, three tables out of four bid the distinctly marginal game of four hearts while Welland played three hearts making four.

Bramley as North for ROBINSON reached four hearts on an unopposed sequence and Zia led his second-highest club. Bramley followed a sensible line, which would almost ensure the contract if it was West who had a bare heart honour.

Bramley won the opening lead in hand and crossed to the club king and led a trump to Zia's king. When a low spade came back, Bramley guessed correctly to put up dummy's king and play a second spade. Rosenberg hopped up with the queen, cashed the heart ace and got out with a spade. Bramley ruffed and ran his trumps, reducing to a three-card ending with the king-jack-nine of diamonds facing the ace-four-two.

Since Zia had shown one singleton already, Bramley led the diamond ace from hand and was down. (The fact that West had pitched two diamonds in the ending was not significant – Rosenberg was quite capable of making the play from ♦10-x-x or the like). The 7 IMPs gave WELLAND the lead by 3 IMPs.

When Larry Cohen declared four hearts, he was treated to the lead of the spade ace. He won the club shift and stripped off the clubs, then ruffed out the spades. When he led a trump from hand, East won and shifted to the diamond ten, and Cohen claimed ten tricks.

Very good...but not good enough. Drew Casen led the diamond ten against four hearts and declarer put in the jack, which held the trick. Declarer cashed his top clubs ending in dummy and led a trump. Krekorian took his ace to try to give partner a ruff – and that was minus 650! EKEBLAD led by 1 IMP.

Deal 120. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

Three tables out of four played three no trump, some on a one-round auction, in which case a heart lead conceded 12 tricks for plus 490 for ROBINSON and SCHWARTZ. These were the goings-on at the other two tables:

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1 ♦	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

David Berkowitz as South found the 'expert' lead on this auction of the spade queen, successfully hitting his partner's length, but alas for him, not his strength. There was good news though: Gitelman won the spade ace, went to the

diamond nine to take the spade king pitching a club, then ran his diamonds.

In the four-card ending South kept the spade ten and three hearts, North the spade jack, one heart and the two top clubs. Gitelman assumed that South had the spade jack-ten left, and so led a heart to the ace – holding himself to eleven tricks and 1 IMP to SCHWARTZ: on to overtime!

West	North	East	South
Rosenberg		Zia	
Pass	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	3 ♥ ¹	Pass
5 ♠ ²	Pass	6 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Single-suited diamonds, GF
2. Mild slam try

Zia had entered the set down 25 IMPs and decided, after a five-minute pause, that since he could not be better for the auction, he had enough to bid slam. That turned the spotlight on to Feldman. If he led a club his team would win, if he led

a spade or diamond Zia would have to find the heart queen. Feldman led...a heart, and declarer claimed twelve tricks.

EKEBLAD went on to win the match on the last board of an eight-board playoff, with plus 420 at one table and minus 150 at the other, when it could have been minus 500. The match had been tied at that point.

EKEBLAD'S and SCHWARTZ'S wins in the semifinals set up a grudge match. Roy Welland had unceremoniously dumped Moss-Gitelman for Zia-Rosenberg a couple of years back. Would Zia and Rosenberg be able to prove that he'd been right?

Well, no they wouldn't. EKEBLAD came from about 50 IMPs down with 30 boards to play to win by about 50. Like they did last year, slams told the tale, WELLAND being on the wrong end of almost every slam bid in those final 30 boards. So, Russ Ekeblad-Ronnie Rubin, Brad Moss-Fred Gitelman and Geoff Hampson-Eric Greco will be US2 for Estoril. From here, they seem the most likely candidate to unseat Italy (the Olympiad champions) and US1 (NICKELL, the Bermuda Bowl champions). (*Concluded next month.*)

MIND SPORTS CREATE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

On the occasion of the Sport Accord Congress, held in Berlin, Germany on 19th April 2005,

- The World Bridge Federation (WBF) represented by Mr J. Damiani, President
- The International Chess Federation (FIDE) represented by Mr G. Makropoulos, Deputy President and Mr D. Jarrett, Treasurer
- The World Federation of the Draught Games (FMJD) represented by Mr W. Van Beeck, Vice-President
- The International GO Federation (IGF) represented by Mr E. Puyt, Vice-President and Mr R. Yamamoto, General Manager

met together under the aegis of the General Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF) to constitute the **International Mind Sports Association (IMSA)**.

The aim of this Association is to engage in a dialogue with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for the organization of the World Mind Games – Intellympiads – to be held in the Olympic cities following the Winter or Summer Games at a time to be mutually agreed.

This project would have the advantage of using the infrastructures already put into place for the Olympic Games and re-utilizing the teams of volunteers. The final objective, beyond the factual, is of course to facilitate the admission of the national federations of these mind sports into their respective National Olympic Committees.

The Association intends to work towards the recognition that teaching these disciplines to young people helps them considerably in their curriculum and career path. The Association will therefore work in liaison with – in addition to the IOC and the GAISF – UNESCO and the UN, as it is convinced of its capacity to improve the level of education in the world and to participate in a more peaceful entente through the practice of these sports.

Contacts will be made with other potential world scale sponsors to ensure that these games are profitable, without weighing on the budgets of the federations concerned, while at the same time welcoming national delegations in the best possible economic conditions, in particular through free board and lodging.

In its statutes, the IMSA has provided for the unanimity of the four founders before accepting new members. It will specially be taken into account the quality of the competitions organized by the candidates.

The IMSA will be administrated by an Executive Committee composed of the following:

- José Damiani – President
- George Makropoulos - Deputy President
- Erik Puyt - General Secretary
- Wouter Van Beeck – Treasurer
- Jean-Claude Schupp - Honorary Secretary