



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.

Good news appeared last month in the form of a confirmation from Ray Lee that Master Point Press has renewed its sponsorship of the Book of the Year Award. Although sponsorship of our awards is most often in the name of a corporation, it is always individuals who care about bridge who are behind the sponsorship: thanks to Ray and our other sponsors Dilip Gidwani (ITES – Defence), Rose Meltzer (C&R Motors, Hand of the Year), Ernesto d'Orsi (Junior Deal), and George Rosenkranz (Romex, Bidding) for their continued sponsorship.

This year we have six titles by authors from six different countries vying for the Master Point Press IBPA Book of the Year Award. As in previous years, they cover a wide range of topics: system, declarer play, defence and personal reminiscences. The candidates will be judged by an international jury comprising: David Morgan, Australia; Barry Rigal, USA; PO Sundelin, Sweden; Paul Thurston, Canada and the editor. The finalists are:

- ◆ *I Love This Game*, Sabine Auken. And who could blame her? Her German team came from 47 IMPs down in the final set against the home-team French to win the 2001 Venice Cup and she is widely considered part of the best female pair in the world. Auken uses the deals from this final session to tell the story of Germany's comeback and to illustrate her philosophy of bridge. Apart from being a terrific story, all players, no matter their level of skill, can learn something from this book.
- ◆ *Card by Card*, Roy Hughes. Having narrowly lost the award last year, Hughes' sophomore effort follows *Building a Bidding System* with a much more personal account, taking actual deals from the author's experience (and a handful of deals he loved from other sources). Hughes borrowed the 'over-the-shoulder' technique pioneered by Terence Reese and this book is as well-written and tightly-knit as its predecessor. We look forward to many more efforts from this engaging writer.
- ◆ *Serendipity in Bridge*, R. Jayaram. This is the third in a series that began with *Logic, Intuition and Instinct at the Bridge Table* and continued with *Moments of Truth at the Bridge Table*. All three have this in common: fantastic deals and wonderful insights into

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MIRAGES IN THE SAHARA

Chris Dixon, London



Chris Dixon and friends at latitude 18° north

Just ten weeks after their record-breaking bridge game at the South Pole, the intrepid Chris Dixon (England) and Harry Otten (Netherlands) were again playing in an equally-remote, but very different, location.

This time the venue was the very middle of the Sahara Desert in Niger, West Africa, as part of a journey to observe a total eclipse of the sun on March 29th of this year. The game took place after the eclipse on the sand dunes near Bilma, Niger, but this time Chris and Harry were eclipsed by a hot (42 degrees Celsius) defence from Englishman Henryk Klocek and Dutchman Gerard Hilte.

The cards, dealt out on the sand, were as follows...

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

<i>North (Harry)</i>			
♠	A Q 2		
♥	Q 9 5		
♦	10 7 3		
♣	A K 6 4		
<i>West (Henryk)</i>		<i>East (Gerard)</i>	
♠	7 3	♠	J 10 8 6 5
♥	K 10 8 7 4 3	♥	A J
♦	J 5 2	♦	K 4
♣	J 8	♣	Q 10 3 2
<i>South (Chris)</i>			
♠	K 9 4		
♥	6 2		
♦	A Q 9 8 6		
♣	9 7 5		

Harry opened one club (playing weak no trumps), and Chris bid one no trump after Gerard's one spade overcall. West passed and Harry raised optimistically to two no trump. Chris re-raised to game and this became the final contract.

Imagine the problem on defence for East after the opening lead of the seven of hearts on which Chris played low from dummy. By applying the rule of 11, Gerard knew that the heart jack could win the first

trick, but assuming Partner held the hoped-for heart king, Henryk could have no more than a point or two outside the suit.

In a moment of blinding clarity, this Flying Dutchman was quick to capitalise on what turned out to be his only chance to beat the contract. Gerard won with the heart ace and returned the jack. Bemused, Henryk took the second trick with the heart king and played a third round of the suit, on which Gerard discarded the king of diamonds! This prevented declarer from establishing the diamonds without permitting Henryk to win a trick with his jack and Chris could only come to eight tricks.

Gerard reached out to accept the applause of a marvelling audience...and discovered that the opening lead was the spade seven, not the heart seven!

A few deals later the game had to be abandoned due to a sandstorm, but we just had enough time for this last deal, featuring another intrepid Dutchman who held the following hand:

♠ 9 8 7 2
♥ Q 7
♦ K 2
♣ K Q J 10 3

Hearing the bidding opened on his right with two clubs, he doubled to show clubs and after opener had shown a strong hand with diamonds, found himself on lead against six no trump.

His lead was clear-cut - he led the club king and was rather confused when the first trick was won in dummy with the ace of SPADES. This was the full deal:

<i>North (Chris)</i>			
♠	A J 4 3		
♥	10 6 3 2		
♦	7 5		
♣	8 5 4		
<i>West (Gerard)</i>		<i>East (Henryk)</i>	
♠	K 9 8 7 2	♠	10 6
♥	Q 7	♥	J 9 8 5 4
♦	K 2	♦	8 6 3
♣	Q J 10 3	♣	7 6 2
<i>South (Harry)</i>			
♠	Q 5		
♥	A K		
♦	A Q J 10 9 4		
♣	A K 9		

The billowing sand had made the cards difficult to see, and West had had his cards mis-sorted. Leading what he had thought was the king of clubs had actually led him to find an extraordinary double-dummy defence to defeat the no trump slam. West must lead spades twice to break up the impending black suit squeeze; the first lead must be the king to block the suit and prevent declarer taking three spade tricks!

The Cavendish Invitational

Henderson, Nevada, May 10-14, 2006

Rich Colker, Wheaton, MD

World Bridge Productions (Bob Blanchard, Bob Hamman, Bill Rosenbaum and Roy Welland) runs the Cavendish Invitational Pairs each year in Las Vegas, this year held at the Green Valley Ranch for the first time. This was the 32nd running, and the event has expanded to include a teams event, the John Roberts Teams, and a secondary pairs event, the World Bridge Productions Pairs.

The main event is five sessions of IMP pairs, with an all-play-all format of 3-board rounds. In order to prevent pairs losing interest toward the end, substantial session awards are offered, \$12,500 for winning the final session, for example. Each of the two secondary events is three sessions in length; the team event comprises nine 9-board Swiss matches.

There was no clear-cut favourite in the teams. A few of the fancied entrants were:

Pierre Zimmermann, Fulvio Fantoni, Franck Multon, Claudio Nunes, Antonio Sementa, Alfredo Versace

Christine Zimmermann (NPC), Marc Bompis, Alain Levy, Hervé Mouiel, Jean-Christophe Quantin

Seymon Deutsch, Billy Cohen, Zia Mahmood, Andrew Robson, Ron Smith, Paul Soloway

Richie Schwartz, Waleed el-Ahmad, Drew Casen, Jim Krekorian, Tarek Sadek, Chris Willenken

Roy Welland, Bjorn Fallenius, Bobby Levin, Steve Weinstein,

but, literally, any team in the field could win.

Match 2. Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

♠ 98	♠ 63	♠ K 10 7
♥ J 10 8	♥ 42	♥ A Q 7 6 5 3
♦ K J 7 4	♦ Q 8 3 2	♦ A 9 5
♣ J 10 6 4	♣ A K 7 3 2	♣ Q
	♠ A Q J 5 4 2	
	♥ K 9	
	♦ 10 6	
	♣ 9 8 5	

In **Zimmerman** versus **Stansby**, Pierre Zimmermann, South, overcalled JoAnna Stansby's one heart opening with two spades, weak, ending the auction. Lew Stansby led the heart jack to JoAnna Stansby's ace, and at trick two she shifted to the queen of clubs to dummy's king.

Zimmerman played a spade to the ace and a second spade to JoAnna's king, setting the stage for a nice defence. On the two spades Lew played his trumps up the line to suggest an entry in the lower outside suit, diamonds, so when JoAnna won the spade king she was able to underlead her ace of diamonds to Lew's king and the jack of clubs through dummy allowed JoAnna to ruff out the ace. One down.

Match 2. Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

After Sam Lev's slightly off-shape one trump as West, Pepsi bid Stayman, then showed an undisclosed singleton by bidding three hearts over Lev's two-spade response. After several cue-bids, East-West reached the good six spades, but that was only half the battle; Lev still had to make it.

Lev won the heart king opening lead with the ace, drew trumps in three rounds, and cashed the clubs from the top hoping to drop the queen, or if it did not drop, split the clubs out three-two and ruff them good after discarding dummy's third club on a high diamond. When all that failed he conceded one down; minus 50. Oh well, good bidding is its own reward.

Match 3. Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

Alain Levy, South, opened one spade and passed Hervé Mouiel's non-forcing one no trump around to Ron Smith, who balanced with two hearts, ending the

auction. Mouiel led a spade to Levy's jack, won the diamond return with the king when Smith ducked, and led a second spade to Levy's queen.

Levy got out with a second diamond which rode around to the queen and Smith led dummy's lone trump to the king. When he led the two of hearts from hand, Levy won the ten and played the spade ace. Smith ruffed high with the queen and led a third round of trumps, but the defence scored three trumps, two spades and a diamond for one down; minus 100.

With 24 HCP between East and West, it seems a shame to go down in a part score when one might just as well go down in a game. Such is the constant philosophy of Waleed el-Ahmady and Tarek Sadek, who walked like the Egyptians they are and bid the East-West cards to three no trump (after South, Steve Weinstein, had opened one spade and North, Bobby Levin, showed long diamonds).

El-Ahmady received the favourable opening lead of the eight of diamonds (a spade honour beats three no trump outright) and avoided the trap of ducking it around to his queen and allowing Levin a chance to find the killing spade shift. He rose with the ace of diamonds, led a club to the ace, then a heart to the queen. Next he cashed the king-jack of clubs and then led a diamond toward the queen in his hand.

Levin could win the diamond king, but with the defence's exit cards removed, he eventually had to come to either a second heart or the spade king to go with his five clubs, two diamonds, and one heart. A nice plus 600.

Match 3. Board 25. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

Take a look at the West hand and decide what you would do after your partner opened with a weak two hearts in second seat at unfavourable vulnerability. Ron Smith bid two spades, forcing, then bid three spades over Billy Cohen's three-diamond rebid. Cohen couldn't resist raising to game and now it only remained for Smith to make it.

Mouiel led the six of clubs to the queen and ace and Smith tried the heart jack, Levy winning his ace and shifting back to clubs. Smith won the king, ruffed his

third club, and now pitched his two diamonds on the king-queen of hearts and lost only the heart ace and two trump tricks for plus 620.

It sure is easier to defend when you can see all four hands. A switch to spades when Levy was in with the ace of hearts, allowing Mouiel to win the ace and then switch back to clubs, would have beaten the contract. That would have been a candidate for defence of the year.

Match 7. Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

After Ishmael Del'Monte opened one spade as North, East, Matthias Bruun, overcalled two clubs and North-South ended up in four hearts. This was rather well done as three no trump has no play on a club lead.

Bruun led the club king to the ace and Del'Monte thought for a very long time before ruffing a club to hand and leading the spade king to ruff out East's ace. A diamond to the king was followed by two more high spades (dummy throwing one of each minor), then a fourth spade ruffed with the heart king (Peter Fredin pitching a diamond).

When a club was led from dummy, Fredin ruffed with the eight of hearts and Del'Monte over-ruffed with the nine and exited with the five of spades to Bruun's ten (a diamond from dummy; Fredin also pitching a diamond).

Bruun exited with the queen of clubs, allowing Fredin to pitch his last diamond as Del'Monte ruffed. When Del'Monte played the nine of diamonds to dummy Fredin ruffed and Bruun took the last two tricks with the heart ace-ten. Down one, minus 50 for North-South.

Del'Monte's line of play was perfect up until trick nine, when he exited with his last spade to Bruun's ten. Instead, he must play his diamond. If Bruun ruffs with the ten, he can cash the spade ten, but the only other trick the defence can then get is the heart ace. If Bruun pitches a club, Del'Monte wins the diamond in dummy and continues with another top diamond (or any other card for that matter). Regardless, the defence can only come to two trumps and a spade. The only thing Del'Monte had to guard against was losing a spade and

allowing Fredin to score a ruff apart from Bruun's two trump tricks.

Match 8. Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

Zia Mahmood-Andrew Robson bid the East-West cards to four spades after North, Fulvio Fantoni, overcalled two diamonds. Claudio Nunes led the diamond seven and Zia was down to five trumps immediately. After two rounds of trumps revealed the bad news there, Zia craftily led a low club and put in the eight when Nunes played low, protecting against a further tap - at least for the moment.

The defence returned a club to the ace and Zia exited with a third club, but now Nunes was in again to lead a second diamond through the king. Now down to South's trump length Zia drew the remaining trump, then led a club to dummy, but nothing good was happening in the heart suit and the defence had to come to two more tricks for one down, minus 100.

Zia would have done better to play for three heart tricks when the bad trump break was revealed. The fortunate lie in the suit would have allowed this to occur with a good guess. Alternatively, a heart to the ace and another to the queen after two rounds of clubs would also have succeeded by playing on clubs after the heart queen.

The following deal had its amusing aspects, but not to Zia and Robson.

Match 8. Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

<p>♠ 3 ♥ 4 ♦ J 8 7 6 5 3 ♣ K J 6 4 3</p>
--

West	North	East	South
Robson	Fantoni	Zia	Nunes
Pass	1 NT ¹	Double	2♥ ²
Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass
2 NT ³	Pass	3♥ ⁴	Pass
3♠ ⁵	Pass	3 NT ⁶	Pass
4♦ ⁷	Pass	4♥ ⁸	Pass
5♣ ⁹	Double ¹⁰	5♦ ¹¹	Pass
Pass	Double ¹²	Pass	Pass

1. 11+-15 HCP
2. Transfer
3. Two places to play
4. I have hearts
5. I don't; try something else
6. Okay, how's this?
7. I prefer my own longer suit
8. Perhaps you didn't hear me earlier. I have hearts.
9. I still prefer one of my own suits
10. Tasty
11. What's a poor Paki to do?
12. Feel the burn

I'll spare you, dear reader, the grisly details of the play and simply inform you that minus 500 was not a great success for two of the world's greatest players. In spite of the problems Zia and Andrew experienced, they won the match by 18 IMPs.

The play in four spades doubled on the following deal was intriguing.

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

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

In the match between Drew Casen-Jim Krekorian of the **Schwartz** team and Roy Welland-Björn Fallenuis (**Welland**), the latter pair reached four spades doubled from the East seat (Welland). The play went as follows:

Krekorian, South, led the ace of hearts, ruffed, and a spade was led to the queen, revealing the bad split as Casen, North, pitched a heart. Welland ruffed another heart, crossed to the diamond, ruffed a third heart, and at trick six erred by crossing to dummy with a second diamond to ruff the last heart. But now, when

the defence later won a club, South could obtain a diamond ruff and exit with a third club and sit back to wait for two spade tricks in the ending.

A better line of play is to cross back to dummy with the ace of clubs at trick six to ruff the last heart, leaving this position:

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

Now the best the defence can do is to win when declarer exits in clubs and play a diamond. But declarer can win the queen in hand and ruff a club, then exit with the diamond ace. South must ruff this and is then end-played.

Results for the John Roberts Teams

Rank / Team / Score / Prize Money

- 1 **Wafik Abdou**, Connie Goldberg, Steve Landen, Pratap Rajadhyaksha 183 VP \$50,000
- 2/3 **Seymour Deutsch**, Billy Cohen, Zia Mahmood, Andrew Robson, Ron Smith, Paul Soloway 167 VP \$32,500
- 2/3 **Roy Welland**, Bjorn Fallenius, Bobby Levin, Steve Weinstein 167 VP \$22,000

Interlude

CHANGED DAYS, INDEED

Sam Leckie, Glasgow

Most of you know of my success in naming the winners of this event (*the Cavendish Pairs – ed.*). I have been coming to this tournament for the past nine years. Six out of nine can't be bad. I have surprised even my modest self, but perhaps my greatest triumph was a couple of years ago when WBP asked me not to name my selection until after the auction as it could affect the prices.

Hell, did I not give you a complete profile of the winning pair (Gitelman-Moss) the year they won? The one pick I have never made in all these years is everybody's favourite player - Zia. I have always been of the opinion that the method of scoring and other factors made him a no-go and my judgment has been spot-on because the best finish he has ever achieved was second place in 1998, playing with Steve Weinstein. Believe me, even I could finish runner-up playing with four-time champion Steve.

This year I feel is different. The other factors have been reduced (this venue is an expensive taxi ride to the Strip) and his teaming up with Andy Robson (I swear, the kid is still growing!) is a plus. A few years ago they were a very successful partnership all over Europe and the fact that Zia has gone to all the trouble of reinventing it must be a pointer.

What finally decided it for me was an incident that happened Tuesday evening. Zia was having a meal with a few of the players when suddenly he announced he was going to bed. The time was only 8:45 p.m.! This was surprising enough, but the clincher for me was that all the other players actually believed him!

End of Interlude

The field for the main event was a bit smaller this year than in years past, and featured a few unfamiliar partnerships (Geoff Hampson-Eric Rodwell, Bob Hamman-Justin Lall, Marty Fleischer-Chip Martel, Michael Cornell-Michael Rosenberg, David Berkowitz-Bill Pollack, Bob Blanchard-Jeff Meckstroth, and Bart Bramley-Barry Rigal to name a few). Nevertheless, the top prices achieved in the Calcutta auction all went to pairs very familiar with each other, if not in their most-regular partnerships:

Mahmood-Robson	\$48,000
Fantoni-Nunes	\$43,000
Levin-Weinstein	\$42,000
Sementa-Versace	\$42,000
El-Ahmady-Sadek	\$34,000

The auction total was \$821,000. The rules state that each pair must own at least 10% of themselves and are allowed to purchase as much as 40% from the original buyer. By agreement between the pair and the buyer, a higher percentage may be arranged. The buyers must declare all portions sold to all others. One important rule is that players in the event may buy other pairs in the event, but if that happens, those pairs must meet early-on in the event.

Our first effort showed how difficult defence can be, even for a world champion such as Bob Hamman.

Session 1. Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

Barry Rigal, South, opened one diamond and Bart Bramley ended the auction with his one no trump response. In my experience, a one no trump response to a 'standard' one diamond opening generally means, "I have a club suit, Partner;" and that seems to be what was in Justin Lall's mind as he chose to lead his second-highest four of spades.

Bramley won dummy's queen and tried a low diamond which went to the ten and king. Lall studied the situation long and hard before he decided to continue the spade attack with the two. With the lead in dummy again, Bramley continued with the queen of diamonds, which held, and then the diamond jack, won by Hamman's ace.

Perhaps pitching the two and eight of spades, in that order, would have discouraged spades and signaled a preference for the lower of the other two suits (the three of spades and three of hearts would have carried the same message), but Lall pitched the five of clubs and the three of hearts, two very low-looking spots. Hamman thought about his next play for a long while and, perhaps also influenced by the suggestion of clubs in the North hand, finally continued spades.

Now Bramley was home free with three diamonds, three spades and the ace of hearts. The heart finesse would have brought the trick total to eight but Bramley was not greedy and settled for plus 90.

On the next deal, Bob Blanchard and Jeff Meckstroth employed a bidding gadget well-known to the expert community but perhaps not so familiar to the more casual player.

Session 1. Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

♠ 10 5 2
♥ Q 7 6 3
♦ 8 4
♣ A Q 7 6

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

♠ 6 4 3
♥ 8
♦ K 9 7 2
♣ 10 9 4 3 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Blanchard</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	1 NT	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	3 ♦	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	5 ♥	Pass
6 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Meckstroth's three-club rebid was artificial showing a strong hand with one of: real clubs; a four-card heart suit; or a jump shift equivalent with only spades.

Blanchard's three-diamond bid asked which and three hearts showed four hearts. (A direct jump to three hearts over one no trump would have shown five hearts.)

Blanchard had way too much in all the right places to simply bid four hearts and I like his choice of the straight value bid of five hearts. Meckstroth has never met a slam try he didn't like and with the opening lead of the ace of clubs and the diamond king being onside he just had to locate the queen of trumps. This was no problem and East-West scored plus 1430. Would a diamond lead would have led Meckstroth astray in the trump suit?

Perhaps driven by what happened on this board, Bobby Levin perpetrated a neat swindle two deals later to try to recoup his losses.

Session 1. Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

♠ A 8 3
♥ A K 7 5
♦ K J 8 5
♣ 9 2

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

♠ K 9 7
♥ 10 8 4 3
♦ A 6 3
♣ J 6 5

Playing in three no trump from the North side after Meckstroth had opened a weak two-spade bid, Levin received the spade ten opening lead. He rose with the king and after much thought crossed to the heart ace and continued with a low heart toward dummy.

Blanchard eyed this suspiciously and finally, knowing that Meckstroth's spades were not very robust, decided that the odds were that Levin was playing for hearts to be three-three missing the king-queen-jack and ducked. When dummy's card won Levin had his ninth trick – after the diamond suit behaved as he needed it to. That was a sweet plus 600 and even sweeter revenge.

You, South, pick up:

♠ 10 9 3
♥ A Q 5
♦ 10 8 7 6
♣ K 7 4

and the auction proceeds:

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

Now, do you pass or double, and in either case, what

do you lead? The whole deal turns out to be:

Session 1. Board 21 Dealer North NS Vul.

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

Christal Henner-Welland passed and led the three of spades. Bill Pollack won in dummy, cashed the ace-king of diamonds pitching two hearts, and exited with a club to Michael Kamil's ace. Kamil returned a trump and Pollack rose with the king to play the jack of clubs. If South ducks, North wins the queen and leads a heart to South, who can play a third round of trumps, leaving declarer with a third club loser to go with his heart loser. But when South covered, Pollack ruffed, returned to his hand by ruffing a diamond, drew the last trump and conceded a club to the queen. Plus 420 for East-West.

A lead from strength in either rounded suit would have led to immediate defeat. Admittedly, a club lead may be double-dummy, but a strong case can be made for leading a heart as Partner did not double two diamonds.

When the following deal arose, it appeared the only game possible was three no trump, duly bid and made by Marc Bompis-Jean-Christophe Quantin. Four spades would fail so long as the defence did not rectify the count for declarer and allow South to be squeezed in the minor suits. However...

Session 2. Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

<p>♠ Q J 10 ♥ Q 9 7 3 2 ♦ 6 4 ♣ A 10 3</p> <p>♠ 3 2 ♥ J 4 ♦ K 9 8 7 3 2 ♣ 7 6 5</p> <p>♠ 9 6 ♥ K 8 6 5 ♦ Q J 10 ♣ Q J 4 2</p>	<p>♠ A K 8 7 5 4 ♥ A 10 ♦ A 5 ♣ K 9 8</p>
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I noted that only three pairs managed a score of plus 400, and parenthetically assumed that the other two also achieved their pluses in three no trump. Well, you know what happens when you assume. Sure enough,

Kit Woolsey came by to inform me that he and Fred Stewart played the hand in five diamonds against Lew and JoAnna Stansby, and the contract is cold on any lead as the cards lie.

When a heart was led, declarer played as follows: heart ace, spade ace-king, spade. When South ruffed declarer simply pitched his losing heart and later used the king of clubs as an entry to the good spades to pitch his third club, losing only a trump and a club.

If South had discarded on the third spade declarer would ruff, setting up the spades, then cash the diamond king, followed by a diamond to dummy's ace. He then plays the good spades, and whether South ruffs right away or not declarer pitches his losing heart and later his losing club, using the club king as a late dummy entry.

"Curious hand," said Oscar the Owl. "The pointed suits look equivalent, but while five diamonds is cold on any lead, four spades has no play."

When the Jills (Meyers and Levin) held the North-South hands on the following deal, it did not take them long to bid their cards to the hilt.

Session 4. Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Woolsey	Meyers	Stewart	Levin
—	—	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	2 ♦ ¹	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	4 ♦ ²	Pass	5 ♣ ³
Pass	7 ♣	Pass	Pass

1. Game forcing
2. RKCB for clubs
3. Two key cards plus the club queen

Kit Woolsey led the ten of clubs to Jill Levin's queen, and she set about looking for two more tricks to go with her four spades, two hearts, one diamond and four clubs. How about two diamond ruffs in hand? She crossed to the ten of spades, ruffed a diamond, cashed the club jack, played the Spade jack to the king to the king, ruffed another diamond, and claimed; plus 2140.

Session 4. Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

Zia declared three no trump from the South seat and guessed the hand nicely. Barry Rigal led a low spade and Zia put in the nine and won Bart Bramley's queen with the ace. Next he lost a club finesse to the queen and back came the nine of diamonds (0 or 2 higher).

Zia won the first diamond with the ace and knocked out the ace of clubs. When Bramley continued with the eight of diamonds, Zia ducked that, and Bramley tried cashing the diamond king. When the queen fell from West Zia claimed his game.

2006 Cavendish Pairs: Final Standings

Rank / Pair / Score (in cross-IMPs)			
Player Prize Money (with auction prize money & auction selling price in parentheses)			
1	Ton Bakkeren-Huub Bertens	2131	
	\$21,560 (\$193,236; \$14,000)		
2	Geoff Hampson-Eric Rodwell	1629	
	\$13,860 (\$124,223; \$32,000)		
3	Gary Cohler-Howard Weinstein	1623	
	\$9,240 (\$82,816; \$19,000)		
4	Antonio Sementa-Alfredo Versace	1606	
	\$6,930 (\$62,112; \$42,000)		
5	Curtis Cheek-Joe Grue	1399	
	\$6,160 (\$55,210; \$17,000)		
6	Zoltan Nagy-Bob Richman	1366	
	\$5,390 (\$48,309; \$12,500)		
7	Marty Fleisher-Chip Martel	1347	
	\$4,620 (\$41,408; \$15,000)		
8	George Jacobs-Ralph Katz	1304	
	\$3,850 (\$34,507; \$12,500)		
9	Boye Brogeland-Ishmael Del'Monte	1251	
	\$3,080 (\$27,605; \$23,000)		
10	Bobby Levin-Steve Weinstein	1229	
	\$2,310 (\$20,704; \$42,000)		

Connie Goldberg and Wafik Abdou completed an unusual double in following up their win in the John Roberts Teams by capturing the WBP Pairs as well.

2006 WBP Pairs: Final Standings

Rank / Pair / Score (in cross-IMPs)			
Player Prize Money (with auction prize money & auction selling price in parentheses)			

1	Wafik Abdou-Connie Goldberg	552
	\$3,360 (\$7,444; \$1,800)	
2	Fred Hamilton-John Jeffrey	311
	\$2,500 (\$5,583; \$1,400)	
3	Mike Cappelletti Jr.-John Morris	266
	\$1,680 (\$3,722; \$1,000)	
4	Fared Assemi-Ed Wojewoda	238
	\$840 (\$1,861; \$1,600)	

IBPA COLUMN SERVICE

Tim Bourke, Canberra

Members may use these deals as they wish, without attributing the author or IBPA.

349. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1 ♥
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 ♠
Pass	7 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

After the dubious partnership agreement that used a direct leap to four no trump as Roman Key Card Blackwood (how can one ever ask for 'real' aces?), North punted the grand slam when South's response promised two key cards and the queen of hearts. North hoped that either his diamond suit would run or a black-suit king from South would produce a thirteenth trick.

Declarer took the opening lead of the five of diamonds with the ace and led a trump to his ace. If trumps had been 2-1 or diamonds 4-3 this slight error would have been forgiven. However, with both red suits dividing badly, declarer no longer had the entries to ruff the three spades he needed for his contract.

To avoid this embarrassing fate, declarer should cash the ace of spades at trick two and *then* lead a trump. Now he would ruff a spade, return to hand with a diamond ruff and ruff another spade. Another diamond ruff in hand would be followed by a third spade ruff. As there would still be a trump left in dummy, declarer could return to hand with it and draws East's last trump, throwing the ten of clubs from dummy. As

dummy would have the ace of clubs and the king-queen of diamonds left, he would then claim his contract.

350. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

North's response was Jacoby Two No Trump, promising a forcing raise in spades and asking opener to describe his hand. South's rebid of three spades guaranteed a better than minimum hand without a shortage. After two cue-bids, North used Roman Key Card Blackwood to discover that South held one key card, the club king, and the queen of trumps. The six-diamond bid was a grand slam try, given up on when South denied any more kings by retreating to six spades.

West led the jack of hearts and declarer called for dummy's queen with the thought, "This gives me the slam on one of two finesses - all I need is for West to hold one of the red kings." When the queen of hearts was covered by East's king and East also had the king of diamonds, declarer complained about his bad luck as East played a heart to West for the setting trick.

The question declarer should have asked is, "Would West have led from a king-jack-ten combination once North had made a grand slam try?"

In general, it is a good idea to make aggressive leads against suit slams. That idea is based on the premise that suit slams can be bid with fewer high card values than no trump slams, against which a passive lead is generally best. However, against this strong auction, West is more likely to choose a passive rather than an aggressive lead. So, East was a heavy favourite to hold the king of hearts.

Consequently, a better approach at trick one is to play the eight of hearts from dummy. This would be an

immediate winner if East had the singleton king of hearts. It also succeeds on this layout too. Declarer draw trumps, eliminates the clubs with a ruff and then exits with a heart to the queen. As East began with a doubleton king of hearts, he is end-played into giving away the twelfth trick, either with a ruff-and-discard or by leading a diamond.

351. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	2♥	2♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♠
Pass	7♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

After a weak two in hearts on his right and his minimal two spade overcall, it almost seemed to South as though he had boarded a runaway train when North's Roman Key-Card Blackwood of four no trump and standard response to show two key cards and the trump queen, he suddenly became declarer in seven spades on the opening lead of the two of hearts.

One plan declarer investigated was to ruff two diamonds in the dummy. However, by projecting the play, he saw this would also require finding clubs 3-3 if he was to avoid a club loser.

Declarer then looked at the alternative of a dummy reversal, ruffing four hearts in hand. The only danger was a defensive ruff in a minor, but as the chance of that occurring was relatively low, this plan offered a far better chance of success than ruffing diamonds in dummy.

So, a heart was ruffed the eight of trumps at trick two, West letting go a club. As there was some risk that West began with his actual doubleton in clubs, declarer crossed to dummy with a club to ruff a second heart with the queen of trumps. Then it was back to dummy with the ace of diamonds for a third heart heart ruff, this time with the king of trumps.

Dummy was re-entered for a third time, with the five of trumps to the nine, to ruff its remaining heart. Finally declarer returned to dummy by ruffing a diamond with the three of trumps. Then West's remaining two trumps were drawn with the jack and ten, bring the

trick total to eleven. As dummy still had two club winners, declarer had made his contract.

Did you notice that the standard lead of a trump would defeat the contract, by using a trump entry to the table prematurely?

352. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠
Double	Redouble ¹	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	6 ♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 3-card spade support

After North's support redouble, promising exactly three-card support for spades, South drove to a slam, and had eleven apparent top winners.

Declarer took West's lead of the king of diamonds with the ace and led a trump to the ace, causing him to depart from his original plan of playing four rounds of hearts next; if, as expected, West had four hearts he intended to throw two diamonds on the hearts and later ruff a diamond. Now there had to be a change of plan.

There was only one play as the cards lay to get home, a precisely-timed trump coup, and declarer found it. He had to reach a three-card ending where he held the king-ten of trumps and a losing diamond in hand, for then he could exit with his diamond and take the last two tricks.

He began by cashing the ace of clubs, throwing a diamond from hand, then ruffing a club. Next came the ace and king of hearts followed by the queen of hearts. As he needed to ruff four clubs to bring about his proposed ending, he had to ruff the queen of hearts with dummy's six of trumps! Then came another club ruff followed by the six of hearts which was ruffed with the queen of trumps. A third club ruff brought about the desired ending and so declarer made his slam.

THE OBSERVER

PO Sundelin, Stockholm

You may not agree with the bidding but it is what happened during the Swedish Observation tournament:

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

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

East-West were playing Multi Two Diamonds. West led the heart jack, overtaken by the queen, and ducked by declarer. East switched to the spade two, ducked to the queen, and the spade three came back to the nine, ten and king. What now?

We can trust East to have four-six in the majors. Declarer cashed the club king, East following suit, before playing two rounds of diamonds, both opponents following. That was East's 13 cards accounted for. A heart was played back to hand to take a club finesse.

If clubs had been 4-0 he would have needed the diamonds to produce four tricks.

But...a clear improvement is to begin with a diamond to dummy. If East shows out, clubs should be finessed through him. If East follows to the diamond, a club to the king then diamond and club finesses if East is void in clubs; otherwise another diamond to discover what to do in clubs.

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ihccaT

EXACTLY as it appears here.

WOMEN

Barry Rigal, NYC

Even at the top levels of the game declarers may be prepared to invest a trick on the assumption that no defender will believe they have made such a play. Witness this deal from the 1997 Venice Cup quarter-finals.

Board 42. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

Catherine Saul (now d'Ovidio) was playing a disciplined weak-two style, which persuaded Veronique Bessis to make a constructive try for game rather than a pre-emptive raise facing a two-heart opening, and Saul was never going to reject that invitation. She made ten tricks on a spade lead, but the way she did so was interesting; on a low spade lead by West, Saul played low from dummy - perhaps the right play if East had ace-king-nine, but as the cards lay it might well have required some embarrassing explanations to her teammates.

However, Saul had reasoned correctly that East was never going to be able to read the position if she was looking at her actual holding, and East, Jet Pasman duly won the ace at trick one. That meant ten tricks for North-South in due course when declarer guessed clubs.

On the following deal from the 1998 McConnell Cup, the defence had a nasty decision to make.

Board 46. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sokolow	Goldberg	Sprung	Pollack
—	—	1♦	Pass
1♠	4♥	5♦	Pass
6♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Palmer	Meyers	Deas	Quinn
—	—	1♣	Pass
1♠	4♥	5♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Six diamonds lost 200 when the defence led a heart and shifted to a trump. Declarer now ruffed a heart and correctly played for the doubleton queen of clubs, going two down when that failed. Meanwhile in the other room, five diamonds on a heart lead gives North an awkward defensive problem.

If the nine of diamonds is an entry to dummy, you have to shift to a club now; if not, a trump might be right; but see below for other possibilities. (Even on the trump shift, declarer can prevail in unlikely fashion by winning and leading a spade up at once, and the defence cannot lead a second trump. But the club finesse looks more tempting).

In any event Meyers played a club, and declarer had an easy route to 400 and 11 more IMPs.

In another match, Solodar v. Auken, both tables made five diamonds on a heart lead and club shift, both tables in Wood v. Bessis got the heart lead; d'Ovidio found the trump shift. Wood played to ruff the heart at once and take the club finesse - and why not? The only problem with this line is that it fails.

Tornay found an interesting and (killing) continuation when she returned a top heart at trick two, knowing her partner had an odd number of hearts. This disrupts dummy's late entry. Declarer ruffed and took the club finesse of course, for down one, but a flat board anyway.

On the following board, your defensive objective is to persuade declarer not to take a safety play, which you can see will succeed, in the trump suit. It's from the 2002 McConnell Cup.

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

♥ K 9 4 2
 ♦ 8 6 4
 ♣ A K J 5

West	North	East	South
Arrigoni	Montin	Buratti	Meyers
—	—	—	1 ♣
Pass	1 ♦	Pass	1 NT
Pass	2 ♦ ¹	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass

1. Artificial, game forcing Stayman

West	North	East	South
Deas	Capriata	Palmer	Golin
—	—	—	1 ♦
1 ♠	Double	2 ♥ ¹	Pass
Pass	Double	2 ♠	3 ♥
3 ♠	4 ♦	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Spade raise (forgotten by West!)

Both tables reached four hearts, Meyers without interference, Golin on a highly informative auction (including a bidding accident from East-West) that should, in conjunction with the three-spade call, have tipped her off to Deas' heart shortage. Meyers got the defence of three rounds of spades, and ruffed in hand to take the diamond finesse then played a heart to the king; down one.

In the other room Golin ruffed the third spade and played a heart to the ace, then after much thought, a heart to the king. Also down one, but an opportunity missed, I think.

In the other three matches the deal did produce a swing. Everyone reached four hearts, and one table in each match made it.

In Dhondy-Vriend, both tables reached four hearts by South after a check-back auction over one no trump. Both tables received the defence of three rounds of spades. Dhondy ruffed in hand and took a diamond finesse then led the ♥A and a heart to the nine. Van Zwol took the diamond finesse and then led a heart to the king: 12 well-earned IMPs for England.

In Auken-Bessis, d'Ovidio reached four hearts as North and received the untesting defence of the ace and king of spades, followed by a club shift. She took the diamond finesse and now safety-played the hearts to make the hand. Nehmert declared four hearts as South after opening one heart. She received the defence of three rounds of spades, and ruffed this to (quite reasonably) take the finesse of the heart jack, and from there on was never going to make the hand.

And in the match between Baker and Radin, with no opposition bidding in either case, Eythorsdottir declared four hearts as North after a Precision auction. The defence led two top spades and shifted to a club.

Declarer cashed the ace-king of clubs to pitch her spade, then took the diamond finesse and now felt she could afford the safety-play in hearts. Right she was. By contrast, Westheimer as East, against Schulle's four hearts, led the spade ace-king and shifted to the three of diamonds to look like a player with a singleton diamond. Declarer simply cashed the king and ace of hearts; down one, and 12 IMPs to Radin for this thoughtful defence.

MECKSTROTH DOES IT BETTER?

Martin Kane, Gloucs., UK

In his *Bridge Magazine* article (Volume 102, No. 7, July 2005, p. 32-34) Fred Gitelman describes an exceptional example of the nature of bridge, from the Macallan Pairs in London, with three tables in the same small slam needing to play this trump suit for only one loser:

10 4 3 2

A Q 8 5

He raised several interesting points in the article: Three of the best bridge players in the world tackled this suit combination in different ways:

Bob Hamman played small to the eight on the first round, which lost to the nine; then lost a second finesse to the king: one off.

Paul Chemla finessed the queen (which lost) and cashed the ace which succeeds when the jack dropped.

Jeff Meckstroth took advantage of the hidden cards by starting with the ten from dummy (I assume he would have later followed with a finesse of whichever of the eight or queen remained), and when East failed to cover with the jack-seven, this line succeeded in a case when it should have failed.

None of these three took the best line! According to Roudinesco's *Dictionary of Suit Combinations*, page 185, the line for maximum tricks and 'Needing Three' for 10xxx (N) facing AQxx (S), is to lead towards South and play the ace, unless the jack appears from East when you finesse.

On the second round, lead up to the queen unless West is thought to be stronger in this suit when you should duck. (This makes 3+ tricks 50.3% of the time, averaging 2.54 tricks). If South also holds the eight, cash the ace as before, but follow with a finesse of the eight if West drops the king, jack or nine (no stats given). He points out the difficulty of factoring in defensive errors. (Possibly a slight improvement would be to lead back towards the ten when the jack appears.)

This article will investigate these lines and examine the last point raised in more detail.

Gitelman tells us that Hamman's line is best and Meckstroth's line was the worst technically, but unfortunately doesn't mention how his computer calculates this. Two possibilities are: the average number of tricks the line produces and the proportion of layouts the line succeeds against.

So let's analyse further the different lines. There are 5 trumps missing which can be distributed either: 5-0, 4-1, 3-2, 2-3, 1-4 or 0-5 in the East/West hands; in all, 32 possible layouts of the defenders cards. If we determine how successful each possible line is for each of these layouts, we can compare the different lines. The table below shows a summary of these results, with the initials representing each player's line.

	DD	BL	BH	PC	JM	DE
Avg	2.78	2.59	2.50	2.47	2.38	2.50
TLM	24	18	17	16	17	19
%FS	75	56	53	50	53	59

LEGEND:

Avg: Average number of tricks taken by a particular line of play

TLM: Total layouts on which the particular line of play makes the contract

%FS: The percentage frequency of success of the particular line

DD: Double dummy

BL: The best line

BH: Bob Hamman

PC: Paul Chemla

JM: Jeff Meckstroth

As we can see, the average tricks follow the rank described by Gitelman and Meckstroth does indeed choose the least profitable. However, there is not a great deal to choose among the lines and these averages are a little misleading, as Meckstroth's line tends to lose an extra trick when it was going to fail anyway, for example king-jack to four offside. In terms of frequency, it succeeds as least as often as the others, and only a little below the optimum.

When we include the layouts where a defensive error costs a trick, such as failing to cover the ten with King-jack-small or, as occurred in the Macallan Pairs where East's failure to cover from jack-seven cost the contract, the success rate of Meckstroth's line becomes the highest and even exceeds the 'best' technical line. Essentially Meckstroth will make the slam more often, at the cost of an occasional extra undertrick. Again the difference is not large and we still have to factor in how often the defender will make the wrong play.

How do we estimate the chance of this error? Again

we can enumerate the possible holdings for the hidden hands from the East point of view. We find that if declarer intends to run the ten, there is no holding South can have where East benefits from ducking and quite a few where it concedes the contract. If declarer doesn't actually intend to run the ten, covering may cost an extra undertrick but will never concede the contract. So it is completely wrong to duck; the only possible motive is to be deceptive, i.e., if the case for covering is so strong, when a defender plays low, should declarer assume East doesn't hold the jack?

Should Meckstroth assume East didn't hold the jack in which case finessing the queen is 7% better? Clearly, he didn't see it that way. This type of reasoning can be like infinite reflections in parallel mirrors leading to circular arguments. Defenders cannot see declarer's hand, whether their side has any promotable cards and don't always have time to consider every possibility. They may even consider that declarer would not make such an 'inferior' play from this combination.

It seems likely that Meckstroth has in fact looked deeper into the position than most, and has been quietly playing a percentage point or two above the listed values than the rest of the world and he occasionally gets the added benefit of psychological victory over the opposition.

Perfection is probably impractical and perhaps not the best policy, as Gitelman concludes, "*Meckstroth may be the best player in the world at inducing his opponents to make mistakes. In terms of winning bridge, this quality is far more important than perfect technique.*"

World Wide Web Resources for Bridge Journalists

On-line Viewing

<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/>



Correspondence ...

The Editor reserves the right to shorten correspondence

Email: ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca

Hi John,

Jeff Rubens continues to overstate his case on the 'dumping' issue. Rest assured that there are many more of us who agree with you rather than with him on this matter. As for him saying that it can be 'unsporting not to deliberately dump a match', I have never heard of anything so ridiculous.

All the best.

David Bird, Eastleigh, Hants., UK

Glad to see at least someone shares my view! - Ed.

Dear Sir,

Many greetings from the Czech Republic. We are organizers of the CZECH OPEN 2006, 5th International Bridge Festival - part of the 17th International Festival of Chess, Bridge and Games which is to be held on 13.-16.7.2006 in Pardubice.

We would like to kindly ask you to put the information about event into your bulletin or calendar. You will find all information in the attached web link. Thank you very much for your cooperation.

With best regards,
Petr Pisk, AVE-KONTAKT Pardubice

<http://www.czechopen.net>

JC,

Re: your anti-dumping editorial...the USBF ITT does not require teams to be 6-handed.

Barry Rigal, NYC

Quite so - it was the ACBL in the days of 4-team trials (before the advent of the USBF) which demanded it. - Ed.

Online Transmissions

Jun 9-24	World Championships	Swan
Jun 30	Inter-Provincial Teams, NZ	BBO
Jul 8-9	Farmen Teams, Norway	BBO
Jul 10-14	Danish Open	Swan
Aug 2-3	Chairman's Cup, Sweden	Swan
Aug 16-26	European Teams	Swan
Oct 12-15	European Champions Cup	Swan
Aug 27-1	Crete Bridge Festival	BBO

Editorial - continued from page 1

bridge, philosophy, ethics, values and life. For this is not just a bridge book, it is an examination of what makes a successful player other than logic. Whether that is flair, instinct, character, tenacity or table presence, the deals in this book show these characteristics at their best.

- ◆ *WJ05 - A Modern Version of Polish Club*, Krzysztof Jassem. Since 1978 when they won the inaugural Rosenblum Cup and followed up with the 1984 Olympiad, the world has been curious about Polish bidding methods. Unlike the earlier successful Italian teams, who made their bidding methods readily accessible to readers the world over, Polish methods have remained obscure to all but a few. Until now. Jassem explains the basic approach and begins with uncontested auctions, later detailing how to handle opponents' interference and even defensive carding methods. Jassem will have many converts.
- ◆ *5-Card Major Stayman*, Ron Klinger. One of the world's most respected and prolific bridge authors gives us a cohesive method for dealing with one-no-trump openings containing a five-card major suit. Klinger's thesis is that these opening bids are now de rigueur among the expert community and that a method is required to find a five-three major fit once the one no trump opening has taken place. Klinger's lucid writing style makes the subject and his recommendations simple to assimilate.
- ◆ *Defend These Hands with Me*, Julian Pottage. The 2004 BOTY award winner returns with another solid effort. Pottage presents the reader with the situation, his hand, the bidding and then finally the dummy, leading him through expert thought processes all the while. These are, as usual with this author, very interesting deals, not for beginners. This is a book that can really help your defence, teaching you what to think about while holding your own thirteen cards.

Notice to All IBPA Members !! Change of e-Mail Address

If your e-mail address changes, please inform the Bulletin Production Manager, Jean Tyson, at:

mail@ibpa.com

We need to have your correct e-mail address to send you the Bulletin codes each month.

World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
2006			
Jun 2 & 3	Worldwide Bridge Contest	Clubs Everywhere	anna@ecats.co.uk
Jun 2-7	X International Azores Festival	Faial, Azores, Portugal	webmaster@lusobridge.com
Jun 6-17	24th International Festival	Albena, Bulgaria	www.bridgealbena.com
Jun 9-24	8th World Championships	Verona, Italy	www.worldbridge.org
Jun 23-25	Carti Mundi Festival	Ostend, Belgium	chris_leysen@cartamundi.com
Jun 23-28	Festival Citadelle de Blaye	Blaye, France	www.ffbridge.asso.fr
Jun 29-Jul 2	11th Köycegiz Festival	Köycegiz, Turkey	www.koycegizweb.com
Jun 30-Jul 2	6th World Youth Pairs Championship	Piesztany, Slovakia	www.worldbridge.org
Jun 30-Jul 12	21st International Festival	Biarritz, France	www.biarritz-bridge.com
Jul 1-8	New Zealand National Congress	Hamilton, NZ	fran@nzcba.co.nz
Jul 3-10	7th World Junior Camp	Piesztany, Slovakia	www.worldbridge.org
Jul 8-16	Danish Bridge Festival	Vejle, Denmark	www.bridge.dk
Jul 13-16	5th Czech Open	Pardubice, Czech Republic	www.czechopen.net
Jul 13-23	ACBL Summer NABC	Chicago, IL	www.acbl.org
Jul 17-30	International Festival	Deauville, France	www.deauville.org
Jul 20-23	Summer Festival	Scarborough, England	www.ebu.co.uk
Jul 29-Aug 8	11th World Youth Teams	Bangkok, Thailand	www.worldbridge.org
Aug 4-6	Pesta Sukan	Singapore	www.scba.org.sg
Aug 4-13	International Festival	Aix les Bains, France	www.ffbridge.asso.fr
Aug 6-12	International Festival	Loiben, Austria	fritz.babsch@tele2.at
Aug 8-13	Hong Kong Inter-City	Hong Kong, China	doris1710hk@yahoo.com.hk
Aug 11-20	Brighton Summer Congress	Brighton, England	www.ebu.co.uk
Aug 12-26	48th European Team Championships	Warsaw, Poland	www.eurobridge.org
Aug 17-27	International Festival	La Baule, France	www.ffbridge.asso.fr
Aug 20-30	44th PABF Championships	Shanghai, China	www.scba.org.sg
Aug 26-Sep 3	Summer Festival	La Grande Motte, France	www.ffbridge.asso.fr
Sep 6-10	40° Festival Internazionale	Venice, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Sep 15-23	1° Festival Internazionale	Portoferraio, Elba, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Sep 18-21	Ryder Cup of Bridge	Dublin, Ireland	paul.h@ukonline.co.uk
Sep 30-Oct 1	Vilnius Cup	Vilnius, Lithuania	www.worldbridge.org
Oct 6-11	EBU Autumn Overseas Congress	Çesme, Turkey	www.ebu.co.uk
Oct 12-15	European Champions Cup	Rome, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Oct 17-21	17th Sun, Sea & Slams	Barbados, WI	www.cacbf.com
Oct 21-27	3rd World University Championship	Tianjin, China	www.unibridge.org
Oct 27 & 28	European Simultaneous Pairs	Clubs in Europe	www.eurobridge.org
Oct 28-29	60th Lederer Memorial Trophy	London, England	www.metrobridge.co.uk
Nov 4-11	VII° International Festival	Havana/Varadero, Cuba	www.cacbf.com
Nov 5-12	12th Red Sea Festival	Eilat, Israel	birmand@inter.net.il
Nov 16-26	ACBL Fall NABC	Honolulu, HI	www.acbl.org
Nov 29-Dec 3	Torneo Internazionale	Cefalù, Sicily, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Dec 8-10	Torneo Internazionale Squadra Libere	Milan, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Dec 9-13	28th ASEAN Club Championships	Singapore	www.scba.org.sg
Dec 15-17	Junior Channel Trophy	France	www.ebu.co.uk
2007			
Jan 5-7	Camrose Trophy	England (TBD)	www.ebu.co.uk
Jan 22-26	WBF Charity Pairs	Clubs Worldwide	www.ecatsbridge.com
Mar 8-18	ACBL Spring NABC	St. Louis, MO	www.acbl.org
Mar 30	Lords v Commons	London, England	www.ebu.co.uk
Apr 3-8	112th Canadian Nationals	Toronto, ON	www.toronto-bridge.com
Jun 1&2	Worldwide Bridge Contest	Clubs Worldwide	www.ecatsbridge.com
Jun 16-Jul 1	3rd European Open Championships	Antalya, Turkey	www.eurobridge.org
Jul 19-29	ACBL Summer NABC	Nashville, TN	www.acbl.org
Jul 30-Aug 1	2nd World Junior Individual	Nashville, TN	www.worldbridge.org
Sep 29-Oct 13	World Team Championships	Shanghai, China	www.worldbridge.org
Nov 22-Dec 2	ACBL Fall NABC	San Francisco, CA	www.acbl.org