



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.

We wish a happy and healthy New Year to all members and your loved ones. Depending on which source you believe, the tradition of making New Year's resolutions dates back to the Babylonians, or perhaps to the Romans. We thought it would be a good idea to frame (sometimes serious, sometimes tongue-in-cheek) 2007 New Year's resolutions for the World Bridge Federation and its eight geographic Zones. Here they are:

WBF: We resolve to charge the players and the NBOs reasonable hotel rates at World Championships. (A small surcharge may be permissible, but rates 50% to 100% higher than can be obtained independently are unacceptable.)

Zone 1 (Europe): We resolve to revamp the European Team Championships into a more manageable format than a complete round robin since that method rewards the teams that demolish the weakest opposition (recent history notwithstanding, as Italy is currently clearly the most superior team).

Zone 2 (North America): We resolve to do everything in our power to attract younger players to bridge and support Junior Bridge, even if we have to annex Poland. (Question: "What's the average age of ACBL members?" Answer: "Deceased.")

Zone 3 (South America): We resolve to find our kidnapped members (Venezuela, Suriname, Guyana, and French Guyana) in Zone 5 and return them to their proper place in our Zone.

Zone 4 (Asia & the Middle East): We resolve to build a website with useful information on bridge, our Zone, and our member nations. In the information age, it is extremely important for a modern organization to have an Internet presence. *(Concluded on page 15.)*

2007 Dues

If you have not yet paid your 2007 IBPA dues, please do so immediately at www.ibpa.com or by contacting Mario Dix at mario@bridge.org.mt or at the mailing address on the masthead on this page. You need to pay your 2007 dues to ensure unbroken delivery of the IBPA Bulletin. Members who have not paid by the end of January may not receive their February Bulletin.

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FALL NABC – HONOLULU, HAWAII

November 17-26, 2006

Brent Manley, Memphis, TN

Barry Rigal, NYC

Brian Senior, Nottingham, UK

John Carruthers, Toronto

Making an Impression - Barry Rigal

On this deal from the second qualifying session of the Bobby Nail Life Master Open Pairs, two of the top qualifiers met, and the encounter left Sue Picus highly impressed with the defensive recovery play found by Norway's Martin Andresen. Picus was playing with Alex Ornstein, Andresen with Tor Helness.

Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Andresen	Ornstein	Helness	Picus
—	—	Pass	Pass
1 ♥	3 ♥ [!]	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Asking for a heart stopper

Picus opted for the higher-scoring game and found herself in a delicate spot. Andresen led a top heart and could have assured the defeat of the contract by continuing with another high heart. Instead, he shifted to a club, which looked to Picus like a singleton. Perhaps it is best to win that lead in the South hand and run the spade jack, but if East wins and gives partner a club ruff, another heart dooms the contract. So Picus ruffed a heart to dummy and played the nine of spades, letting it ride. Had Andresen taken this and played another heart, Picus would have won in dummy, crossed to the ace of diamonds and drawn trumps.

Even on a club return, declarer can win and give up a diamond and still have the rest. But Andresen ducked

the spade nine! Declarer was now dead, twist and turn as she might.

Good Luck, or Bad? - Barry Rigal

Sylvia Moss is not known to be backward about coming forward in the auction. On this deal (hands rotated) from a pairs game, she decided to respond to a 15-17 no trump opener by showing 5-5 in the majors and a game-forcing hand with a jump to three spades.

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	Moss		Radin
—	Pass	Pass	1 NT
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Judi Radin bid four hearts and played there, wrapping up ten tricks on a non-trump lead – she could cash plain suit winners while ruffing diamonds in the dummy, eventually scoring the tenth trick en passant. Afterwards, you would have expected Sylvia to feel she had been a little fortunate that four hearts was declared from the South seat. If North were declaring, three rounds of trumps leaves you short of tricks.

Not so, said Sylvia: imagine that the defence cashes three hearts and shifts to a diamond. Since East is a passed hand, you rise with the ace of diamonds, ruff a diamond and draw the last trump, pitching a diamond from dummy. Remarkably, despite the fact that both minor-suit menaces are badly placed, there is a repeating triple squeeze. In this position:

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

West still has to discard on the last trump. The discard of either minor suit lets declarer cash the winner there and repeat the squeeze – and a spade discard is immediately fatal.

Diamonds... - Brian Senior

Have you noticed how many of the more interesting deals this week seem to have featured a long diamond suit? This one is from the Mitchell Open Board-a-Match Teams.

Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

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

South's three diamonds indicated no outside feature. East does well to lead the two of hearts to the jack and queen, ducked, and the heart seven is covered by the eight and nine. East clears hearts, and declarer leads the club jack to dummy's queen, then plays the spade eight to the queen, then the spade ace and the ten to the king.

Maybe this isn't too difficult, but an unthinking West will return a club, which presents declarer with an overtrick. He simply cashes all his black winners and squeezes East in the red suits. If West returns the queen of diamonds, there is no squeeze.

...and More Diamonds - Brian Senior

This next deal is from the second final session of the same event.

Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Mizel</i>	<i>Robson</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Shugart</i>
1 ♥	1 NT	2 ♥	Double ¹
Redouble	3 ♦	Double	Pass
1. Takeout			

At the other table, East-West played a heart part score. Declarer won the diamond lead and played three rounds of spades, ruffing, as North (Paul Hackett), discarded a club. A club to the jack and queen allowed Hackett to return a club, and John Armstrong gave him his ruff. Plus 140 was at best an average-minus position for East-West.

At our table, Andrew Robson psyched a 1NT overcall, and Rita Shugart doubled my two hearts for takeout. Jack Mizel showed a strong hand by redoubling, and I doubled three diamonds on the assumption that Jack was strong and balanced.

We had missed our game, but the available plus 300 would have won the board. I led the six of diamonds, which had suit-preference overtones, and the sight of dummy made it clear that something odd had happened. However, we messed up.

Jack won the ace of diamonds and played the king of spades, then the ace. At this point, he needs to cash our heart winners – I surely have precisely ace to four. That part should be achievable, but a heart to the ace, back to the king and a spade through, is down only one as my diamonds are not good enough for a promotion. Declarer ruffs the spade high, draws trumps and crosses to the ace of clubs to get the major-suit winners. That is down only one for minus 100 and a win for North-South.

Mind you, that would have been better than the actual continuation of a third spade. Robson ruffed high, drew trumps, crossed to the club ace and threw his heart losers on the spades before leading a club up – plus 470.

There are two ways to get the contract two down. After the top spades, West can lead the heart king then a heart to the ace, forcing East to lead a club through – or West can lead a low heart and hope that East can work it out

for himself. As the club king and queen could easily be switched, East may go wrong, returning a heart, so the king of hearts followed by a low heart is the better defence.

Mr. Bidtoomuch Survives - Brent Manley

In one of the old Monty Python skits, there is a character called Mr. Smoketoomuch, who is advised by a man he meets that, "You better cut down a little, then." (Mr. S doesn't get it, but that's neither here nor there.)

That same sort of advice (about bidding, not smoking) might apply to Larry Cohen and David Berkowitz on this deal from the Mitchell Open Board-a-Match Teams, but it's doubtful they will cut back, especially since they came out of this adventure-filled deal with a win (in fairness, it's tough to gauge when to stop when the bidding starts at a high level, as it did in this case).

They were playing against Italian world champions Fulvio Fantoni and Claudio Nunes.

Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Cohen</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
—	3 ♦	Double	Pass
3 NT	Pass	5 NT	Pass
6 ♣	Pass	6 ♥	Pass
6 NT	Pass		

Cohen reports that Fantoni took five minutes to find his opening lead – a heart. Cohen wrapped up thirteen tricks rather quickly, shuddering to think of his fate had Fantoni started with a low spade instead of the heart. As you can see, the defenders have thirteen tricks available to them on the lead of a spade. A 26-trick swing on the opening lead! Have you ever seen one before?

At the other table, East-West reached six hearts off three tricks, but North-South saved at six spades for minus 500.

Ruff-Sluff Times Two - Barry Rigal

To give one ruff-sluff could be regarded as a misfortune. To give two looks very much like . . . genius?

Jon Wittes and Ross Grabel have just qualified (in terms of age) for the Seniors. Here they are at work on defence, generating tricks from nowhere, in the Senior Knockout Teams. It was only an extra undertrick, but it was elegant nonetheless.

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Wittes</i>		<i>Grabel</i>	
—	1 ♣	Pass	Pass
1 ♦	1 NT	2 ♦	2 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Wittes led the diamond queen to the king and ace. On the diamond ten, Wittes dropped the nine, so Grabel played a spade to the eight and ace. Declarer ruffed a diamond to hand and played a heart to the ten and queen. The defence took their two spade tricks. They had five tricks in this ending:

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

Wittes led a diamond – the first ruff-sluff – and declarer elected to ruff low in dummy. Grabel over-ruffed as declarer pitched a club. Grabel then returned the thirteenth spade, the second ruff-sluff, as declarer pitched another club. Wittes did likewise as dummy ruffed with the heart ace. In the four-card ending, declarer cashed the club ace and played a second club. Whether declarer ruffed high or low, the seven of hearts was going to score the seventh trick for the defenders.

Who Were Those Masked Men? - Barry Rigal

Ed Lucas brought in this splendid deal from a regional knockout match. Unfortunately, three of the four players

at the table asked to remain anonymous, so all we will tell you is that the declarer was Joe Grue!

Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

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

North's four clubs was checking on aces. Looking at all four hands, the no trump slam looks hopeless, but West, in a charitable mood, led a spade, and Grue took the spade nine to repeat the spade finesse. He then ran six club tricks. This was the ending:

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

Note that East still must make a discard. If he discards a spade, Grue cashes the spade ace and heart ace, then runs the diamond eight to East for the endplay. If East discards a heart, the heart ace would force the same decision: a diamond discard would allow Grue to duck a diamond and take the rest, and if East parted with a spade on the ace of hearts, Grue leads a spade to dummy's ace and plays a low diamond from dummy. Curtains!

To the Rescue - Barry Rigal

There is nothing more enjoyable than pulling the wool over the eyes of a regular opponent and adversary.

My teammates, Sue Picus and Renée Mancuso, know how to save a bad result. Look at what happened on this deal from the first qualifying session of the Mitchell Open Board-a-Match Teams.

Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

On the above deal, we sat North-South and led a heart against two no trump, reached after a reversing auction. I led a low heart as North, and Alex Ornstein won the jack to shift to a spade. When declarer led a club to the queen and a club back, we could arrange six tricks and might have had seven.

Sue Picus played three no trump as West against a pair of New York experts. North started with the nine of diamonds. Sue won the diamond jack, led a club to the queen, followed by the diamond eight to the ten and queen, then a club to the eight (!). She cashed two more diamonds, then took her top spades and played a third round to South, who could cash two spades but had to concede a trick to dummy's king of hearts at the end. Nine tricks made!

A Little Help from My Friends - Brent Manley

This deal from the semifinal of the Senior Knockout Teams helped the Freed team advance to the final. South was Fred Hamilton and North was Arnold Fisher.

Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
2 ♥	Fisher	Pass	Hamilton
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	4 ♠

West led the two of diamonds to East's ace. East shifted to the club queen, won by declarer's ace. South advanced the jack of hearts, covered by the king and won in dummy.

Declarer cashed the heart queen, discarding the ten of diamonds and led the eight of clubs to the ten and South's king. Declarer next cashed the king of diamonds and led the club three. West discarded a heart as East won with the club jack.

East returned a diamond, allowing declarer to shorten his trumps. South led his good seven of clubs. According to Deep Finesse, West can play any card in his hand except the five of spades and set the contract – even the ace of spades! In fact, West ruffed with his low trump and dummy over-ruffed. Declarer continued with a heart from dummy which he ruffed. He then led a low spade to West's now-blank ace and claimed the last two tricks with his king-ten of spades.

A Little Technique - Barry Rigal

A good friend of mine tells me that playing bridge is all about drawing trumps, taking finesses and cashing winners. Yes, but once in a while some excellent technique in a grand slam wouldn't hurt, as on this deal (rotated).

Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♠	Pass	7 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

On the lead of the jack of hearts, do you fancy declarer or the defence?

At the table, declarer won the king of hearts and ran the clubs. With one club to go, this was the position:

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

Declarer cashed dummy's last club, pitching a heart as East discarded another spade and West a heart. Now declarer missed the winning play – cash the ace of hearts to pitch a spade from hand. West must unguard the diamonds to keep the spades, and the spades ace followed by the king finishes East - he is squeezed in the red suits.

There is a winning defence. On the run of the clubs, East pitches all the diamonds to leave West guarding the suit. West discards hearts, leaving East in charge of that suit. In the six-card ending, West keeps three to the queen in spades and diamonds and East all his spades and the heart guard. The best declarer can do is cash the ace of hearts and pitch a spade, but West also pitches a spade and there is no pressure.

Discard That Textbook - Brent Manley

This deal from the second final session of the Kaplan Blue Ribbon Pairs does not present an advanced technical problem in four spades (hands rotated).

Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

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

West leads the king of diamonds. You win with the ace, play a trump, win the club return, eliminate diamonds while drawing trumps, then exit with a club and claim. That's what all the experts did ... except JoAnna Stansby.

In four spades as South, she ducked the opening lead of the diamond king, hoping that West would assume she could not have a singleton diamond. Assume West had the spade ace. Might he not continue with a diamond, trying to give partner a ruff or kill the discard?

So it proved. After a diamond continuation, JoAnna got both clubs away and guessed hearts to take eleven tricks for a spectacular result. Of course, on a club switch, she would have turned a 100% contract into one hinging on the heart guess, but you can't make an omelette without breaking the odd egg or two.

Cash and Carry? - Brent Manley

While David Berkowitz played the following deal in the first final session of the Mitchell Open Board-a-Match Teams, he kept asking himself the same question over and over. First things first (hands rotated).

♠ 8
♥ J 8 7 6
♦ A K 10 4 3
♣ A 9 2

♠ A K 10 4
♥ Q 10 9
♦ 9
♣ Q 10 8 6 3

Berkowitz does not wish to recount the auction that ended with him in three hearts as South. At any rate, the opening lead was the heart four. East took some time before finally playing the heart two.

Berkowitz studied the dummy for some time, trying to decide on his line of play. One option was a crossruff – he did have the necessary singletons and aces in the two hands. One of the principles of the crossruff is to cash your outside winners early so that an opponent cannot make discards while you are ruffing back and forth and thus later ruff your winner.

At trick two, Berkowitz led a diamond to dummy's ace, then cashed the king. LHO followed with the diamond queen and jack. Time to cash the club ace before something bad happened to it? Berkowitz thought it could wait.

Next came a diamond ruff with the heart ten, and LHO discarded a club. Now cash the club ace, right? Maybe it can wait another round, thought Berkowitz. So now he played the spade ace and king and ruffed a spade, both opponents following. A fourth round of diamonds was ruffed by Berkowitz with his last heart, the queen, as West pitched a second club. This was the position:

♠ —
♥ J 8
♦ 10
♣ A 9

♠ 10
♥ —
♦ —
♣ Q 10 8 6

Berkowitz ruffed the ten of spades with the eight of hearts as both opponents followed. Nearing the end of the deal, Berkowitz still was not convinced that he should try the club ace. Instead, he played the jack of hearts from dummy. East was able to collect three heart tricks, and on the last one, Berkowitz, now with a complete count of East's hand, discarded the ace of clubs from dummy! In the end,

East had to play a diamond to dummy's ten for Berkowitz's tenth trick and a win on the board. The full deal:

♠ 8
♥ J 8 7 6
♦ A K 10 4 3
♣ A 9 2

♠ Q 9 7 5
♥ 5 4
♦ Q J
♣ K J 7 5 4

♠ J 6 3 2
♥ A K 3 2
♦ 8 7 6 5 2
♣ —

♠ A K 10 4
♥ Q 10 9
♦ 9
♣ Q 10 8 6 3

As you can see, if Berkowitz had tried to cash the ace of clubs at any point, East would have ruffed and been able to cash two more hearts, leaving Berkowitz well short of tricks. Had he tried to cash it in the four-card ending, East could have ruffed and given West a diamond ruff – and still have had the top two trumps to come.

How Would You Defend? - Brent Manley

Dealer East. Neither Vul.

♠ Q
♥ Q J 9 7 6 2
♦ Q 8 5
♣ 7 3 2

♠ J 8 3
♥ 8
♦ K 6 4 3
♣ K J 8 5 4

♠ K 10 7 5 4 2
♥ 10 5 4
♦ 7
♣ A 10 6

♠ A 9 6
♥ A K 3
♦ A J 10 9 2
♣ Q 9

West	North	East	South
Helgemo		Helness	
—	—	Pass	1 ♦
Pass	1 ♥	1 ♠	2 ♠
3 ♥ ¹	Double	3 ♠	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	4 ♠	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Good hand with a spade raise

This deal was played in the semifinal of a knockout team game. Your opponents are world-class players Geir Helgemo and Tor Helness. They both pass the first round of bidding, and then they bid to four spades after a competitive auction.

You lead the heart ace and see the West hand as dummy. At the table, South switched to the ace of diamonds and led another diamond won by the king as declarer discarded a heart. A low spade was led from dummy to the queen, king and it's your play. Would you win or would you duck?

That's a trick question because it's too late – the contract can no longer be defeated. If you win or duck, declarer has a choice of plays to make the contract. South realized later that he could set the contract by continuing with a heart at trick two. Declarer has to ruff it in dummy and when South regains the lead, he can lead a third round of hearts.

This establishes his nine of spades as the setting trick. How would you have defended?

Nicely Done - Brian Senior

This deal from the second session of the Blue Ribbon Pairs final features an elegant endplay from Bulgarian pro Valio Kovachev (hands rotated).

Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

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

West led the six of spades, which Kovachev ran to his hand. He played a heart to the ten and jack, and back came a trump to the queen. Kovachev led a second heart to the queen and ace, West discarding a club - surely indicating longer clubs than diamonds and the clue to the winning play. East switched to a diamond, the queen winning. Kovachev cashed the spade ace, then played the club ace and ruffed a club to remove East's exit card. Now he cashed the last trump.

East, down to the eight-six-five of hearts and the king-nine of diamonds, was squeezed. If he pitched a heart, declarer could play the heart king and another heart, win the diamond return and cash the established heart. So East pitched a diamond. Kovachev then cashed the diamond ace and exited with a low heart. East won but had to lead from the eight-six of hearts into declarer's king-seven to give the contract. Nicely done.

One Tough Bridge Game - John Carruthers

With the influx of players from the four corners of the globe, the Reisinger has become even tougher, if that were possible. By the time one reaches the final day of the three-day board-a-match event, where every trick

is life-or-death, there are no easy touches. Even a casual observer will have heard of almost every player in the field.

Early in the first of the two final sessions (ten teams: all-play-all, three-board rounds in each session), two of the contenders (although strictly speaking, I suppose all ten were contenders), EKEBLAD (Martel-Stansby, Gitelman-Moss), lying first, and O'ROURKE (Jacobus, Hampson-Greco, Bocchi-Duboin), standing fourth, met on BBO in a typical BAM battle.

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Greco	Stansby	Hampson	Martel
—	1 NT	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Most weak-no-trumpers cannot play one no trump doubled, using both the pass and redouble to start escape mechanisms. Not Stansby-Martel, and their opinion must be respected; after all they have been a world-class partnership for three decades or so, with many world and North American titles in their résumé. Consider also that if one no trump were removed by North-South on these cards, one of the potential run-out contracts is two clubs!

In any case, Hampson led the ace of clubs and shifted to the deuce of diamonds. He received encouragement from Greco and won the first heart to continue with the diamond king, ducked, and the jack.

Stansby won and cashed out the hearts, giving Hampson a slight problem. He threw clubs, so Stansby continued with a club to Hampson's king. Hampson did the best he could, leading the carefully-preserved diamond nine to Greco's ten. Stansby threw spades from both hands on this (he had also discarded a spade from dummy on the third diamond).

Now, with five tricks in, and staring declarer's six or seven in the face, Greco could have cashed the spade ace to hold Stansby to those seven (if he had the spade king). Since Greco had the spade jack, it was merely a question of who had the king and who had the queen. But...had the spade honours been reversed in North and West, Greco's play of a low spade would have led

to two off instead of the one off he'd have achieved if he'd played the spade ace first (Hampson would have had to give dummy a club after winning the spade king if Greco had first cashed the ace).

At the other table, East-West climbed all the way to three no trump, two off, so Greco's spade play was irrelevant after all. His score was going to be minus 380 or minus 180 on the actual cards, losing the board in either case. And next...

Board 6. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Greco	Stansby	Hampson	Martel
—	—	Pass	Pass
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	3 ♥	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Martel was disciplined in not opening a weak no trump, and Stansby's fourth-seat weak two bid would usually deliver close to an opening bid, as it did here.

Hampson won Martel's opening spade queen lead with the ace and immediately played a club to the ten; Martel won to tap the dummy with a second spade. Now Hampson played a club to the king to ruff another spade.

When declarer came off dummy with a low diamond, Stansby hopped up with his ace to play the queen of clubs, ruffed with the nine and over-ruffed. A diamond to the king put declarer in the dummy with no convenient re-entry to hand. He played a heart to the ace, cashed the diamond queen, then ruffed his last spade. That left him with the ten-six of trumps and Martel with the...king-seven. One off and the magic 200 to North-South.

Does it seem as if Hampson could have done better by leading diamonds earlier? Not so - the defence can counter by winning the ace over the king (or queen, as appropriate) and leading a heart through. If they do not, declarer can survive by ruffing all four losers in the dummy, coming to hand with minor-suit winners and a club ruff with the ace of hearts. In the four-card ending, as declarer ruffs his last spade with the heart jack, South has all four of his trumps and can only take two of them.

(See last month's Bulletin for the winners of the major championships.)

IBPA COLUMN SERVICE

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

364. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

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

After his weak two opening, West led the ten of spades. An inexperienced declarer might make the mistake of calling for dummy's queen of spades, which would win the trick. Of course East would unblock the jack.

The situation is that even after he picks up the diamond suit without loss declarer will have only eight tricks and, no matter how he plays from there East will gain the lead with the ace of hearts before a ninth trick is collected. East will then put the four of spades on the table, giving the defence enough tricks to defeat the contract.

If his contract was to succeed, declarer almost needs West to have the queen of diamonds no more than three times. So he should place East with the ace of hearts and consequently duck the first round of spades, playing low from both hands. If, as expected, the spade suit is cleared the difference is that when East gains the lead with the ace of hearts he cannot play a spade. So declarer will score one spade, one heart, five diamonds and the club ace-king, just what the contract requires!

365. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

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

As three spades was forcing four spades was easy to reach but not so easy to play when West led the ten of hearts.

Declarer showed good technique by playing low from dummy, keeping the jack of hearts as a potential throw-in card against East. After winning the first trick with the ace of hearts, he crossed to dummy with a diamond to the queen to run the ten of trumps. West took this with his king and found the good switch of the nine of clubs.

Declarer showed that he was on the ball by rising with the ace of clubs and then drawing the outstanding trumps with his ace. After cashing his two remaining winners in diamonds, declarer ruffed dummy's final diamond before getting off play with a heart. East took dummy's jack of hearts with his queen but then had no safe exit. A club return would see dummy's queen score while a heart would concede the contract via a ruff-and-discard.

366. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

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

Despite East's weak two bid, a slam was easily reached as the leap to five spades asked South to bid a slam with good trumps, which he was happy to do.

After ruffing West's ace of hearts, declarer cashed the ace of trumps and was somewhat annoyed that East discarded a heart.

Nevertheless, he found a nice play to overcome this setback. He cashed two club winners and then ruffed a second heart in hand. After ruffing a club, declarer cashed his diamond winners and led his last club. When West followed, this was ruffed with the six of trumps, reducing everyone to three cards. Dummy had the bare ten of trumps and two hearts, declarer the king-jack of spades

and a diamond. Declarer ruffed a heart with the king of trumps and West had to underruff. When the last diamond was led at trick twelve, declarer had to make either dummy's ten of trumps or the jack in his hand.

It would not matter if declarer had led a diamond instead of a club at trick ten. West could ruff with his queen of spades and return a trump but then declarer would score the last two tricks on a high crossruff.

367. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
2 ♥	Double	3 ♥	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

How should declarer play when West leads the eight of clubs? As there is little chance of success if this is a singleton, declarer should play dummy's three. East wins with the jack and plays a heart to West's queen. When another club comes back declarer must rise with the ace, hoping that clubs are 5-2. After drawing trumps, declarer should place West with 2=6=3=2 distribution.

That being the case, there is a 100% play to make ten tricks, rather than the anti-percentage one of finessing the ten of diamonds, which relies on West beginning with both the queen and jack of diamonds.

Declarer ruffs dummy's last heart and continues with ace, king and another diamond. When, as expected, West wins the third round with the jack he has only hearts remaining. On the heart exit, dummy ruffs and declarer discards the ten of clubs from hand.

368. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

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

West led the king of hearts, taken by dummy's ace while East played the two. Despite the rustic bidding, the contract was good. Declarer had eleven top tricks and if trumps were 2-2 or East had two spades then two spade ruffs would bring the total to thirteen tricks.

However, the bidding suggested West began with at least 5-5 in the majors and that East's hearts were longer than his spades. So, as there was a real danger of East being able to ruff the second round of spades, the primary issue for South became, "Can anything be done if West has six spades without jeopardising the contract when he began with only five?"

Declarer saw that he could succeed no matter what West's major suit lengths were, provided he could force West down to one heart or two spades - then one ruff would establish a winner in the reduced major suit. Clearly the last of dummy's diamond tops would have to be the squeeze card. Also, the plan had to accommodate the other condition for the success of this line, an equal number of trumps in each hand when the last diamond winner is played - otherwise West could not be forced to come down to one heart.

So declarer ruffed a heart with jack at trick two, to make the trump length identical in each hand and to preserve the ten of trumps as an entry to dummy. Next, he drew two rounds of trumps with the ace and king, revealing the 3-1 break, then cashed the queen and jack of diamonds.

When West discarded a spade it suggested he had begun with either 6=5=1=1 or 5=6=1=1 distribution. However, as with the latter, East would have 2=2=6=3 shape, and might then have preferred to bid three spades rather than pass three hearts. So declarer decided to play West for a six-card spade suit.

After extracting East's last trump with dummy's ten, he discarded a low spade on the king of diamonds, reaching:

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

When declarer called for the ace of diamonds, discarding another small spade, what could West do? If he discarded a heart, a heart ruff would establish a heart winner in dummy and a spade ruff would take declarer back to dummy to enjoy it. When he discarded a spade, declarer played a spade to the ace and ruffed a spade, establishing the jack, with a heart ruff as the entry.

Declarer had only to judge the distribution of the hand held by the key defender to bring the contract home.

OZONE TRAINING

Ron Klinger, Northbridge, NSW

(From the Sydney Morning Herald)

Here are some deals that might be of interest to IBPA members. They all took place on BBO in practice teams matches for OzOne.

Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

Seven hearts and seven spades are both fine grand slams and figure to make at least 80% of the time. Here, the jack-fourth of spades offside proved too much for almost every declarer. Two tables played in six hearts by South and made thirteen tricks on the spade two lead. Three North-South pairs had an uncontested auction to seven, two to seven spades and one to seven hearts. All failed.

Thanks to a little interference by East-West, Bobby Richman sniffed out the spade position after this auction:

West	North	East	South
Margaret	Zoli	David	Bob
Bourke	Nagy	Wiltshire	Richman
—	1 ♣ ¹	2 ♦	2 ♥
3 ♣	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♦ ²
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♦ ³	Pass	6 ♦
Pass	7 ♣	Pass	7 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Artificial, 15+ points

2. First- or second round diamond control

3. 1 or 4 key cards with spades as trumps

Lead: ♦9

The four diamond bid supported spades and four hearts showed secondary heart support. The six-diamond cue-bid confirmed that all key cards were held and asked North to choose the major. North's seven clubs indicated a desire to play in seven and asked South to choose the major (allows you to avoid blame if partner chooses the wrong one).

Richman won the opening lead with the diamond ace and drew four rounds of trumps. East discarded two diamonds and the club seven. It is easy to play too quickly at this point and assume spades will behave, but Richman paused to consider the spade layout. West had not led the club king, so probably did not have both the king and queen. West had not raised diamonds and had led the diamond nine. That looked like diamonds were 6-2. (Although with six, East might have discarded another. - Ed.) East had a club honour but did not raise clubs despite the vulnerability. It seemed as though clubs were 6-2 also. East had not jumped to three diamonds over one club, so was not likely to have seven diamonds. In that case West figured to be 1=4=2=6 and East 4=1=6=2. (The actual layout seems more likely given the discarding. - Ed.)

That was not the exact layout, but the reasoning led Richman to the winning line. He played the spade eight to the ace and then low to the nine for thirteen tricks and plus 2210. Well done.

On another deal from an OzOne BBO session, Peter Gill did the same:

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

```

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

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

      ♠ 3
      ♥ Q 9 6
      ♦ K Q 5 4 2
      ♣ 10 6 3 2
  
```

West	North	East	South
Ron	Paul	David	Peter
Klinger	Gosney	Lilley	Gill
—	—	—	Pass
1 ♠	2 ♠ ¹	Pass	4 ♥
4 ♠	5 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Michaels, 5 hearts and a 5-card minor
Lead: ♣A

At trick two, I switched to the king of spades. Lilley overtook and returned a spade. Gill discarded a diamond and ruffed in dummy. Next came the heart ace, followed by the heart seven to the four and...nine. Well played.

On the next deal from another OzOne BBO match, David Lilley produced a brilliant card which fooled declarer and defeated a slam, after I had missed the killing opening lead.

Dealer South. EW Vul.

```

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

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

      ♠ A K 8 5
      ♥ K 9 5 3
      ♦ 9 6
      ♣ J 9 7
  
```

West	North	East	South
Ron	Tony	David	Sartaj
Klinger	Nunn	Lilley	Hans
—	—	—	1 NT ¹
Pass	2 ♥ ²	Pass	3 ♠ ³
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 ♥ ⁴
Pass	6 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. 11-14
2. Transfer to spades
3. Minimum hand with four spades
4. Two key cards, no spade queen

Lead: ♠4

The slam is excellent and the play would be routine if trumps were 3-1 or 2-2. An initial club lead gives declarer no chance, because of the bad trump break. On any other lead, declarer can draw trumps and lead towards the heart king. When East takes the ace, the heart king allows South to discard dummy's club loser and if East ducks, the king wins and there is no heart loser.

Two pairs played in four spades. The others made six spades, Richman as South after also opening one no trump and receiving the heart six lead. Griff Ware and Andy Hung were in six spades from the North seat, the leads being the heart ace, then a switch to diamonds.

At our table, with South showing a balanced hand and no evidence of a secondary suit in dummy as a source of tricks, I did not appreciate the need for an attacking lead. Well done if you'd have found the club lead. The moment dummy appeared, it was obvious that a club lead was vital.

Lilley did well already at trick one. He set the stage for his later play by discarding the two of hearts, discouraging. Hans played a diamond to dummy and led the heart seven. Lilley followed with the queen! Hans studied this for some time and finally ducked. There was no way to succeed any more. A great card, that

queen of hearts. Hans later commented: "Ducking an ace is routine but it is the first time ever I have seen it happen with ace-queen-jack-ten-small!"

A VERY CLEVER BID

Jean-Paul Meyer, Paris

The French First League is played by the 16 best French teams (of six) over three weekends. The main surprise was that Fulvio Fantoni and Claudio Nunes had joined Pierre Zimmerman's squad, together with Frank Multon, Alain Levy and Hervé Mouiel.

The Zimmerman team had built what looked like an insurmountable lead during the first two weekends...but the Italian world champions were not available for the third stage and the team was surprisingly overtaken by the new French champions: George Blumenthal, Marc Bompis, Thierry de Sainte Marie, Albert Faigenbaum, Jean-Christophe Quantin and Philippe Toffier.

In this championship, Michel Perron, facing Michel Lebel, made perhaps one of the cleverest bids I have ever heard of. He held:

♠ Q J 10 6 5
♥ —
♦ Q J 9 5 4
♣ K Q 5

His partner opened two no trump (20-21). He bid three hearts (transfer). This was doubled and partner bid four spades, showing good support.

What do you bid NOW?

I got many answers of five clubs and five hearts. Perron did much better bidding five diamonds. Do you understand why?

If Partner bids five spades, denying first or second round control in hearts, Perron was sure to find the ace, king of spades, the ace, king of diamonds and the ace of clubs opposite, plus enough extra to add up to 20 HCP. Even with the heart queen, jack and the club jack, the total opposite comes to only 19 if one of the key honours is missing. So Perron can confidently bid seven spades.

That was very fine anticipation, but alas, no profit, since Lebel cue bid five hearts, insuring that one of the key cards was missing. Perron had to be satisfied with six spades, but what a very thoughtful bid.

Lebel held:

♠ A K 8 7
♥ A 6 5
♦ A 7 6
♣ A J 2

SCISSORS COUP THROW-IN

Anil K. Upadhyay, Delhi

(From the Delhi Bridge Association Newsletter)

Often we get hands at the table no less exotic than those we see in books, though we may not be able to recognize them. Playing the Saturday Team of Four event at Delhi Bridge Association this past summer my partner opened one club (standard), my RHO overcalled two spades (weak) and I doubled with the South hand below. Partner bid three hearts and I judged to bid three no trump. The four of hearts was led and this was the problem I faced (spot cards approximate):

Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

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

I played the heart eight which was covered by the jack, and I won with the ace. A trick can be developed in spades and another in clubs. I reasoned that the ninth trick can most likely come from diamonds – a finesse or a break or a throw-in against West; or from spades (less likely) by throwing in East.

At trick two, suppose you play a spade to the king. East wins and leads a diamond (best). You win with the king. Now the key play – a low club to dummy. West is almost certain to have the ace and has to let you win. Now you play all your hearts and then a low spade toward the jack. East wins and leads a diamond again. You let it run to West, who is forced to give you the ninth trick in either clubs or diamonds.

That was neat and simple. However, what if West makes the best lead of a club, which he should have done anyway. He is likely to have 0=4=4=5 with five clubs to the ace. Now whenever you play a spade, East wins and continues a club, forcing you to win. Now you can't establish a spade as they can cash three club tricks.

To counter that, you duck the second club, but East changes tack; he cashes his second spade and leads a diamond. Now West cannot be prevented from taking two more tricks.

Since the above lines do not work, let us try a third one. Win the club lead and play a small spade from dummy. East wins and continues a club, letting you win. Clear hearts - on the actual hand, the heart jack drops doubleton, so you are not forced to guess on the third round. Now the key play - a club - in this six-card ending:

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

You need three of the last six tricks. East and West can now play see-saw and decide who wins. If East wins, he cannot reach West. You win the diamond return, play a spade, and you make your nine tricks with one spade, four hearts, two diamonds and two clubs.

On the other hand, if West wins, East's spade ace goes to sleep. He can cash two more clubs (you discard a diamond and the two spades), but has to lead into your diamonds. If clubs were 4-4, the hand is trivial; they can cash two clubs and two other tricks. Was this a Scissors Coup plus throw in?

What if the clubs are 6-2? If you cannot make out by the fall of cards, I guess you have to go back to the adage "a peek is worth two finesses". Thus, with the reasonable certainty that west has the club ace, this is a one hundred per cent hand. Did I make it? I leave it for the reader to guess.

FOUR DEUCES & TWO HEARTS

Barnet Shenkin, Boca Raton, FL

Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Balicki</i>		<i>Zmudzinski</i>	
—	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♦
1 ♥	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♥
Double	3 ♦	Pass	4 ♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Cezary Balicki and Adam Zmudzinski recently traveled from Poland to Florida for the Naples Regional - Balicki had had a baby daughter Julietta born four days before his departure. The tournament started on the Monday evening, and as part of the Mahaffey team, Balicki lasted until Saturday evening before losing his first match, winning the previous eleven.

On the diagrammed deal, Zmudzinski led a heart and Balicki played three rounds of the suit, declarer ruffing. Now declarer tried a club to the jack and West won the queen and returned the club eight. Declarer won with the king and played the diamond jack, covered with the king and won by the ace. A second diamond was won by Balicki with the queen.

Now a third trump, the ten, took out declarer's and dummy's last trumps. The defence already had four tricks. At this juncture, Balicki placed his last five cards on the table: the spade two, declarer's trick, the heart two, his trick, the diamond two, declarer's trick, the club two, his trick, and the heart seven, his trick - "Four deuces," he remarked, "and four down." And so it was!

Also from that tournament was this nice defence...

Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Gail Rust</i>		<i>Debbie Drury</i>	
Pass	Pass	1 ♣	Double
1 ♦	1 ♥	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

The first three tricks were a diamond to the jack, a diamond to the king, and a third diamond to the ace. Looking at the South hand as dummy, it was clear to West that the defence had no tricks outside trumps, so she played a fourth round of diamonds and East ruffed with the heart king. The defence still had to come to two heart tricks for one off. Well done.

Editorial (Continued)

Zone 5 (Central America & Caribbean): We resolve to increase our Zone's player membership by the tried-and-true method of kidnapping other Zones' members. We resolve to apply to the WBF for China to be moved to the CACBF. (So far, Zone 5 consists of countries in North America, the Caribbean, Central America and South America.)

Zone 6 (Pacific Asia): We resolve to head off the increasing domination of China in world bridge by applying to the WBF to have China's individual provinces made WBF members.

Zone 7 (South Pacific): We resolve to increase our Zone's nation membership by using the Zone 5 methodology: (i) recruiting every nation in the South Pacific, and (ii) kidnapping countries from other Zones when necessary to increase our quota.

Zone 8 (Africa): We resolve to increase the percentage membership of African nations in the WBF. (Currently, only about one-third of African nations are members of the WBF.)

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 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/>

NEWS & VIEWS

Pierre Schemeil 1921-2006

The many-times Captain of French teams, Pierre Schemeil, died on December 14, aged 85. Schemeil led France to three major titles: the 1980 Olympiad, the 1982 Rosenblum and the 1983 European Championship. He also guided the younger generation to two European Junior Championships in the 1980s. Schemeil remains the only bridge player to have represented four different countries by national selection: Egypt, Lebanon, Switzerland and France. His culture and talent made him a very engaging person.

Internet Club for Students

A new club, especially designed for students, has been established on Bridge Base Online (BBO): the University Bridge Room. All students are welcome to the online tournaments held every Wednesday at 19.00 hrs and Sunday at 14.00 hrs GMT (Greenwich Mean Time).

IBPA WEBSITE NOTICE

To access a Bulletin on the IBPA website, enter the website address www.ibpa.com, followed by a forward slash, then the Bulletin code, immediately followed by .pdf - this Bulletin, January 2007, will have code 504sa so you will need to key in:

www.ibpa.com/504sa.pdf

You can access the IBPA Handbook from www.ibpa.com by clicking on the link on the Constitution page. When you open it, you will be asked for a password, which is:

ihccaT

EXACTLY as it appears here. When prompted for a keyword, it is

Handbook.

Upcoming Online Transmissions

Jan 5-7	Camrose Trophy, England	BBO
Jan 20-21	Grand Tournament, Norway	BBO
Feb 3-4	Dutch Team Championship	BBO
Feb 14-18	Icelandair Open, Reykjavik	Swan
Feb 9-11	Norwegian Premier League	BBO

World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
2007			
Jan 3-7	7 ^o Festival Internazionale	Versilia, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Jan 5-7	Camrose Trophy	Oxford, England	www.ebu.co.uk
Jan 6	PABF Simultaneous Pairs	Clubs in Pacific Asia	www.pabf.org
Jan 12-14	Thames Coromandel Bridge Festival	Thames, NZ	www.discoverybridge.co.nz
Jan 13-24	Internationale Woche	St. Moritz, Switzerland	www.bridgefederation.ch
Jan 15-29	Summer Festival of Bridge	Canberra, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Jan 19-21	Bergen International Tournament	Bergen, Norway	www.storturningingen.no
Jan 20-21	Czech Open Pairs Championship	Marienbad, Czech Republic	j.mazuch@avekont.cz
Jan 20-27	Bermuda Regional 2007	Southampton, Bermuda	www.acbl.org
Jan 22-26	WBF Charity Pairs	Clubs Worldwide	www.worldbridge.org
Feb 1-6	EBU Congress Overseas	Limassol, Cyprus	www.ebu.co.uk
Feb 7-12	11th NEC Festival	Yokohama, Japan	www.jcbl.or.jp
Feb 8-11	21st Seth Shrinivas Lohia All India	Arya Nagar, Kanpur, India	www.bridgeindia.com
Feb 8-17	41 st Israel Bridge Festival	Tel Aviv, Israel	www.israbridge.com
Feb 14-18	Icelandair Open	Reykjavik, Iceland	www.bridge.is
Feb 15-20	24 th Cairo Bridge Festival	Cairo, Egypt	www.egypt-bridge.org
Feb 17-24	Gold Coast Congress	Broadbeach, Australia	www.qldbridge.com
Feb 20-24	Festival des Jeux	Cannes, France	www.ffbridge.asso.fr
Feb 23-25	White House Teams	Amsterdam, Netherlands	www.hetwittehuisbridge.nl
Feb 27-Mar 4	Ixtapan Tournament	Ixtapan de la Sal, Mexico	www.acbl.org
Mar 1-4	Yeh Brothers Cup	Shenzhen, China	pat_hwang2002@yahoo.com.tw
Mar 2-4	Camrose Trophy	Aberdeen, Scotland	www.ebu.co.uk
Mar 6-11	International Festival	Montegrotto Terme, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Mar 8-18	ACBL Spring NABC	St. Louis, MO	www.acbl.org
Mar 21-25	2 nd International Bariloche Open	Bariloche, Argentina	www.barilochebridge.com.ar
Mar 23-31	42 ^{ème} Semaine Internationale	Crans-Montana, Switzerland	www.bridgefederation.ch
Mar 30	Lords v Commons	London, England	www.ebu.co.uk
Apr 3-8	112 th Canadian Nationals	Toronto, ON	www.toronto-bridge.com
Apr 10-15	Kitzbühel Festival	Kitzbühel, Austria	www.bridgeaustria.at
Apr 14-22	All Africa & ABF Zonal Championships	Mombasa, Kenya	www.africanbridgefed.net
Apr 17-22	International Festival of Estoril	Estoril, Portugal	np43je@telepac.pt
May 9-10	EBU Simultaneous Pairs	Clubs in Europe	www.eurobridge.org
May 9-12	Zone 7 Playoffs	Christchurch, NZ	ehr@bigpond.com
May 11-24	Festival International de Bridge	Juan-les-Pins, France	www.bridgejuan.com
May 14-20	XX Internacional de Bridge	Murcia, Spain	http://bridgecc.com
May 16-17	Bonn Nations Cup	Bad Godesburg, Germany	www.bridge-verband.de
May 17-20	Festival de Toulouse	Toulouse, France	www.ffbridge.asso.fr
May 18-17	24 th CACBF Zonal Championships	Willemstad, Curaçao, WI	www.tropicalbridge.com
Jun 1&2	Worldwide Bridge Contest	Clubs Worldwide	www.ecatsbridge.com
Jun 4-13	45 th PABF Championships	Bandung, Indonesia	www.ccba.org.cn
Jun 10-16	Deutsches Bridge Festival	Wyk auf Föhr, Germany	www.bridge-verband.de
Jun 11-17	V Festival Bridge-Golf	Almeria, Spain	http://bridgegolf.net
Jun 15-30	3rd European Open Championships	Antalya, Turkey	www.eurobridge.org
Jun 19-30	XXV International Festival	Albena, Bulgaria	www.aebbridge.com
Jun 29-Jul 11	Festival Internationale de Biarritz	Biarritz, France	www.biarritz-bridge.com
Jul 6-21	Australian National Championships	Fremantle, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Jul 7-15	Danish Bridge Festival	Vinstded, Denmark	www.bridge.dk
Jul 11-15	Gmunden Festival	Gmunden, Austria	www.bridgeaustria.at
Jul 19-29	ACBL Summer NABC	Nashville, TN	www.acbl.org
Jul 28-Aug 2	Chairman's Cup	Jönköping, Sweden	www.svenskbridge.se
Jul 28-Aug 5	Bridgefestival XIII	Jönköping, Sweden	www.svenskbridge.se
Jul 30-Aug 1	2 nd World Junior Individual	Nashville, TN	www.worldbridge.org
Aug 4-9	European University Cup	Brugge, Belgium	www.unibridge.org
Aug 5-11	Loiben Festival	Loiben, Austria	www.bridgeaustria.at
Aug 10-19	Summer Congress	Brighton, England	www.ebu.co.uk
Aug 24-Sep 2	35 ^o Warsaw Grand Prix	Warsaw, Poland	www.polbridge.pl
Aug 27-Sep 8	22 nd Mamaia Festival	Mamaia, Romania	office@frbridge.ro
Sep 8-15	46 th Bridge Festival	Pula, Croatia	www.bridge.hr
Sep 12-16	Festival Venezia	Venice, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Sep 22-29	NZ Nationals	Hamilton, New Zealand	www.nzcba.co.nz
Sep 29-Oct 13	World Team Championships	Shanghai, China	www.worldbridge.org
Nov 3-4	61 st Lederer Memorial Trophy	London, England	www.metrobridge.co.uk
Nov 22-25	29 th International Festival	Brasov, Romania	bridge-club-brasov@as.ro
Nov 22-Dec 2	ACBL Fall NABC	San Francisco, CA	www.acbl.org
Nov 26&28	European Simultaneous Pairs	Clubs in Europe	www.ecatsbridge.com
Nov 28-Dec 2	Sicily Open	Cefalù, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Dec 7-10	Città di Milano	Milan, Italy	www.federbridge.it