



BULLETIN

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From IBPA President, Patrick Jourdain, Cardiff

The third European Open Championships are to be held 20 km east of Antalya, southern Turkey, in June, with a choice of eight events (all transnational and open to non-Europeans), with European titles at stake. All six current Italian world champions are to attend (in two different teams) and Meckstroth-Rodwell are also expected in the Pairs.

A site inspection with six IBPA journalists present was held in January. The main venues (Kremlin Palace and the next-door Topkapi Palace) look excellent, with attractive facilities at all-inclusive prices that, though high for Turkey, compare favourably with the host venue at other European Championships.

The Russian theme at the Kremlin Palace will remind bridge players of the Greek-statue theme in Tenerife on a grander scale. Of more interest are the wide-ranging and mostly-included services on offer, including food and drink and the consequent (and controversial) accommodation policy. The EBL has appointed Bentour to deal with all accommodation matters.

If you are in a group coming to play bridge then, if you can afford to, it is sensible to stay at the main venue. For the duration of the championships the Kremlin and Topkapi will act as one venue. Antalya City Centre is 20 km away and a return taxi fare might be 40 euros. Bentour offers cheaper hotels (with free transfer to the venue) where you just pay bed and breakfast and have entry to the main venue and its facilities (e.g., unlimited food and drink) on a day-by-day basis for a bargain price of 20 euros.

By contrast, the 60-euro venue entry charge if not booking through Bentour, makes finding a cheaper deal almost impossible (the cheapest Bentour hotel in a shared room, 78 euros, plus venue entry fee of 20 euros per person, is 1 euro cheaper than sleeping on the beach and paying the 60!).

Facilities at the Venue

Included in the accommodation rate at the Kremlin Palace-Topkapi or for 20 euros per day if paying bed and breakfast at another Hotel with Bentour (and for Turkish residents) or for 60 euros per day if not booking through Bentour:

- All meals from either:
 - the main buffet restaurant, with a wide choice for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, or

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- by reservation, at restaurants (twice per week) with a choice of Italian, Mexican, and Turkish menu
- All soft drinks and most alcoholic drinks anywhere in the venue
- Swimming pools inside and outdoors; beach with services; gym; leisure centre; games room; 6 tennis courts; squash; archery; bowling alley; group tennis lessons
- Internet cafe; internet wifi access from conference area or large hotel lobby area (so bring your laptop!); Playstation room
- For children: kids' restaurant; playground; water slides; miniclub age 4-7 with different activities each day; miniclub age 8-12 including things like water sports; soft tennis; disco.

A la Carte Facilities

Facilities and services which are not included in the accommodation rate are:

- The bridge events. Entry fees are paid to the EBL (approx 20 euros per player per session).
- Internet access from bedroom (5 euros per day).
- Services such as private tennis lesson (25 euro for 45 minutes)
- Baby-sitting for children under 4 (approx 10 euros per hour) but children under 4 can go to the miniclub if accompanied by a parent. Antalya Centre (20 km) has two big Aquaparks.

Other Attractions

- Day trips can be arranged to the historic sites of Aspendos (where there are opera and ballet performances in June in the amphitheatre), and Side, less than an hour east of the venue.
- Also east of the venue there are golf ranges and excellent golf courses.

Note from your President: for the inspection visit the IBPA journalists were offered flight plus a day at the hotel, but your President paid his own expense to extend his visit.

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

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The 48th Winter National Championships

TC Pant, Delhi

The top annual Indian tournament, the Winter National Championships, held under the aegis of the Bridge Federation of India, was organized by the Madhya Pradesh Contract Bridge Association and the Bhopal District Contract Bridge Association at Taty Topo Stadium, Bhopal, from the 4th to the 13th of December, 2006.

Bhopal, the 'City of Lakes' and the capital of Madhya Pradesh state, is a fascinating amalgam of scenic beauty, old historic city and modern urban planning. It is the 11th century city Bhojpal, founded by Raja Bhoj, but the present city was established by an Afghan soldier, Dost Mohammed (1707-1740). His descendants built Bhopal into a beautiful city.



Two man-made lakes dominate the city, and are indeed its nucleus. Upper Lake was built about 1000 years ago and Lower Lake about 200 years ago. Think of a map of India and Sri Lanka connected; rotate it 90° counter-clockwise and you'll have a picture of Bhopal; India representing the Upper Lake and Sri Lanka the Lower, with the city concentrated around the shores of the eastern end of the Upper Lake and surrounding the Lower Lake.

Bhopal today presents a multi-faceted profile. The old city with its marketplaces and fine old mosques and palaces still bears the aristocratic imprint of its former rulers, among them the succession of powerful Begums who ruled Bhopal from 1819 to 1926. Equally impressive is the new city with its verdant, exquisitely-laid-out parks and gardens, broad avenues and streamlined modern edifices. It is one of the greenest and cleanest cities in the country.

Bhopal is midway between Delhi and Mumbai on one of the main railway lines and is home to about a million and a half people. The city provides a fascinating blend of scenic beauty with its lakes, parks, temples, mosques, gardens, museums, statues and historic and modern buildings.

Mr. Sunil Sood, the Mayor of Bhopal Municipal Corporation, in an impressive opening ceremony on Monday the 4th morning, inaugurated the Championships. The other dignitaries present on the occasion were Mr. Sanjay Chaudhary - Director Sports, Mr. Kamalakara Rao - President of the Bridge Federation of India, Mr. Yatish Chandra – Former State Director General of Police & Chairman of the Organising Committee of the event, and Mr. Akhilesh Bhargava.

In all, 127 teams from all parts of the country participated in the championships. This year's Nationals had a similar format to last year's, but with many sponsored events being added so that eliminated players could play further and win more prizes. The various event winners of the 2006 Nationals were:

RUIA GOLD CUP (Team of Four): INDIAN RAILWAYS 'A' - Manas Mukherjee, Pritish Kushari, Rana Roy, Amarnath Banerjee, Sumit Mukherjee & Debbrata Majumdar.

SWISS SERIES (Team of Four): MAYA MIRA SNEHA - Vijay Goel, Sukamal Das, Samir Basak, C.S. Majumdar, Kingshuk Bhattacharya & Shankar Acharya.

MOHAN SICKA TROPHY (BAM): FORMIDABLES - Mrs. Kiran Nadar, B. Satyanarayana, Subhash Gupta, Rajeshwar Tewari, K.R. Venkatraman & Sunit Chokshi.

HOLKARTROPHY (OPEN PAIRS): Archie Sequeira - Finton Lewis

KAMALAKARA IMP PAIRS: S.K. Vaidya – A.S. Jog



Birla Mandir Temple

In the 64-board final of the Ruia Gold Cup, **Indian Railways 'A'** faced **Formidables**. For session two of four, the lineup was:

Open Room:

NS: Sunit Chokshi–K.R. Venkatraman (Formidables)
EW: Manas Mukherjee – A.N. Banerjee (IR 'A')

Closed Room:

NS: Sumit Mukherjee – Pritish Kushari (IR 'A')
EW: Subhash Gupta – Rajeshwar Tewari (Formidables)

For the purposes of this report, the Mukherjees will be referred to by their given names and Satyanarayana by the briefer, and universal, Satya. Everyone else will be referred to by their family names.

Board 31. Dealer South. NS Vul.

♠ A K
♥ A Q 8 7 6 4
♦ J 9 7
♣ 8 2

♠ Q J 6 5 4
♥ K 10 5
♦ K Q 10
♣ Q 6

♠ 9 8 3
♥ 2
♦ A 8 6 3
♣ A K J 10 5

♠ 10 7 2
♥ J 9 3
♦ 5 4 2
♣ 9 7 4 3

The bidding in the open room:

West	North	East	South
Banerjee	Chokshi	Manas	Venkatraman
—	—	—	Pass
1 ♠	2 ♥	3 ♣	Pass
3 NT	Pass	pass	Pass

North tried the unbid suit and led the jack of diamonds, but as the cards lie, there was no defence to three no trump. In fact, after cashing his nine tricks in the minors, declarer played a spade to North, who was forced to give a heart trick to east-West to score 10 tricks for plus 430 to Railways.

The closed room bidding was:

West	North	East	South
Tewari	Sumit	Gupta	Kushari
—	—	—	Pass
1 ♠	2 ♥	Double	Pass
2 NT	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

North led the club eight and declarer, after taking the trick in dummy with ace, played the spade three to the queen and North's king. North cashed the heart ace and continued with a low heart.

Declarer ruffed in dummy and played another spade. When South made the psychological play of the seven (his ten-seven now surrounded the nine), it was a guess. Declarer played the jack to go one down for minus 50 and 10 IMPs in the pocket of Railways.

Railways led by 25 IMPs at the half-time break.

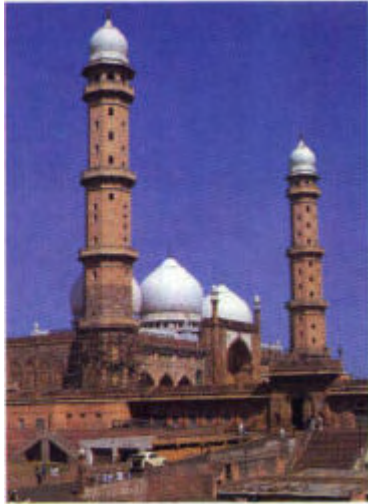
For Session 3, Railways maintained the same foursome, whereas Mrs. Nadar and Satya came in for Chokshi-Venky, lining up as follows:

Open Room:

NS: Subhash Gupta – Rajeshwar Tewari (Formidables)
EW: Sumit Mukherjee – Pritish Kushari (IR 'A')

Closed Room:

NS: Manas Mukherjee – A.N. Banerjee (IR 'A')
EW: Mrs. Kiran Nadar – B. Satyanarayana (Formidables)



Tajul Mosque

A big swing appeared on the ninth board of this set.

Board 41. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

The bidding in both the rooms was identical.

West	North	East	South
Kushari	Gupta	Sumit	Tewari
Satya	Manas	Nadar	Banerjee
—	Pass	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

In the open room, East led the diamond six, declarer playing the seven, and West winning the trick with the queen.

West shifted to the two of clubs and East won the trick with the ten when declarer played low. East now played the nine of diamonds, declarer taking this with the ace and ruffing the jack of diamonds in hand. A low heart was played towards the dummy and when East played low, the king was put up and won the trick.

Declarer now played a low heart, won by West with the queen. The most threatening return for West now is a trump, a good idea earlier, but it was too late now - declarer won the trump queen and got home on a cross-ruff for ten tricks. Gupta scored up an impressive plus 420 for Formidables., where timely trump leads might have beaten him.

In the closed room the lead was also a diamond. This time the four, declarer again playing low. This time, however, West won the trick with king.

Similarly to the open room, West shifted to the club two, but here declarer played the king and East won the trick with ace. Perhaps a bit rattled, declarer went all wrong from here onwards.

When the diamond was returned, he again took the finesse and lost to the queen. Finally, a spade was returned and the trick was won in dummy. After playing another spade to hand, North played the heart jack and ran it, losing to West's queen. Finally, when the debris was cleared, he was down three for minus 150 and 11 IMPs to Formidables.

Formidables had reduced their deficit to only 5 IMPs when the eleventh board of the set was placed on the table.

Board 43. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Kushari	Gupta	Sumit	Tewari
—	—	—	1 NT
Pass	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

South led the two of clubs and declarer was able to make five clubs and a spade to go two down for minus 300. In the closed room, the bidding was:

West	North	East	South
Satya	Manas	Nadar	Banerjee
—	—	—	1 NT
2 ♥	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

The heart queen was led and rightly fearing a shift to clubs, declarer took this to start spades. When West proved to have only two of these, Banerjee took the right view in diamonds and scampered home with his nine tricks: three spades, two hearts and four diamonds. That was a pretty good plus 400 and a gain of 3 IMPs to the Indian Railways team.

Formidables recovered 4 IMPs on this board.

Board 47. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

It turned out to be a battle between the pointed and the rounded suits. The bidding in the open room:

West	North	East	South
<i>Kushari</i>	<i>Gupta</i>	<i>Sumit</i>	<i>Tewari</i>
—	—	—	1 ♥
1 ♠	2 ♥	4 ♦	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

North led a low club to partner's king, which was ducked by declarer. On another day, this might have been a good idea, but not today: South cashed the heart ace and shifted to his singleton diamond.

Partner gave the required ruff when in with the trump ace and contract was one down for plus 50 to Formidables.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Satya</i>	<i>Manas</i>	<i>Nadar</i>	<i>Banerjee</i>
—	—	—	1 ♥
1 ♠	2 ♥	4 ♦	4 ♥
4 ♠	5 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

The bidding was nearly identical except that Tewari preferred passing the four-diamond bid (fit-showing) of East, whereas Banerjee bid four hearts over it. This prompted Manas to bid five hearts over four spades by Satya.

West led the diamond four to partner's queen. East could have taken the contract two down if he now shifts to spade, getting a trick in each suit. However, East shifted to the club ten and now the spade trick vanished and contract was only down one for plus 100 and 4 IMPs to Formidables on the board.

The last board of a session can sometimes be dangerous and so it turned out to be for Formidables.

(See top of next column.) After a natural bidding sequence, where two spades was Fourth Suit Forcing, Gupta - Tewari reached their five-club contract. On the lie of the cards, the small slam in clubs is always on, unless East leads a low heart and puts the declarer under pressure for locating the heart ace correctly.

Board 48. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kushari</i>	<i>Gupta</i>	<i>Sumit</i>	<i>Tewari</i>
Pass	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♣
Pass	5 ♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

However, the natural lead for defenders is a trump, and declarer wins in dummy and cashes spade ace, ruffs a spade, comes to dummy with a top trump and ruffs another spade. The spade queen now is good.

Declarer takes out the West's last trump and gets two spades, two spade ruffs, three trumps and five diamonds to make his twelve tricks. If East leads the heart ace, then twelve tricks are there for the taking. Gupta scored his twelve tricks for plus 420.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Satya</i>	<i>Manas</i>	<i>Nadar</i>	<i>Banerjee</i>
Pass	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♣	Pass	6 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

One can readily understand Banerjee's desire to protect the spade tenace, but that desire propelled his side into a dicey contact ... until West led the spade jack, that is. With no obscene minor-suit breaks, there were twelve tricks there for the taking – plus 990 to Railways. Railways gained 11 IMPs on the board.

The third quarter ended with a score of 30-28 in favour of Formidables and an overall lead of 23 IMPs in favour of the Railways team. The fourth quarter was fairly flat, with Formidables closing the gap to 13 IMPs, but they simply ran out of steam.

Indian Railways 'A' won the Ruia Gold Cup by 13 IMPs (95-82).

IBPA COLUMN SERVICE

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

377. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

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

West made the obvious lead of the king of spades and declarer saw that the only danger was a bad diamond break. The best way to overcome such a division was with an elimination play.

After winning the spade ace, declarer drew trumps, then ruffed his remaining spade. After cashing the three club winners to complete the elimination of the black suits, he made the crucial play of leading the seven of diamonds with the intention of running if East followed with the three or five of diamonds. This would guard against any adverse diamond division.

When East did play the ten of diamonds declarer took this with his king and then led a low diamond to the eight. East won with the jack but was then faced with the prospect of giving a ruff-and-discard or leading away from his queen-three of diamonds into dummy's ace-nine. Either way declarer would have the required twelve tricks.

378. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

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

As North had promised spade length, South's three spade call worked out better than the alternative of four diamonds.

West led the king of hearts against four spades and declarer won the trick with his bare ace. There was only one card at trick two that allowed the contract to be made – the ten of trumps. Now declarer picked up the trumps in three rounds.

The next play was crucial too – declarer ran the nine of diamonds, which West took with the jack and exited with the queen of hearts. This was the third decision point for declarer for if he had carelessly ruffed he would have gone down, as he needs the ruff as an entry to the long diamonds. Instead he discarded a diamond and ruffed the next heart on table. After the ace of diamonds was knocked out, his remaining trump was the entry to the diamonds.

The point about running the nine of diamonds was that if declarer had played a diamond to the king instead, West can defeat the contract by ducking as it denies declarer the entries he needs to set up and enjoy the diamonds.

379. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

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

After North's quantitative raise of his strong no trump overcall of East's weak two opening, South had no hesitation in moving towards the slam by showing the number of aces he held.

West led the five of spades and declarer could count eleven tricks. As all depended on the club suit for the twelfth trick, declarer decided to try and get a count on the unseen hands.

Declarer ducked the opening lead and won the spade continuation, which revealed spades were divided 6-1. Then came the ace, king and queen of hearts. As East followed three times, nine of his cards were known. After the three top diamonds, throwing a spade from table, and the queen of clubs, East's original distribution was known to be 6=3=3=1. So, West began with both the jack and ten of clubs. Next declarer led the nine of clubs. When West played low so did dummy and the slam was made.

If West had covered the nine of clubs with the ten, declarer would win the trick with the king of clubs and then cross back to hand with the jack of hearts to finesse dummy's eight of clubs. (Without the unblocking play of the nine of clubs, West could defeat the contract by playing the ten of clubs when the six was led on the second round of the suit. This would mean that when declarer led the nine of clubs on the third round of the suit, West would play low and declarer would either lose a spade or a club on the last trick.)

Six hearts would have been rather easier.

380. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

After this transfer and super-accept auction, West led a trump. Declarer took this with the ace, drew a second round of trumps with the queen and then made a certainty of twelve tricks. Can you spot how he did it?

You make certain of your contract by playing a spade to dummy's king and following this with the five of spades, intending to cover East's card. When East follows with a low card, you play the eight of spades and West has to win the ten. Now he is end-played, forced to lead away

from one of his high cards into one of your tenaces. You make six trumps, two spades, two diamonds, the ace of clubs as well as an extra trick in the suit West returns.

Notice that if East were to play the nine of spades, your jack would be taken by the queen and then your ace-eight in spades would form a tenace to the missing ten of spades. So a spade return would still give you your twelfth trick.

Bermuda Regional 2007

Allan Falk, Okemos, MI

A Bidding Secret?

Each year, hundreds of bridge players come to Bermuda in January for the bridge, the island's beauty, the hospitality, the golf and a chance to take part in a more genteel, friendlier competition than most others.

In Flight I of the Knockout Teams, no one solved the puzzle of what to do with this hand:

♠ K Q 9 5 4
♥ 8
♦ 7
♣ A K Q J 7 5

Vulnerable against not, it goes one no trump to your right in first seat. At one table this showed 13-15, at the other 14-16. What would you bid?

Allow me to let you in on a little bidding secret. With a running six-card suit it looks tempting to double, but with this distribution it will not likely go all pass. If there is more bidding, you may never get the chance to fully describe your hand to partner. Also, in case you forgot, it takes more than six winners to defeat one no trump.

Alternatively, two no trump by you in this situation, while usually used to show both minors, may also show a powerful game-going two-suited hand too good for a lesser bid. Your partner, holding a hopeless hand which would pass any non-forcing two-suited bid, held:

♠ J 8 5
♥ 10 9 7 5
♦ 10 3 2
♣ 9 5 2

and bids three clubs; you will bid three spades and partner has little option but to raise to the cold spade game (you made the forcing bid, so it will be your fault if it's wrong), where the spade jack to three spades are pure gold. Meanwhile, against one no trump doubled, after you rattle off six club tricks, the opponents will be ready to claim the balance.

How to be a Winner

Bert Newman and Ed White enjoyed a pretty solid tournament. In the Knockout Teams, they demonstrated that one secret to success is to pick good teammates:

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

West	North	East	South
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
2 NT	Pass	4 NT	Pass
6 NT	Pass	Pass	

West thought three aces, a jack, and a few nice spot cards enough to accept partner's slam invitation. Myles Walsh was on lead holding:

♠ Q J 2
 ♥ Q 10 8 3
 ♦ J 8 3
 ♣ Q 6 2

You or I might have hoped partner could produce the spade ten, and thus would have quickly been minus 1440. But Myles made the inspired guess to lead the two of clubs. Declarer noted that the opponents were playing fourth best leads against no trump, and ducked the lead.

The spotlight now shifted to Margie Sullivan. With the jack-ten-five of clubs (what a good partner!), she carefully won the trick with her jack. Poor West was duly taken in, and later (after diamonds came home for five tricks) decided to play North for the queen-ten to four clubs, running the club eight and losing to Margie's carefully concealed ten.

Test Your Bidding Judgment

Here are two five-level bidding problems from knockout teams matches:

1. ♠ 9 8 3
 ♥ A K Q J 9 8
 ♦ Q 8 7 5
 ♣ —

You open four clubs (Namyats) in first seat, showing a good four-heart pre-empt. LHO doubles for takeout, and partner bids four diamonds. RHO chimes in with four spades, and, for good or ill, this is passed around to partner, who bids five hearts. RHO passes, and it's back to you. What do you do?

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

RHO cranks open the bidding at three no trump, showing a solid suit and no outside ace or king. You double, and LHO bids four clubs, pass or correct. This is passed around to you, and you try four hearts, but LHO now bids four spades. Partner comes to life with five hearts (you have the agreement that four no trump by partner would be a spade cue bid), and RHO passes. What now?

Solutions:

1. Partner seems marked with a singleton spade, diamond values, and heart support, so you should bid a slam. But be careful! If partner has diamond length, RHO could have a diamond void, and be in position to make a Lightner double for an unusual lead (you can visualize a diamond lead, ruffed, a spade back, and another diamond ruff). So you might as well bid six diamonds on the way; partner can always overrule you without long diamonds. Partner's hand:

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

2. You must be high enough. With ace-king to four hearts, in the face of your strong bidding (doubling three no trump suggested you had it beaten in your own hand), Partner would surely have raised to a heart slam directly, or at least cue bid five clubs, so you must be high enough. Partner's hand:

♠ Q 8 4 3
 ♥ K 4 3 2
 ♦ 7 5
 ♣ 10 8 6

Note that, on the first hand, you began with an overbid. Nonetheless, the development of the auction improved your prospects tremendously. On the second hand, you had not perhaps shown your full values, but the information available indicated you should not venture further.

A Thoughtful Play

Roman Smolski made a thoughtful play on this hand from the Knockout Teams, which Smolski's team duly won:

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

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

Smolski got the lead of the spade four (fourth best), and won the ace when South put up the queen. The diamond king was played next, ducked all around. Thinking to perhaps pin a doubleton jack or ten of hearts, Smolski now played the heart queen from his hand, which South took with king.

South thought awhile and returned the heart six. Smolski held true to his early plan, winning the ace as North followed small. On a third heart, North discarded a low diamond. Although it may seem as though declarer has badly mis-guessed hearts, Roman correctly inferred that South, on winning the first heart, would have returned

a spade if he held one. Therefore, when South won the third heart, he was end-played. He could cash another heart (establishing Roman's fifth heart as his eighth trick), but now had to play a diamond or a club, either of which would create a ninth trick for declarer. The full deal:

<p>♠ 10 9 5 4 2 ♥ 5 2 ♦ A 9 3 ♣ 8 6 5</p> <p>♠ A K J 8 ♥ A Q 8 7 3 ♦ K ♣ A 4 3</p> <p>♠ Q ♥ K J 10 6 ♦ 8 7 6 2 ♣ Q 10 9 7</p>	<p>♠ 7 6 3 ♥ 9 4 ♦ Q J 10 5 4 ♣ K J 2</p>
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Not surprisingly, with this kind of technique going for him, Smolski and partner Vera Petty won four events this year and finished second in several more.

Tit for Tat

Roy Griffin, Swansea, UK

Here is a very odd deal in which the defenders first squeezed the declarer so that he had to give up a certain trick, but the declarer then squeezed the defenders to get the trick back.

Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

South opened with a strong no-trump (16-18 pts), which was passed out. West naturally ran his club suit. South's immediate reaction must have been pleasurable, as he seemed to have seven top tricks in spades and diamonds. But, that was to change. South followed to the first three rounds, and discarded a spade on the fourth. South's hand was then:

♠ K 8
♥ K 9
♦ A K Q J 8
♣ —

West's last club squeezed the declarer in three suits. He decided the ploy of baring his heart king was too

dangerous and discarded a diamond, giving up a certain trick.

West exited safely with the ten of diamonds. Declarer won and ran his remaining diamonds to reach:

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

On the last diamond, West could not discard a heart as the declarer could then lead a small heart and set up his king. So West discarded a spade. Dummy discarded a heart. East had to hold on to three spades and discarded the heart queen.

South read the position accurately and led the heart king. West won with the ace, but East's jack was pinned and the declarer's nine was established for his seventh trick. The final squeeze seems to be a double squeeze without the count. *(It would seem simpler, and more certain, to lead a spade to the ace and a heart toward hand, just in case East had started life with ace-queen to four hearts. - Ed.)*

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Cost Nothing Deceptive Play

Alasdair Forbes, Glasgow

This deal from a club tournament looks routine, with South bound to go down in a hopeless five clubs. However, the bidding and the opening lead produced a rare moment of inspiration from declarer.

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

West led the three of spades and this seemed like the right time to paint a false picture of the distribution of the spade suit. When the five of spades was called from the dummy, East naturally assumed that South had the ten. She played the ace and South contributed the seven.

Now East was a thinking defender and she worked out that if South held ten-seven, that would leave six-three for her partner. From that holding, West would have led the six, ergo the three must be a singleton. After what seemed an eternity to South, East played back the nine of spades for Partner to ruff, and the impossible contract was home as there were now three discards available on the spades.

The play of a high spade from dummy would have spelled immediate defeat for declarer with a switch to either red suit. If East had not fallen for the deception, her ace could have been ruffed out later at no cost, with South still making the ten tricks to which he was entitled, so the play at trick one was of the cost-nothing variety and reaped an unexpected, but welcome, reward.

Upcoming Online Transmissions

Mar 14	Winter National Teams, Izmir	BBO
Mar 19-22	White House Jr, Amsterdam	BBO
Mar 31-		
Apr 1	Estonian Tm Championship	BBO
Jun 15-30	Open Europeanas, Antalya	Swan



Yokohama, Feb. 7-12, 2007

Rich Colker, Wheaton, MD

Barry Rigal, NYC

This year's 12th NEC Cup once again boasted a very strong international field, including many of the world's top players. Fifteen invited international teams joined 32 Japanese teams in battle. Fancied teams included RUSSIA/POLAND (Gromov-Dubin, Zmudzinski-Balicki), CHINA SMEG (Fu-Zhao, Wang-Sun, Yang-Dai), NETHERLANDS (Bertens-Bakkeren, Jacobs-Schollardt), IRELAND (Hanlon-McGann, Mesbur-Fitzgibbon, Garvey-Carroll), and HACKETT (Paul, Jason, Justin, Armstrong, Helgemo).

Stage One was an 8-round Swiss Teams of 20-board matches, IMPs converted to Victory Points using the 25-VPWBF scale, qualifying eight teams for a knockout phase. The 47-team field was seeded into top and bottom halves. The initial pairings matched each top-half team at random against a bottom-half team; subsequent pairings were based on current VP totals. The quarter-finals and semi-finals were 40-board matches; the final 64 boards.

At the opening ceremony, emcee **Haruko Koshi** introduced **Kimio Fujita**, Japan Contract Bridge League President, who welcomed participants to the Festival. **Saito Koji**, of NEC Corporation, then welcomed all players on behalf of NEC and expressed the company's pride in their long-standing relationship with JCBL and sponsorship of the festival.

If It Ducks Like a Quack...

Vladislav Isporski-Valio Kovachev perpetrated an inspired defence against Kyoko Shimamura-Mitsue Tajima's 'cold' four-spade contract on Day one. This was the situation:

Round 3. Helman (Bridge Magazine) vs Japan Tajima. Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Tajima</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Shimamura</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
—	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Isporski led the queen of diamonds against the ‘unbreakable’ game. Declarer won the ace and immediately took the club finesse – queen, two, six, seven! She then passed the jack of clubs to Kovachev’s king, and he led a diamond to Isporski to obtain his club ruff.

When Kovachev exited with the ace of hearts (the king of diamonds works as well), declarer was finished. She could ruff the heart in hand, but then could not find a way to extricate her remaining tricks. Whether she played on clubs or spades, the spade nine would be promoted to a trick. Down two, plus 200, was worth 13 IMPs (four spades made at the other table).

**Round 4. Russia/Poland vs Japan Yamada.
Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.**

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dubinin</i>	<i>Yamada</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Ohno</i>
1 NT	Pass	2 ♠ ¹	Pass
3 ♣ ²	Pass	3 NT	Pass

1. Range inquiry
2. Maximum

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Otaka</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Takahashi</i>	<i>Zmudzinski</i>
1 NT	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Both tables reached three no trump on uninformative auctions. Yamada led a diamond and declarer took the first trick and cleared the clubs. The defence cleared diamonds and declarer ran his clubs and set up spades for his nine tricks.

In the Closed Room Balicki-Zmudzinski took advantage of less-than-optimal declarer play to showcase their impeccable defence. Balicki led a fourth-highest four of

hearts. Declarer put up the ten and won Zmudzinski’s jack to take the club finesse. Zmudzinski won as Balicki dropped the club ten - Reverse Smith, saying a switch would be welcomed - and shifted to diamonds. When declarer ducked to Balicki’s king, he switched back to hearts, knocking out declarer’s last stopper. When Balicki won the spade ace, he had two hearts to cash for one down.

That was nicely done, but declarer had opened the door for the defence by playing clubs before spades. Here it would seem that you want to keep South off lead for just this reason, and the losing club finesse will surely give South the chance to shift. But if the cards lie as they do, no shift can hurt you when North takes the ace of spades.

The Art of Seppuku

Board 5 from Friday’s Round 7 match had the potential to present declarers in three no trump with an interesting problem.

**Round 7. Israel vs Helman
Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.**

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

Against three no trump, many Souths led a spade to the jack and ace. Declarer then leads the queen of diamonds, ducked, and now clears diamonds. At one table Valio Kovachev, sitting South, shifted to the club ten to the queen and ace. Now a heart to the queen lets declarer run the diamonds. With the heart jack and club king well placed, that was plus 400 to Israel.

But what if Kovachev covers the diamond queen; should declarer duck? If declarer wins the queen with the ace and continues with a low diamond back to the nine, the defence can duck and disrupt his communications. East can do no better than lead a heart to the queen. South flies with the ace, but now clearing spades is not good enough. Instead he must shift to a club. Declarer must win and though he now appears to have five diamonds, a club, two hearts and a spade, there is a problem collecting all the tricks he has coming.

Declarer is in his hand and needs two tempos: one to knock out the diamond, and one to set up the spade. Unfortunately, whichever major suit he uses to reach dummy becomes the source of his own demise.

Being in Japan this reminds us of seppuku (or hara-kiri) - a key part of bushido, the code of the samurai warriors. Seppuku is a form of suicide the samurai used to avoid falling into enemy hands, and to attenuate shame. Look at the position here:

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

If declarer plays a heart to the queen in order to clear diamonds, South wins and leads a third heart, establishing a heart winner for partner and a fifth trick for the defence. If declarer plays a spade, the defence ducks to preserve transportation, and now the long spade becomes the setting trick.

Pick your poison - er, wakizashi (the small sword traditionally used for seppuku).

Round 8. Poland vs The Latin
Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Frontaura	Narkiewicz	Pellegrini	Buras
1 NT	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
3 ♦	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Kwiecien	Ravenna	Jagniewski	Brenner
1 NT	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
3 ♦	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

In the closed room, a spade opening lead made declarer's task an easy one. In the other room a low diamond to the ten and king saw Kwiecien overtake the jack of clubs and finesse in spades. When Ravenna won his queen he needed to exit with a club to start cutting declarer's avenues of transportation. The heart eight was not going to be good enough; Brenner short-circuited this process by winning the heart ace and returning the jack. Kwiecien was not born yesterday; he rose with the queen and had nine tricks. No swing.

Even after a club play at trick four, the defenders have to be very careful. Declarer wins in hand and cashes the spade king, then runs the clubs. This is the five-card ending:

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

Declarer has the lead in East and needs two tricks. He can do no better than lead a heart since cashing the ace of spades would squeeze his hand. South must win, cash the other heart (North discarding a spade) and lead the jack of diamonds, ducked all around, then exit with the jack of hearts to endplay West into conceding trick thirteen (the diamond ace) to North.

Should North return a spade after winning the spade queen, declarer can duck a diamond, then endplay North or get a heart trick in the end.

Board 18. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

Open and Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
Frontaura	Narkiewicz	Pellegrini	Buras
Kwiecien	Ravenna	Jagniewski	Brenner
—	—	Pass	1 ♣
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Both Wests bounced to four hearts. Narkiewicz guessed to lead a diamond—not nearly as bad as it might appear. Declarer finessed, pitched his club loser on the diamonds, then led a spade to the king and ace. He ruffed a club, cashed the heart ace, on which North dropped the obligatory false-card of an honor, and now Frontaura mis-guessed what to do. His thinking was that he needed South to have an original holding of queen-low in spades. That made it far more likely that he would have three hearts. When Frontaura also misread the ending he was down two; minus 100.

In the Closed Room, Ravenna led a club; Brenner won the king - a subtle error - and returned a low spade. Surely, if you are going to switch to a spade, you should win the club ace at trick one. Kwiecien guessed right (nicely done), and when he got in, laid down the heart ace, then guessed trumps despite Ravenna's false-card. Well done all around; 11 IMPs to Poland.

Overall, game was made rather more often than not. The datum was plus 260 to East-West. As it turned out, with two deals to come, Poland had a 17-13 lead and needed one more swing to be invited to the ball. But the last two boards provided no opportunities, and Poland just missed out on the quarterfinals.

Final Round Robin Rankings

Rank	Team	VPs
1	POLAND/RUSSIA	160
2	CHINA Beijing (Wang-Chen, Shi-Ju, Shi-Fan)	153
3	HACKETT	149
4	ISRAEL (Campanile-Barel, Levin-Zack)	147
5	JAPAN D-MaTK (Furuta-Chen, Ino-Imakura)	145
6	NETHERLANDS	140
7/8	JAPAN Shy Ant (Shimizu-Nakamura, Tanaka-Harada)	139
7/8	OZ-ONE Australia (Richman-Nagy, Marston-Prescott)	139

The Quarterfinals

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Prescott	Ju	Marston	Shi
—	1 NT	Pass	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Cheng	Richman	Wang	Nagy
—	1 ♦	Pass	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

The OzOne team had developed a tradition of starting slowly in this event. Would this trend be continued? Apparently so.

Both tables reached four spades. Richman led a trump, then flew with the heart queen to lead a second trump. Cheng now knew about the bad break. He won in hand and ruffed a heart, then came back to the ace of diamonds to draw trumps. Now a low diamond end-played Richman, who had to give up a club and two diamonds or set up the hearts.

In the other room, Marston declared four spades from the East seat on a low club lead. After a lot of thought, he elected to ruff and lead a low heart from the board. North flew with the queen here as well to lead trumps, and Marston successfully pinned the jack-ten of hearts by ruffing hearts twice in hand. He had to use the diamond ace and a second ruff to achieve this though. When he came to draw trumps he therefore needed the suit to split. No luck there; the defenders had a diamond and club to cash when they came in with the thirteenth trump.

Quarterfinal Results

POLAND/RUSSIA	126	JAPAN Shy Ant	72
OZ-ONE	128	CHINA Beijing	66
HACKETT	112	JAPAN D-MaTK	93
NETHERLANDS	86	ISRAEL	82

The Semifinals

Session 1. Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

Russia vs. OzOne

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Prescott	Gromov	Marston	Dubin
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1 ♣	2 ♦	Double
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zmudzinski	Richman	Balicki	Nagy
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1 ♣	2 ♦	Pass
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Hackett vs The Netherlands

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bertens	Justin H	Bakkeren	Jason H
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 ♣ ¹
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Five-card major Stayman

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Jacobs	Armstrong	Schollaardt
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1 ♣	2 ♦	Pass
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

An interesting feature of the NEC Cup is that the team finishing highest in the Swiss chooses its opponents for the quarterfinals and semifinals. Thus the Russians/Poles chose to play OzOne, leaving Netherlands and Hackett to do battle.

At the table with Marston, East, on lead, a diamond went to the queen and Gromov played clubs. Marston took the third and got out with a low heart. Declarer played low from dummy - rather a giveaway - and Prescott put in the eight. Gromov won and took a spade finesse for nine tricks.

Balicki defended three no trump by leading a diamond, taking the second club, and returning the third. When declarer advanced the spade ten he lost any chance, his main possibilities of a swindle coming from playing a low heart and having West duck. Once the spade was covered the heart queen lost to the king and a diamond back spelled curtains for declarer. It was déjà vu all over again (as the American baseball player Yogi Berra famously said).

In the all-European match both tables played three no trump and let it through. Armstrong led a diamond, took the second club, and returned a club. Jacobs sneaked the heart jack past Helgemo (shock! horror!) and had nine tricks. Bakkeren led an intermediate diamond, won the third club, and exited with a low diamond, playing his partner for the jack. No swing.

At the end of 20 boards, Hackett led the Netherlands, 48-31, while in the other semifinal match Poland/Russia led OzOne comfortably, 66-29.

Session 2. Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

Hackett vs Netherlands

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bertens	Justin H	Bakkeren	Jason H
—	3 ♥	Double	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Jacobs	Armstrong	Schollaardt
—	2 ♥	Double	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Actions like North's in the Open Room here have become more and more commonplace in high-level bridge. But if it walks like a weak two, and talks like a weak two...

Be that as it may, in this case, three hearts drove East-West to a good spade game (as did two hearts) that they might easily have bid on their own but that should go down (although three no trump is cold). But as some hack writer once wrote, "...the play's the thing..."

Justin led the diamond three - Bertens rose with the ace to play a spade to the ace - ugh - then the jack of clubs to the queen. Jason now made a critical error by returning the queen of spades (any card other than a high spade would have worked). Bertens won, played a diamond to the ace, ruffed a diamond, crossed to dummy's heart ace and led the fourth diamond, scoring his spade eight (it would do South no good to ruff high in front of him). He then ruffed a heart and exited with

a trump, and had to score two of the remaining tricks. A great plus 420.

The play in the Closed Room went the same way to the first three tricks, but at trick four Schollaardt returned the diamond ten instead of a top spade after winning the club queen. Helgemo won in dummy and played a spade, and Schollaardt did very well to duck (if he splits declarer can come to ten tricks). Helgemo won cheaply in hand, played a heart to the ace, the king of clubs to the ace, won the diamond return, ruffed a diamond, ruffed a heart, came to hand with the ten of clubs, and led a fourth heart, ruffed and over-ruffed. The trump return now left Helgemo with a heart loser; minus 50 and 10 IMPs to the Dutchmen.

Poland/Russia vs OzOne

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Nagy	Balicki	Richman	Zmudzinski
—	3 ♥	Double	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Dubin	Marston	Gromov	Prescott
—	3 ♥	Double	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

In the Open Room, Balicki led the club five, ducked to the queen, and Zmudzinski played ace and out a club to the king. Nagy played a spade to the ace, a heart to the ace, and a second spade and Zmudzinski erred by splitting his honours in a similar position to the one in which we saw Schollaardt find the winning duck against Helgemo. Now we see why the duck was so crucial. Nagy won, played the ace-king of diamonds, ruffed a diamond, ruffed a heart, and led the last diamond. Now Zmudzinski could ruff or not, as dummy was down to all trumps. Plus 420.

In the Closed Room, where four spades had been doubled, Marston led a diamond to the ace. Dubin played a low spade to the eight (nice play, but the contract was still doomed against best defence), a heart to the ace, and a spade. Now it was Prescott's turn to err by splitting. Dubin won the jack with the ace and now it was his turn to err by not playing on diamonds. (The contract is cold if he just crossruffs the red suits now.) Instead he led the club jack to the queen and Prescott now led a second round of hearts, prematurely removing Dubin's late dummy entry. Eventually, Dubin finished down one, for minus 100, and 11 IMPs to OzOne.

Semifinal Results

POLAND/RUSSIA	99	OZ-ONE	77
NETHERLANDS	79	HACKETT	67

Final Result

NETHERLANDS 114 POLAND/RUSSIA 109

Other Events

Yokohama SRR & Swiss Teams: CHINA SMEG
Asuka Cup: Barel-Zack

NEWS & VIEWS

Zia's School

Zia Mahmood reports that over \$150,000 has been raised to build a school in the earthquake-ravaged region of Pakistan. Zia wishes to thank all bridge players who contributed to the fund. More details will be made available as they become known.

Hall Calls Three

Zia Mahmood, Kerri Sanborn and Alan Sontag have been elected to the ACBL Bridge Hall of Fame. Induction ceremonies will take place during the 2007 Summer NABC in Nashville.

Cavendish Adds Open Contests

For the first time in its history, the Cavendish Invitational, the world's largest money bridge tournament, will offer events open to all comers — one for pairs and one for teams. The events will run in conjunction with the invitation-only Cavendish Pairs tournament, which runs from May 9 to 13 at the Green Valley Ranch Resort in Las Vegas. Find more information at:

www.cavendishinvitational.com

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/>

World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
2007			
Mar 6-11	International Festival	Montegrotto Terme, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Mar 8-10	Torneo Internacional del Bridge en Punta	Punta del Este, Argentina	www.bridgear.com.ar
Mar 8-18	ACBL Spring NABC	St. Louis, MO	www.acbl.org
Mar 9-14	Winter Teams	Izmir, Turkey	www.tbicfed.org.tr
Mar 20-23	11 th Balijee International	Lahore, India	www.cba.or.in
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 13-15	Torneo Uruguay	Colonia, Uruguay	www.bridgear.com.ar
Apr 14-22	All Africa & ABF Zonal Championships	Mombasa, Kenya	www.africanbridgefed.net
Apr 17-22	International Festival of Estoril	Estoril, Portugal	www.fpbridge.pt
Apr 20-23	Gelibolu Peace Cup	Cannakale, Turkey	www.sabf.co.za
May 4-8	Schapiro Spring Foursomes	Startford, England	www.ebu.co.uk
May 9-10	EBU Simultaneous Pairs	Clubs in Europe	www.eurobridge.org
May 9-12	Zone 7 Playoffs	Christchurch, NZ	ehr@bigpond.com
May 9-13	Cavendish Invitational	Las Vegas, NV	www.cavendishinvitational.com
May 11-24	Festival International de Bridge	Juan-les-Pins, France	www.bridgejuan.com
May 12-20	14 th BFAME Championships	Karachi, Pakistan	www.cba.or.in
May 14-20	XX Torneo Internacional Costa Calida	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 18-27	24 th CACBF Zonal Championships	Willemstad, Curaçao, WI	www.tropicalbridge.com
Jun 1&2	Worldwide Bridge Contest	Clubs Worldwide	www.ecatsbridge.com
Jun 1-10	USBF Open & Women's Trials	Chicago, IL	www.usbf.org
Jun 2-9	57 ^o Cameonato Sudamericano	Quito, Ecuador	www.bridgeargentino.org.ar
Jun 3-13	45 th PABF Championships	Bandung, West Java Indonesia	www.pabf2007.org
Jun 5-9	Nordic Bridge Championships	Lillehammer, Norway	http://nordic.bridge.no
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	3 rd European Open Championships	Antalya, Turkey	www.eurobridge.org
Jun 19-30	XXV International Festival	Albena, Bulgaria	www.aebridge.com
Jun 29-Jul 11	Festival Internationale de Biarritz	Biarritz, France	www.biarritz-bridge.com
Jul 4-8	USBF Senior Trials	Bethesda, MD	www.usbf.org
Jul 6-21	Australian National Championships	Fremantle, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Jul 7-15	Danish Bridge Festival	Vinsted, 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
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
Aug 28-Sep 2	Hong Kong Inter-City	Kowloon, Hong Kong	www.hkcba.org
Sep 6-9	Territory Gold Bridge Festival	Darwin, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Sep 8-15	46 th Bridge Festival	Pula, Croatia	www.bridge.hr
Sep 12-16	Festival Venezia	Venice, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Sep 21-30	Geurnsey Congress	Geurnsey	www.ebu.co.uk
Sep 22-29	New Zealand Nationals	Hamilton, New Zealand	www.nzcba.co.nz
Sep 29-Oct 13	World Team Championships	Shanghai, China	www.worldbridge.org
Oct 20-21	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
Nov 30-Dec 12	Festival Argentino	Mar del Plata, Argentina	www.bridgear.com.ar
Dec 7-10	Città di Milano	Milan, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Dec 21-23	Junior Channel Trophy	Netherlands	www.ebu.co.uk