



BULLETIN

www.ibpa.com
mail@ibpa.com

President:

PATRICK D JOURDAIN
8 Felin Wen, Rhiwbina
Cardiff CF14 6NW WALES UK
(44) 29 2062 8839
email: pdjourdain@hotmail.com

Chairman:

PER E JANNERSTEN
Banergatan 15
SE-752 37 Uppsala, SWEDEN
(46) 18 52 13 00
email: ibpa@jannersten.se

Executive Vice-President:

JAN TOBIAS van CLEEFF
Prinsegracht 28a
2512 GA The Hague, NETHERLANDS
(31) 70 360 5902
email: jvcleeff@xs4all.nl

Organizational Vice-President:

DILIP GIDWANI
401 Mariden, 16th Road Bandra West
Mumbai 400 050 INDIA
(91) 22 98205 47150 Fax: 22 26002241
email: dilipgidwani@itesghana.com

Secretary:

MAUREEN DENNISON
148 Thornbury Road, Osterley
Isleworth TW7 4QE, ENGLAND UK
(44) 20 8560 3788 Fax: 20 8568 3553
email: maureen_dennison@ibpa.freemove.co.uk

Treasurer & Membership Secretary:

MARIO DIX
Flat 1, 41 Tigne Seafront
Sliema SLM15 MALTA
(356) 9949 3167 Cell; 2132 2433 Tel/Fax
email: mario@bridge.org.mt

Honorary General Counsel:

WILLIAM J PENCHARZ
50 Broadway, Westminster
London SW1H 0BL ENGLAND
(44) 207 222 7000
email: billpencharz@bdb-law.co.uk

Awards Secretary:

BARRY J RIGAL
Apt 8E, 22 West 26th Street,
New York NY 10010, USA
(1) 212 366 4799
email: barryrigal@mindspring.com

Sponsored Members' Secretary:

IRENA CHODOROWSKA
Ul Sewastopolska 3m41
02-758 Warsaw, POLAND
(48) 842 5054
email: poyel@post.pl

Bulletin Production Manager:

JEAN TYSON
105 Roundways, Coalpit Heath
Bristol BS36 2LT, ENGLAND
(44) 1454 778432
email: mail@ibpa.com

Presidents Emeritii:

TOMMY SANDSMARK (NORWAY)
HENRY FRANCIS (USA)

THE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PRESS ASSOCIATION

Editor: John Carruthers

This Bulletin is published monthly and circulated to around 400 members of the International Bridge Press Association comprising the world's leading journalists, authors and editors of news, books and articles about contract bridge, with an estimated readership of some 200 million people who enjoy the most widely played of all card games.

No. 507

Year 2007

Date April 10



The 2007 World Bridge Championships, comprising the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup, Seniors Bowl and Transnational Open Teams competitions, will take place in Shanghai, China, 29 September to 13 October 2007.

The Bermuda Bowl is the symbol of world supremacy at bridge. It is awarded to the winner of the open teams competition among representatives of all WBF geographical zones. Since its inauguration in 1950, the competition has been played 37 times. So far, the USA has been victorious 17 times, while their European rival, Italy, has prevailed 14 times. The other titles were won by France (twice), Great Britain, Brazil, Iceland and The Netherlands.

The Venice Cup is awarded to the winner of the zonal competition for women players. It was established in 1974 and until the 37th World Bridge Championships, held in Estoril, only four countries had won it. The USA lead the race with nine titles, while Europe has had six successes: Great Britain (twice), Germany (twice), The Netherlands and France, the reigning champion.

The Senior Bowl is a new competition for senior players (58 years of age or older in 2007). Representative teams from all zones are invited to participate. The only winners in the competition so far have been the USA. They won the inaugural event, in 2001 in Paris; in 2003, in Monte Carlo; and in 2005, in Estoril.

The World Transnational Open Teams Championship came into being in 1997 in Hammamet, Tunisia. It is contested by teams without nationality restrictions. Players from Italy, Poland and the USA have dominated this event.

Details of the Championships can be found on the World Bridge Federation website at www.worldbridge.org.

Shanghai is China's most dynamic city and is situated on the banks of the Yangtze River Delta on the Pacific coast in eastern China. It is the largest city in the People's Republic of China and the eighth largest in the world (population about 18,000,000). Widely regarded as the citadel of China's modern economy, the city also serves as one of the most important cultural, commercial, financial, industrial and communications centres of China. Administratively, Shanghai is a municipality of the People's Republic of China (one of four) that has province-level status. Shanghai is also one of the world's busiest ports, and became the largest cargo port in the world in 2005.



Address all IBPA Bulletin correspondence to: JOHN CARRUTHERS
65 Tiago Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M4B 2A2, CANADA
Tel: +1 416-752-7034
email: ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca



The Summer Festival of Bridge

January 15-29, 2007
Sean Mullamphy, Canberra

Linguistic Handicap

I find that my powers of analysis are hugely improved if I listen to the post mortem before analysing the hand. Watching the first round of the Men's Pairs, I was severely handicapped on this one.

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

After an uncontested auction, South declared four hearts. A trump was led, taken by the ace, and declarer played the seven of diamonds to the four, queen and king. A second heart took out dummy's king, and declarer played a club to the king. Next came the jack of clubs to the queen, ace and six. The four of clubs was ruffed with the jack of trumps as West discarded the three of spades.

The ace of diamonds was cashed and the two of diamonds was ruffed with dummy's heart ten. The seven of clubs came off dummy with West and South discarding spades while East's ten scored. Two rounds of spades were played and declarer conceded one off.

After the score had been written up, a light-hearted conversation followed among all four players, who were Jacek Pszczola, Ryszard Jedrichowski, Adam Bujak and Broniek Burza. This did not help my powers of analysis one bit, as the conversation was conducted entirely in Polish! It sounded as if Ryszard was being told by Jacek that he could have made the contract, while Adam and Broniek seemed to be stirring things up. Eventually, Ryszard let me in on the joke.

A question for you. On which trick did the defence give Ryszard the chance to make four hearts?

The answer is trick two. When East played the diamond four, had Ryszard inserted the two instead of the queen, West would have had to play the jack to win the trick. Now, when next in, Ryszard could have played the ace and queen of diamonds, pinning the ten-nine in East's hand, and thus making the six of diamonds high.

Lakeside Encounter

The Summer Festival was held in Canberra, Australia's capital city. Walking around the lake near the capitol buildings a couple of days ago, Nicky the bridge player and a friend bumped into the Prime Minister, a school friend of Nicky's husband.

"What are you doing here?" Nicky asked, brain firmly in bridge mode.

"I work here," replied the PM drily.

NOT Winners

The winners of the main event, the National Open Teams, were Linda Stern-Peter Gill, David Stern-Robert Grynberg and Boye Brogeland-Espen Ehrhisen.

Gold Coast Teams

Ron Klinger, Northbridge, NSW

(From the Sydney Morning Herald)

The Eyes Have It

Consider your declarer play on these cards:

Round 8. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

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

1. 5-card majors, 3+ minors
2. Range probe
3. Maximum

Lead: ♦5 (fourth-highest)

East plays the diamond king and you win with the ace. What next?

You start with the club ace and West plays the king. What hope do you have if West started with five diamonds? How do you continue?

You are sure to lose a club and so you need three tricks from the hearts. You do not have time to set up the clubs and knock out the spade ace. So, you play a club to the queen, West throwing the spade two, and lead the heart jack: king-ace-five. On the next club West throws the spade four. East wins with the club jack and returns the diamond nine: queen-three-four.

The diamond three confirms the five-card diamond suit with West. You play a club to dummy, West throwing the spade seven and East the spade jack. On the fifth club, East plays the spade ten, you the spade three and West the spade eight.

You are down to the last five cards: ♠KQ5 ♥7 ♦10 in dummy and ♠96 ♥Q93 in hand. What now? Do you finesse the heart nine or do you try something else?

If you have watched the discards closely, West has thrown four spades and so you can place West with a 4=3=5=1 pattern.

That means West began with three hearts and East with four. The odds therefore indicate that the heart ten is more likely to be with East. Do you finesse East for the heart ten?

This was the complete deal:

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

If you did finesse the heart nine in the five-card ending, you have had a blind spot. Your eyes have seen West throw four spades. With five spades and five diamonds, West would almost certainly have led a spade. Therefore if West is left with two hearts and the diamond jack-third, all you need do is play the diamond ten. You will score two heart tricks at the end for your contract.

The datum was N-S +150. You would have had a tougher time if West had thrown three spades and the heart eight.

The Illusionist

From time to time, deals arise which resemble those from textbooks. Board 17 from the second session of the Gold Coast Pairs final had a theme which had appeared in one of the old bridge texts.

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

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

1. Dictated by system

Lead: ♦Q

A three-spade rebid by North over two no trump would have led to the superior four-spade contract. Too late to worry about that. At least you escaped the heart lead. How do you plan the play?

On normal days, those in four spades will be held to ten tricks, losing a spade, a club and one trick in a red suit. As you are in three no trump, you need to score ten tricks or have a lousy score. You can knock out the club ace and that will bring your tally to nine tricks. Assuming there is a spade loser, you will need to give up a spade to score the extra tricks needed.

In the meantime, there is the constant danger that the defence will switch to hearts. You know that East will discourage diamonds and if West comes on lead, a heart switch is highly likely. Therefore you need to make it attractive for West to continue diamonds. As the lead is likely to be from a suit headed by queen-jack-nine, West will be reluctant to lead diamonds again if East discourages.

The solution is to play the diamond ten from your hand at trick one. That will enable West to set up the diamonds. Your hope is that West has the club ace and has five or six diamonds. Then, if West takes the bait and continues diamonds, you hope to duck a spade into the East hand. If East is out of diamonds and the spades behave you are in good shape.

So, the play goes diamond queen lead: king from dummy-eight from East, high discouraging-ten from South. The club two from dummy fetches the nine, ten and West ducks. West also plays low on the next club, won in dummy. East discards the heart two, encouraging hearts. On the next top club from dummy, East pitches the heart three and West take the club ace.

You hold your breath for West's next card and, assuming that you began with the ace-ten doubleton of diamonds, West continues with the diamond jack. You take the ace and play a spade: jack-ace-three. Hmmm . . . if the spade jack is singleton, you can still set up an extra spade trick. When you cash the clubs East throws a spade. That eliminates a possible guess later.

The diamonds were not 5-2, as hoped, and there was not a spade loser. If those in four spades receive a heart lead or suffer a club ruff, they will score plus 450. On a diamond lead they will come to twelve tricks for plus 480.

This was the full deal:

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

The good news for you in three no trump is that the spade position gives you twelve tricks, too. After cashing the clubs, on which you throw a diamond and a heart, you play a spade to your king, cross to the blocking spade in dummy, return to the heart ace and claim twelve tricks. That gives you plus 490 and a shared top, but more grey hairs than you would have if you had been in the normal four spade contract.

Help!

Sometimes you need everything to be just right in order to make your contract. If the opponents are prepared to help you, that is even better. Consider Board 6 from Match 7 of the Gold Coast Teams:

Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

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

1. Diamonds

Lead: ♠6 (fourth-highest)

When you see dummy, you regret not bidding three diamonds, which partner would have passed. With normal luck you would make three diamonds, but three no trump is quite a different matter. You have only five instant winners and so you will need a fair slice of luck to produce four more tricks. Anyway, no good worrying about the bidding now. On the spade six lead East plays the ten and you let that go. East continues with the spade jack, which you take with the ace. What next?

There is no chance to set up the diamonds, but perhaps you can steal a diamond trick. You play the diamond ten: eight-king-three. That's one extra trick. What now?

The potential source of tricks is the heart suit and you must hope hearts are 3-3. You play a low heart from dummy and East plays the heart queen. You let it hold. East plays a third spade, which you take. The hearts do split 3-3 and that brings you to eight tricks. How do you finish off the play?

This was the full deal:

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

After cashing your four hearts, these cards remain:

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

You can now play a low club: seven-nine-jack, and East is forced to give you an extra trick in clubs. There are a number of ways the defenders might have done better.

The Betty Kaplan Teams

Phillip Alder, Hobe Sound, FL

(from the NYTimes)

The Betty Kaplan Teams is an enjoyable event. There are six nine-board matches, and a participant has to play two of those matches with each of her or his teammates. This year's event was held at the New York Helmsley Hotel in Midtown Manhattan on February 10. The winners were Kerry Kappell of Woodside, N.Y., and Susan Schnellwar, Jesus Arias and Igor Savchenko of New York.

The diagrammed deal features the best defence of the day. In the auction, note that North's two-heart rebid showed only two-card support, because with three hearts he would have raised to two hearts, not responded one spade. What should West have led against two hearts?

Dealer West Both Vul.

♠ A 10 8 5 3
♥ 7 6
♦ Q J 10 4
♣ 8 6

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

♠ 7 4
♥ A 9 4 3 2
♦ 3
♣ A K Q 7 2

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West led the spade king.

There was a case for a spade (but dummy had bid the suit), a heart (but it might help declarer play the suit without loss), and a diamond (but no one likes to lead from a suit headed by the ace without the king). Only a club lead seems hopeless.

Jeff Hand of New York opted for the spade king, keeping his side in the battle. The declarer, John Fout of New York, won with the ace on the board and called for a heart. East, Gail Greenberg of New York, won with her jack and returned a spade to West's queen.

What should West have led now? West asked himself several questions.

Why hadn't declarer covered the heart jack? Presumably he had only the ace and was trying to keep control.

Why hadn't South played a diamond instead of the heart? Probably because he did not have the king; certainly not a singleton king, when he would have tried to steal a trick past East, who might have had the ace.

Why hadn't declarer tried to ruff a club on the board? The logical answer was that his clubs were long and strong, and he was hoping they would run. This made it even less likely that South had the diamond king, because he had made no move toward game.

West's analysis made him realize that to defeat the contract, the defense had to take one spade, one diamond, one club (note that he knew he had a trick in the suit) and three hearts. To get three trump tricks would require scoring the heart ten.

West accordingly shifted to a low diamond, East taking dummy's ten with her king and continuing with the spade jack. Declarer ruffed, but West over-ruffed and exited with his last heart. Declarer had to lose those six tricks, going down one.



THE ICELANDAIR OPEN 2007

Stefan Gudjohnsen, Reykjavik

One thing used to be certain in Iceland, February snow storms. However, as the bridge stars could observe, global warming has set in. This year we had invited two teams, one from Canada and one from the United States. Zia Mahmood headed the US team, along with Jacek Pszczola, Sam Lev and Reese Milner, but from Canada came the formidable team of John Carruthers, George Mittelman, Arno Hobart and Boris Baran.

Other bridge stars came from all over the world; to name a few, Sælesminde and Helness from Norway, Sundelin and Fredin from Sweden, Forrester and Hackett from England, Curtis Cheek from the USA, Andrew McIntosh from Scotland, and many others.

The program has changed a bit from the past. To raise money, a star-studded IMP Pairs tournament is held before the main program, teaming the bridge stars up with local bridge players. The IMP Pairs was won by Haraldsson and Einarsson, anchor pair of the Icelandic National Team.

The Open Pairs was won comfortably by the Norwegians, Jan Petter Svendsen and Erik Sæleminde, with a score of 57.6%, followed in second place by former world champion, Gudmundur Pall Arnarson and the oldest player in the tournament, veteran National Team member, Asmundur Pálsson, scoring 56.68%.

And now for a hand. This one is from the teams.

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

♠ K J 7
♥ K J 5 3
♦ A 9
♣ K 9 7 4

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

♠ A 10 8 2
♥ A Q 8 4
♦ 7 4
♣ A J 2

In the open room, with Pszczola and Zia North-South and Jonsson and Baldursson East-West, the bidding went as follows:

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1 NT
4 ♦	Double	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 ♦
Pass	5 NT	Pass	6 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Baldursson led the king of diamonds, won by the ace, and Zia quickly sent the jack of spades to West. Baldursson won and was in full control. He cashed the queen of diamonds and led the jack. Zia ruffed with king in dummy and sent the seven to West. When Baldursson won with the nine, Zia claimed six down for 600 to East-West.

At the other table the bidding was a bit shorter, with Haraldsson and Einarsson North-South and Milner and Lev East-West:

South	West	North	East
1 NT	4 ♦	Double	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

The youngest player at the table showed good judgement when he passed four hearts. Admittedly, West had waved the red danger flag with his four diamond bid and that is a sure sign of suits breaking badly. Einarsson had no difficulty in making ten tricks and Zia lost 15 IMPs and the match 23-7.

The Team-of-Four was a highly-contested event, the Norwegian team of Helness, Hauge, Petterson and Sælesminde winning with the relatively low score of 189 VP. This was a remarkable feat for Petterson and Sælesminde, winning both the pairs and the team of four events.

As for the invited teams, they were outgunned, Zia sharing twenty-second place. In the pairs, Zia and Pepsi had a very bad start and ended up in twenty-second place. Sam Lev and Reese Milner were just in front of them. Mittelman and Hobart, on the other hand, finished in a respectable 5th place.

IBPA WEBSITE INFO

www.ibpa.com

The Bulletins:

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, April 2007, will have code 507dd so you will need to key in: www.ibpa.com/507dd.pdf

The Handbook:

You can also access the IBPA Handbook from www.ibpa.com by clicking on the link on the Constitution page. When you open the link, you will be asked for a password, which is: **ihccaT** EXACTLY as it appears here. When prompted for a keyword, it is: **Handbook**

Subscriptions:

You can apply to join the IBPA or renew your subscription on the website by clicking on the appropriate button on the top of the homepage.

IBPA COLUMN SERVICE

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

381. Dealer South. E-W Vul.

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

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

After this simple auction West led the queen of spades against six hearts. Declarer played without much thought. After winning the first trick with his bare ace of spades, he cashed the ace of trumps, crossed to dummy with a trump to the jack and took a club finesse. When West won the king of clubs and the king of diamonds was not singleton he had to concede a one trick set.

Declarer missed an extra chance. He can make the slam when East holds the king of clubs, but also when West holds the king of diamonds, as long as the jack of diamonds falls in three rounds. So after winning the ace of spades, declarer should cash the ace of hearts and then lead the seven of diamonds.

When West rises with the king of diamonds and plays a second spade, declarer ruffs, cashes the king of trumps and then the ace of diamonds. Next he crosses to dummy with a trump and, before touching clubs, declarer cashes the queen of diamonds for a discard of the jack of clubs. As it happens, declarer's luck is in and the jack of diamonds appears from East's hand, providing a discard for the jack of clubs. Of course, if the jack of diamonds had not dropped, declarer would fall back on the club finesse.

Notice that it would not do West any good to play low smoothly on the seven of diamonds, because one club discard is of no particular use to declarer. Accordingly, he would win with the queen of diamonds and make the contract, losing only a club.

Finally, you might ask why it's best to lead the seven of diamonds at trick two - the answer is seen by giving East a doubleton jack of diamonds. Then, East can ruff the third round of diamonds and thereby destroy the extra chance.

382. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

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

The two diamond opening was a thing of passing fashion, promising at least 4-4 in the majors and less than an opening bid.

Put yourself in the East chair. West leads the ten of clubs of clubs and this is covered by queen, king and ace. Next declarer draws trumps with the ace and king, ruffs a club and then leads a low diamond from the table.

If you play a sleepy seven of diamonds, your side will lose one of its diamond tricks! West will take the nine of diamonds with the queen and probably shift to a heart (a diamond exit would see you end-played into leading a heart or giving a ruff-and-discard by exiting with a club). Declarer will play low from dummy on the heart shift and if you duck this declarer's heart loser disappears, while if you take the king of hearts declarer makes five trumps, three hearts, the ace of clubs and a club ruff for ten tricks.

All of this trouble can be avoided by being awake enough to rise with the king of diamonds. Then you can play a second diamond and your side will take three diamonds immediately and later score the king of hearts for plus 100.

383. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

North's response of two no trump was in the Jacoby style, promising a game-forcing hand with four-card heart support. Once South bid three spades to reveal his singleton there, North drove to the heart slam.

After West leads the king of spades the only problem for declarer is a 4-1 (or 5-0) diamond break - which suggests that an elimination play is the way around this. So declarer took the spade lead with his ace, drew trumps in two rounds and eliminated the black suits.

When West drops the jack on the third round of spades and the queen on the fourth round of that suit, then, if these are true cards, his shape will be 4=2=4=3 or 4=2=3=4. So, West is more likely than East to have begun with four diamonds.

While defenders do false card in the hope of hoodwinking declarer about the distribution, in this case though if West had five spades they would be headed by the King-Queen-Jack and if he had short diamonds he would also have at least five clubs. As West would surely have entered the auction on such a hand, declarer decided to cater for West having long diamonds.

So, he led the seven of diamonds from hand with the intention of running it if West played low, which here would see that card winning the trick. In practice, West covered the seven of diamonds with the nine. Declarer took this with dummy's ace and then played a low diamond towards his ten. When West took the latter with the jack of diamonds he had the unhappy choice of either leading away from his queen of diamonds to concede the twelfth trick or playing a black suit to give a ruff-and-discard for the same result.

384. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

After South's strong two no trump opening, North decided to take the reasonable decision to raise directly to three no trump on his 3=4=3=3 distribution, rather than explore for a 4-4 heart fit. After West led the queen of spades and dummy went down, declarer saw that his partner's decision had saved a round of bidding.

Declarer saw that the only danger to the contract was that the defenders would cash three spades as well as two kings. The former could only occur if spades were 5-2 and, as he had led the suit, West was more likely to have the long spades. Consequently declarer let the queen of spades hold the first trick.

After winning the spade continuation, declarer ran the ten of hearts. East ducked the first heart but took the second round of hearts and shifted to the two of clubs. Declarer was not about to risk his contract by taking the club finesse for, as the cards lay, it would set up only one extra club trick and lead to the defeat of the contract - West would win the king of clubs, clear the spades and cash two more spade winners when in on the king of diamonds.

As he could count seven tricks (two spades, three hearts and the two minor-suit aces), declarer rose with the ace of clubs and played on diamonds. This guaranteed an extra two tricks in diamonds and the contract. The defenders would score one spade and the three missing kings.

White House Teams

Amsterdam, February 23-25

Jan van Cleef, Amsterdam

Lex de Groot, Arnhem

Rosaline Barendregt, Maassluis

Sixteen invited teams, most of national team calibre, were seeded into two eight-team sections for a round robin within each section. The top two in each group would qualify for the semifinals.

Zia versus Bamberg

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

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

Anyone waiting for fireworks in the second round-robin match was served splendidly by the clash between the

German-dominated teams Zia, with von Arnim-Auken, and Bamberg, the holder of the European Bridge Cup. The very first board (Board 15) was explosive:

Closed room

West	North	East	South
Smirnov	Robson	Pikarek	Zia
--	--	--	Pass!
Pass	1 ♣	1 ♠	2 ♦
3 ♠	Double	4 ♠	6 ♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Zia made a triple tactical move. First he passed his nine-bagger, then he bid a humble two-diamond overcall, and finally he jumped to the six-level, making all the tricks. Interesting bidding by Zia, but more action occurred at the other table:

Open room

West	North	East	South
von Arnim	Wladow	Auken	Elinescu
--	--	--	5 ♦
Pass	5 NT ¹	Double	Pass
Pass	6 ♣ ¹	Pass	7 ♦
Pass	Pass	Double	Redouble
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Looking for the grand slam

Your reporter was standing behind Dr. Wladow and thought for a while that he would redouble five no trump. As we can see, that contract would have been made! However, Dr. Wladow decided to go for the jackpot, and bid a scientific six clubs, intended as another grand slam try.

After this bid, Dr. Elinescu thought for a while. Some spectators suspected a bidding misunderstanding and predicted he would pass. Not quite: after five minutes of serious contemplation the South Doctor jumped to the seven-level. The rest, of course, was routine: the double, the redouble and the 15 IMPs to Bamberg.

Of course, the question is, "What was the final result of the match?". Well... Zia and company survived and won this match 25 - 5.

Round 5. Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

Belgium versus Ventin

West	North	East	South
Polet	Lanzarotti	Kaplan	Brogeland
2 ♣ ¹	Pass	2 ♠ ²	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Strong, or weak with majors
2. Anticipating a weak hand

Sitting North, Massimo Lanzarotti led a trump against four hearts. Declarer won in his hand and immediately ran the club queen. Boye Brogeland won with the king and returned another trump. Hereafter, declarer could not come to more than eight tricks. "Nice lead, partner", Boye said, when the cards went back into the board. But was it? We shall see.

Zia versus Lavazza. Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Robson	Bocchi	Zia
1 ♥	Pass	1 NT ¹	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Spades

Andy Robson also kicked off with a trump. Here, however, declarer escaped for one down, since on the run of the trumps, North got rid of some clubs, inducing Zia to hold up the club king.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
von Arnim	Madala	Auken	Sementa
1 ♣ ¹	Pass	1 ♦ ²	Pass
1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♥	Pass		

1. Strong, artificial, forcing
2. Negative

The German women showed once again that they are a formidable pair in any company, first of all avoiding the terrible game, and secondly, by making ten tricks! North at this table, Agustin Madala, also led a trump, to the seven, jack and ace. The extra dummy entry, the nine, enabled declarer, Daniela von Arnim, to establish the spade suit which happened to be divided 3-3.

So, one can come to the conclusion that four hearts can be beaten on a trump lead, as long as South withholds his trump jack.

A Naive View?

Zia versus Gromov

Round 7. Board 17. Dealer North, Neither Vul.

On the following deal (see top of next column), a heart lead (or timely heart switch by West) will kill the spade game. Let's see what happened.

♠ Q 9 5 3
♥ A Q 7 5
♦ Q 10 9 3
♣ 5

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

Closed room

West	North	East	South
Zmudzinski	Robson	Balicki	Zia
--	Pass	1 NT ¹	Pass
2 ♦ ²	Pass	2 ♥	2 ♠
Pass	3 ♥ ³	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 12-14
2. Transfer to hearts
3. Good three-spade raise

West led the jack of clubs to his partner's ace and a spade was returned to dummy's nine. Your scribe naively predicted that Zia would continue with the queen of diamonds, putting severe pressure on East. If he covered, the contract would be made: declarer would be able to pitch his losing heart on the fourth diamond. Zia did in fact put the diamond queen on the table, but Cezary Balicki defended very well by not covering. Zmudzinski won and immediately switched to a heart. That was that: down one.

However, Dubinin played in the same contract and started diamonds from his hand and when West ducked and East won, this assured ten IMPs to Gromov. However, the defence could still have prevailed after West had played low, if East had also ducked. That excellent defence would give West a second chance to win the first defensive diamond trick and shift to a heart in time!

Elegant Endplay

Orange Green versus Ventin. Semi Finals Session2 Board 27. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

♠ 6 5 4 3
♥ 10 9 7
♦ A 10
♣ A 4 3 2

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

♠ 10
♥ A 4 2
♦ K 9 7 6 4 2
♣ J 7 6

West	North	East	South
Brink	Fernandez	Drijver	Ventin
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♣ ¹	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Drury

Juan Carlos Ventin led a diamond to his partner's ace, the diamond continuation was ruffed and declarer tabled the king of clubs, ducked all around. Next came the heart queen, won by South, who shifted to the diamond king in order to shorten declarer's trumps. Declarer ruffed, cashed his ace of spades, crossed to dummy with the spade king and led the jack of diamonds (North pitching a club and East his last heart). Now a club was led from dummy. North went up with the ace and returned a trump which ran to dummy's nine. At this point Bas Drijver played a high heart from dummy, ruffed by North, overruffed by East. The last two tricks were won by the king of clubs and the king of hearts: ten elegant tricks.

Results

Round Robin

White		Green	
Ventin	121	France	112
Ireland	117	Orange Green	111
Meltzer	115	Zia	111
Orange White	114	Lavazza	110

Semifinals

Orange Green 69 – Ventin 63
Ireland 69 – France 55

Final

Orange Green 111 – Ireland 41

Playoff

France 59 – Ventin 45

Teams

- 1. Team Orange Green:** Ton Bakkeren, Huub Bertens, Sjoert Brink, Bas Drijver
- 2. Ireland:** John Carroll, Nick FitzGibbon, Tommy Garvey, Adam Mesbur
- 3. France:** François Combescure, Nicolas Dechelette, Jérôme Rombaut, Lionel Sebbane
- 4. Ventin:** Boye Brogeland, Pablo Lambardi, Juan Pont, Juan Carlos Ventin, Massimo Lanzarotti

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.

Gems from Amsterdam

Rose Meltzer, Los Gatos, CA
Jim Gordon, S. Burlington, VT

Amsterdam is known as the centre of the worldwide diamond trade (*one might get an argument from Antwerp about that – Ed.*). This article deals in gems of a different type.

In February, Team Meltzer (Rose Meltzer-Kyle Larsen, Roger Bates-Alan Sontag and Geir Helgemo-Tor Helness) was invited to Amsterdam to play an exhibition match against Team Orange (the Dutch National Team) and to participate in the White House Invitational Teams. The tournament features a 16-team field and includes most of Europe's top teams.

We encountered three deals, each of which presented an opportunity for exceptional declarer play:

How would you play:

Dealer West. Neither Vul.

♠ 10
♥ A 8
♦ A K J 5 4
♣ J 9 8 4 3

♠ K Q 8 5 2
♥ 10 9 5 3
♦ 10 8
♣ A Q

for nine tricks in no trump, after the lead of the four of hearts?

West	North	East	South
Westra	Helgemo	Ramondt	Helness
Pass	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

In the exhibition match, with three tables in play, the results at the primary table, in this case Meltzer-Larsen's, were IMPed against the results from both other tables.

Tor Helness gained 12 IMPs for the Meltzer team by following this artful line: after ducking the first heart and winning the heart return, Helness played a spade to the king, followed by the club queen! When the defender thought before ducking this, declarer was reasonably certain the ten was going to fall and that he was on the right track.

Helness continued by cashing the ace of clubs and crossing to dummy with a high diamond to drive out the club king.

This was the complete deal:

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

The East defender, Ramondt, was now end-played and left with a choice of suits in which to give declarer his ninth trick. The end position was:

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

Although playing the ace of clubs followed by the queen essentially leads to the same position, Helness' sequence of plays represented an extra chance for him to judge whether the club ten was falling.

The flaw in playing on diamonds immediately is that this requires a 3-3 split. With the actual distribution, East merely ducks the diamond ten and denies declarer a late entry to dummy's source of tricks.

(The Dutch declarer at the primary table played the ace of hearts at trick one, establishing a fifth trick for the defence. At the other secondary table, Sontag-Bates', the contract was three clubs for plus 130 and 6 IMPs to Meltzer.)

Dealer North. EW Vul. (Rotated 90°.)

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

West	North	East	South
Helness	Jassem	Helgemo	Martens
—	Pass	Pass	1 ♣ ¹
1 ♦	Double ²	1 ♠	2 ♣ ³
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	3 ♦ ⁴
Pass	3 NT	Pass	4 ♦ ⁵
Pass	5 ♣ ⁶	Pass	6 ♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Strong
2. 4+ hearts
3. Forcing one round
4. Asking for a stopper
5. Cue bid, waiting for heart control
6. No heart cue bid: good news for South

Our fifth-round match in the tournament round-robin was against an Egyptian/Polish team. There was only one double-digit swing, but that deal featured the best declarer play we faced.

Krzysztof Martens faced the lead of the spade three. He played the nine from dummy and won in hand, then led the king of clubs.

If Helgemo wins the club ace and returns (say) a club, Martens would be able to effect a dummy reversal, ruffing three hearts in hand for twelve tricks. He would win the second trump cheaply in the dummy, ruff a heart, cross on a spade, ruff another heart, cross to the diamond king, ruff a third heart, ruff a spade to dummy to draw trumps, and the ace of diamonds would be the entry to cash the remaining high spade. So he ducked.

At this point, declarer can't afford to play another round of trumps, since the defence would win and play a third round, leaving him a trick short. Instead, Martens crossed to the diamond king, cashed the spade queen, ruffed a heart to hand, and cashed his remaining spade honour, pitching dummy's low diamond. Then he ruffed the jack of diamonds with the ten of clubs.

Helgemo couldn't afford to pitch a spade, since that would allow declarer to play a trump from the board and establish his fifth spade. When East pitched a heart, Martens ruffed two hearts in hand and two spades in dummy to reach:

♠ —
 ♥ Q
 ♦ —
 ♣ 8
 ♠ —
 ♥ K
 ♦ Q
 ♣ —
 ♠ —
 ♥ —
 ♦ A
 ♣ Q
 ♠ —
 ♥ —
 ♦ A 9
 ♣ A 9

Martens led the heart Queen from dummy and scored his club Queen *en passant*!!

In the third round of the B Consolation, Geir Helgemo brought home a four-heart contract which went down at virtually every other table in the room (*Bauke Muller also made four hearts – Ed.*):

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

The opening lead of the diamond two went to the jack. East, hoping to establish trump tricks by tapping declarer, returned a small diamond. Helgemo pitched a club, winning the king in dummy, then led a club to the ace and ruffed a club. He then led a spade to the queen and ruffed his last club with the nine of hearts, East pitching a spade.

Helgemo ruffed a diamond and led a small heart to the jack and queen. He ruffed the diamond return, cashed the ace of hearts and led a spade to the ace. When he then called for dummy's last diamond, he scored his heart ten *en passant*.

The contract can be made, even on the more normal club return, by following the same general line. The key is changing one's view from the likelihood of trumps breaking 3-2 after the club position is revealed.

Foresight

Andrew Robson, London

I nominate Dutchman Gert-Jan Paulissen for the Best Played Hand of 2007. The deal is from the prestigious White House Teams Invitational. Sadly, I was his opponent. (*See top of next column.*)

Zia, West, led a diamond to my ace, and, seeking to shorten declarer's trumps, I returned a second diamond. Declarer ruffed and advanced the jack of hearts (possibly the queen is better, to tempt the defence to win their ace).

Board 27. Dealer West. Neither Vul. (Rotated 90°)

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

Zia versus Modalfa

West	North	East	South
Zia	Bruggeman	Robson	Paulissen
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 ♠
2 ♦ ¹	2 ♠	3 ♦ ²	3 ♥ ³
Pass	4 ♥ ⁴	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Light, but (a) he is non-vulnerable; (b) he is a passed hand; and (c) he is Zia.
2. Frisky, but keen to attract the lead.
3. Game try, not guaranteeing four hearts.
4. In case partner does hold four hearts - a 4-4 fit normally plays better than a 5-3.

The jack of hearts won trick three, and the queen of hearts was won by West's ace. West now correctly led the king of diamonds, enabling East to discard his third heart. Declarer ruffed, and now held fewer trumps in both hands than East, normally a sign that defeat is impending.

Declarer showed otherwise. Instead of ruffing the king of diamonds low, he made the key play of ruffing with the jack (wait and see why this is essential). He then advanced the king of clubs.

East won his ace and returned a second club, declarer rising with the queen. This was the position.

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

With West having shown six diamonds and three hearts, there was a good chance he held a singleton trump (he surely needed a little shape to justify what was now known to be a low point-count overall). Declarer had

to hope that West's singleton trump was precisely the ten.

In the six-card ending, declarer led the queen of trumps. He perked up when he saw West's ten. Overtaking with dummy's king, he led the queen of diamonds.

East was stuck. If he discarded, declarer could throw his heart and cross-ruff the remaining four tricks. If he ruffed, declarer could over-ruff with the ace, lead over to dummy's trumps (now you see why he needed to retain a low trump), then run the two winning hearts. Ten tricks and game made.

Quite brilliant foresight to ruff the king of diamonds with a high trump.

Yeh Brothers Cup

Shenzen, China, March 1-4, 2007

Defence 1 - Ruffs & Sluffs

Mark Horton, Romford, UK

Here is a brilliancy from Round 12 of the Yeh Bros Cup.

Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Zmudzinski	Zhong	Balicki	Zhao
Pass	1 ♠	2 ♥	3 ♥
Double	4 ♣	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

East led the two of hearts - clearly suggesting something good in clubs - and West won with the ace of hearts. With open cards, two rounds of clubs now ensures the defeat of the contract, but naturally West continued with the ten of hearts, declarer winning with the king. He played the ten of clubs and East went in with the queen and played the queen of hearts, offering declarer a ruff and discard!

Ruffing in hand, declarer exited with the ten of spades and East found two essential plays, winning with the king and playing yet another heart.

Once more declarer ruffed in hand and he decided to ruff a low club with the nine of spades. He cashed two

top diamonds and ruffed a diamond with the jack of spades, but he had to lose two more tricks - West over-ruffing the next club and playing a diamond for East to ruff for two down, plus 200 and 13 IMPs when the contract made in the other room.

Yeh Brothers Cup

Defence 2 - Chinese Crocodile

David Bird, Eastleigh, UK
(From *The Mail on Sunday*)

Dealer North. Both Vul. (Rotated 90°)

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

West	North	East	South
Fu Zhong	Balicki	Jack Zhao	Zmudzinski
—	1 ♣ ¹	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	1 ♠ ²	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	3 NT
Pass	4 NT	Pass	Pass

1. Polish: Strong; balanced 12-14; or clubs
2. 4+ spades; could have longer minor

One of China's top pairs faced the Polish stars, Zmudzinski and Balicki, when this deal arose in the Yeh Brothers tournament in Shenzhen, southern China. North opened with a Polish Club and South ended in a risky four no trump instead of the comfortable heart game.

Jack Zhao won his partner's six of spades lead with the queen and switched to a club. Zmudzinski cashed dummy's second club winner and called for a low spade. Zhao rose with the ace, depriving declarer of an entry, and returned a third round of spades to the dummy. When declarer cashed the last spade, East discarded a club.

If declarer could endplay West in diamonds, West would have to play a heart or a club and give declarer access to the club winners in his hand. Zmudzinski played the ace of diamonds, drawing the two and six from the defenders. When the king of diamonds was played, West ditched his queen to avoid being end-played on the next round.

Declarer led dummy's four of diamonds and the spotlight turned to East, who held jack-eight in the suit.

NEWS & VIEWS

If he followed with the eight, West would have to overtake with the nine and give the contract away. (Had West disposed of the nine on the first round of diamonds, followed by the queen, East could simply have won two diamonds tricks with the eight and jack.)

Jack Zhao rose with the jack of diamonds, a Crocodile Coup to snaffle his partner's nine. He then returned the eight of diamonds to dummy's ten. The defenders had lost one diamond trick, yes, but they had avoided the end-play. Declarer had to surrender a heart to West's king and four no trump was one down.

(This deal was also reported to us by Mark Horton.)

Winners of the Yeh Brothers Cup were BEIJING (Xin Li, Xiaojing Wang, Shaolin Sun, Meng Kang, Xiaoyi Li, Hua Chen)



Results from Spring NABC

St. Louis, MO, March 7-18, 2007

Vanderbilt Knockout Teams

Christal Henner-Welland, Roy Welland, Adam Zmudzinsky, Cezary Balicki, Björn Fallenius, Antonio Sementa

Open Swiss Teams

Kalin Karaivanov, Marin Marinov, David Maidman, Ruman Trendafilov

Women's Swiss Teams

Lynn Baker, Kerri Sanborn, Lynn Deas, Beth Palmer, Karen McCallum, Irina Levitina

North American Pairs

Dick Wegman, Dave Abelow

Open Pairs

Girgio Duboin, Roy Welland

IMP Pairs

Boye Brogeland, Ishmael Del'Monte

Mixed Pairs

Mildred Breed, Richard Zeckhauser

Women's Pairs

Irina Ladyzhensky, Kamra Chawla

Senior Pairs

Allan Siebert, Alan Stout

Zia Thanks Caring Bridge Players

The 2007 Spring NABC won't go down as one of Zia Mahmood's finest, but he was happy and smiling nonetheless, cheerfully offering thanks to the bridge players of the world for helping earthquake victims in his native Pakistan.

Shortly after the October 2005 quake devastated parts of Pakistan, Zia embarked on a fund-raising effort that included a raffle to play with him. The World Bridge Federation also conducted several charity games, with proceeds going to the cause, administered by The Citizens Foundation, a non-profit, non-political organization in Pakistan.

The goal of the fund-raising was to bring in enough money to build a school in one of the hardest-hit areas. Zia arrived at the NABC in St. Louis with the news that the nearly 100% of the money needed - more than \$144,000 - had been raised.

"Almost all of the money," Zia said, "has come from bridge players around the world. This is evidence that bridge players care about people outside the bridge world."

Zia reported that excavation has begun in the village of Her in Mansehra in the Northwest Frontier Province, a remote area that was especially hard hit by the earthquake. When it is completed, the school - designed to be quake-proof - will have the capacity for 180 students and will have an all-female staff to encourage enrollment by Pakistani girls.

Zia said he and WBF President Jose Damiani will visit the area later this year to inspect the site. He said interested parties can track the progress of the school construction via the web site of The Citizens Foundation:

www.thecitizensfoundation.org.

Deutsch Wins Lazard Sportsmanship Award

Seymon Deutsch of Laredo TX has been named the 2007 recipient of the Sidney H. Lazard Jr. Sportsmanship Award. Deutsch, 71, is a five-time national champion, including last year's Vanderbilt Knockout Teams in Dallas, and has two world titles: the 1994 Rosenblum Teams and the 1992 World Team Olympiad. He is the only U.S. player (and one of only five in the world) with gold medals from both events.

The Lazard award, administered by the ACBL Educational Foundation, is given annually to a top-

level player who has scored a high-level finish in a major national contest. The award was established by Sidney Lazard in honor of his son, Sidney Jr., who died at 41 from cancer in 1999. According to Lazard, the object of the award is "to enhance sportsmanship among the top players and to salute those who try to win with class and dignity."

The Lazard award will be presented at the ACBL Bridge Hall of Fame banquet during the Summer NABC in Nashville. Previous winners of the Lazard Sportsmanship Award: 2001 Paul Soloway; 2002 Rose Meltzer; 2003 Larry Cohen; 2004 Lynn Deas; 2005 Nick Nickell; 2006 Ralph Cohen.

Greenberg Attends 124th Straight NABC

Starting with the Spring NABC in Louisville KY in 1966, Greenberg has not missed a big tournament in more than 41 years. She has attended 124 NABCs in a row.

Through the streak, Greenberg has visited 52 different cities, some multiple times. She has played in Chicago six times, and Atlanta and Las Vegas five times each. She says she always felt that she had an advantage in Las Vegas because she doesn't gamble and always had plenty of rest for the bridge games, unlike some of her competitors who stayed up late playing games other than bridge.

Czech Open Details

The 6th Czech Open Bridge Tournament, July 12-15, 2007, in Pardubice, will be part of the 18th International Festival of Chess, Bridge & Games, to be held from July 12-29.

See www.czechopen.net/news/czechopen07-bridge-en.rtf for details.

Cars Update

Massimo Lanzarotti and Andrea Buratti were, with other Italian players, subject to a general pardon granted by the Italian Bridge Federation, motivated by the extremely successful year of the Italian Open Team. The parole, followed by the EBL, started on Feb. 1st, 2007. However they are not allowed to play together ever. Lanzarotti played with Brogeland in the White House Teams in Amsterdam in February and reached the semi-finals. The other players on the team were Ventin-Pont-Fernandez.

In the near future, Team Lavazza will probably play with the following three pairs: Bocchi-Duboin; Madala-Sementa; Ferraro-Lanzarotti.



Correspondence ...
The Editor reserves the right to
shorten correspondence
Email: ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca

Dear John,

Your January Editorial with New Year's resolutions for other people contained some wishful thinking. Bridge organisers share your desire that the hotels offer great facilities at cheap prices. But hotels quote higher prices if they believe times will be busy due to any big event. An assumption that prices higher than the norm imply an organiser must be taking a cut is invalid. The WBF has stated in the past it takes no commission from such reservations. The EBL lost money on Tenerife 2005 despite open market prices at the time of the event being lower than the price negotiated with the hotel years earlier.

The dilemma for any organiser is this. If they only reserve rooms for the staff and leave the players to fend for themselves they risk destroying the event when players booking late find no beds available near the venue. But if they reserve beds for the players they know the players compare prices when they book and take the cheapest deal, leaving the organiser to pick up any obligation if reserved rooms are not taken.

As the event time nears hotels that have sold their beds turn late bookers away, those that have not sold their beds offer cheaper deals on the open market. So late bookers generate one of two moans: either "I could not find the room I wanted" OR "I found a better deal than you were offering and my friend who paid the higher price is annoyed." It is the same when booking a low-cost airline ticket.

Maybe bridge needs to strengthen its skills required for hotel reservation for big events. Organisers may need to reserve in advance significantly fewer beds than numbers expected to attend to ensure their reservations are taken up. Ideally they might have two suitable venues (in different countries) compete against each other on price. The loser could be told it only failed on price and can quote again next time when again there is a competitor. Then you might get a better price.

Yours, Patrick Jourdain

(I haven't ever argued that the WBF takes a cut of the inflated prices, merely that they bear a responsibility to negotiate fairer prices. - Ed.)

World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
2007			
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
Apr 27-May 1	Festival de Lacanau 2007	Lacanau, France	www.festibridge.com
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	Lords v Commons	London, England	www.ebu.co.uk
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 Campeonato 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 22-27	Festival de Bridge à Blaye	Blaye, France	http://bridge.blaye.site.voila.fr
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	Vinstded, Denmark	www.bridge.dk
Jul 11-15	Gmunden Festival	Gmunden, Austria	www.bridgeaustria.at
Jul 11-21	21 st European Youth Team Championships	Jesolo, Italy	www.eurobridge.org
Jul 12-15	6 th Czech Open	Pardubice, Czech Republic	www.czechopen.net
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 th Warsaw Grand Prix	Warsaw, Poland	www.polbridge.pl
Aug 25-Sep 2	Festival La Grande Motte	La Grande Motte, France	www.ffbridge.asso.fr
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.hkcca.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 13-16	41 st Isle of Man Congress	Douglas, Isle of Man	pdeweerd@manx.net
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 5-11	10 th Madeira International Open	Madeira, Portugal	www.madeira-bridge.com
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