



BULLETIN

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EDITORIAL

The opinions expressed here are solely those of the editor and do not necessarily represent those of the IBPA Executive or its members.

We applaud the decision of the WBF, FIDE, FMJD and IGF to form the International Mind Sports Association (IMSA) two years ago. IMSA has the stated goal of incorporating mind sports into the Olympics, either directly, or through the formation of a new category of Olympic Games, to be known as the Intellympics. IMSA has the blessing of the General Association of International Sports federations (GAISF), and bridge and chess have been recognised by the IOC as sports, if not anointed as part of the Olympic Games themselves. With the Olympics rather bloated at the moment, the IOC is looking to reduce, rather than increase, the total number of sports included in the Games.

The Intellympics is certainly an idea whose time has come. An alternative booted about a few years ago was an Olympic Indoor Games which could have included some winter and/or summer sports. However, it would have seemed strange, though possible, to have basketball, ice hockey and bridge in the same Games. The Intellympics seems a better fit.

Furthermore, IMSA has taken the bull by the horns and announced the first World Mind Sports Games, to be held (where else) in Beijing from the 3rd to the 18th of October 2008. This is a fantastic development, one which is no doubt welcomed by all four organisations.

It appears from the link to these Games on the WBF website that the bridge event at the 2008 Games will be contested by Juniors. Whether that is so or not should be made public immediately and given wide publicity by IMSA and the WBF, since NBOs need to make plans well in advance of such an event. There is, nevertheless, a pretty good pdf document on these games linked to the WBF website and sent to NBOs.

One suggestion for IMSA to make which would help it in gaining acceptance would be the establishment of a viable and informative website. A Google search of "International Mind Sports Association" revealed 343 hits, none of which linked to an actual IMSA website. There were links to many National Bridge Organisations as well as to chess, draughts and go organisations, but none to IMSA itself. A further search of "IMSA" revealed 926,000 hits to such organisations as the International Motor Sports Association, the International Municipal Signal Association and the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy, but alas, none to our IMSA. As I write this, it is two years since the four founding organisations met to form IMSA - surely it is time to establish a presence on the world-wide-web.

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THE SPRING NORTH AMERICAN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

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

Barry Rigal, NYC & Brent Manley, Memphis, TN

The Spring Nationals returned to the "Gateway to the West" this year for the first time since 1987. St. Louis' symbol, the Gateway Arch, is one of the most recognizable structures in America and commemorates St. Louis as the beginning of the Oregon Trail. Beginning in 1843 and for the next 25 years, until the completion of the transcontinental railroad, more than half a million settlers moved west to Oregon, Washington, California Idaho, Utah and Nevada, most of them walking all 3200 kilometres.



From its humble beginnings as a town of 385 acres and 6,000 people when incorporated as a city in 1822, it has grown to the extent that the Greater St. Louis area now has a population approaching three million, ranking it in the top 20 urban population centres in the USA.

Bid 'em Up, Play 'em Up Barry Rigal

Board 3 of the afternoon Silodor Open Pairs saw a deal (here rotated) where North-South would appear to be due to get in trouble:

Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

No trump plays only for 11 tricks, though slam is not without play. Pamela Granovetter (an apostle of sound bidding) found a way to avoid trouble: she passed the North hand! Partner Dick Katz found a way to get back into trouble. (Reader, add your own parenthesis here about bidding styles.) He opened the South hand one heart and the auction proceeded:

| | |
|-------------|------|
| Granovetter | Katz |
| Pass | 1 ♥ |
| 2 ♦ | 2 ♠ |
| 3 ♥ | 4 NT |
| 5 ♥ | 6 ♥ |

Katz had gotten himself into an awkward spot, but the advantage of playing hearts as opposed to no trump was that a black loser could be ruffed in dummy.

How should six hearts be played on the jack of clubs lead? Declarer wins in hand and plays the diamond ace and ruffs a diamond. East pitches a club, and now declarer commits himself to the heart queen being with East (clearly, the odds favour this given the diamond break). He leads a club to the queen, a low heart to the ten, cashes the club king, pitching a spade from dummy. Next comes the ace-king of spades and a spade ruff with dummy's ace of hearts. Now he ruffs another diamond to hand with the heart eight, and in the three-card ending he exits with his losing spade. With the heart king-jack left, he can claim the last two tricks. This line requires nothing more than the heart queen onside and decent black-suit breaks.

Running without Scissors Barry Rigal

This deal (rotated) is from the first final session of the Silodor Open Pairs:

Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|--------|--------|------|-------|
| — | — | Pass | 1 ♠ |
| Double | 2 ♠ | Pass | Pass |
| 3 ♣ | Double | Pass | 3 ♠ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

Brian Glubok, South, declared three spades on the lead of a spade to the ace and a low spade return. He won the king and could see that the scissors coup (a club to the queen, the club ace pitching a diamond and the club

ten pitching another diamond) would produce eight tricks but not nine.

Since West had not led a high diamond, maybe East had the diamond king? In that case, West might not shift to a diamond upon winning the heart ace. So Glubok played the heart queen at trick three. West won the ace and duly played back a low club. Now does the scissors coup work? Alas, no. After three rounds of clubs to pitch the diamonds, declarer gets forced once, ruffs a heart and must force himself a second time. He never gets back to the thirteenth heart.

Glubok found the solution: he ran the club to his nine! Now a heart ruff, the club pitching a diamond, club ruff, draw trump and play the king and another heart. He lost just one spade, two hearts and a diamond.

Two Irreproachable Sources Barry Rigal

When two people independently come to you with the same deal, you can assume it contains points of interest. It came from Meltzer versus the Dutch squad, Team Orange, in the Vanderbilt.

Dealer East. Neither Vul.

♠ 5
♥ A 6 4 3
♦ Q J 8 4 2
♣ Q 7 4

♠ A 4 3 2
♥ Q 10 8 5
♦ 6
♣ A K 6 3

| West | North | East | South |
|--------|-------|------------------|-------|
| — | — | 2 ♥ ¹ | Pass |
| 2 ♠ | Pass | Pass | 2 NT |
| Pass | 3 NT | Pass | 4 ♣ |
| Pass | 4 ♦ | Pass | 4 ♥ |
| Double | Pass | Pass | Pass |

1. Spades

Roger Bates bid two no trump to show a two-suiter, then escaped to the playable four hearts. West led a top diamond and shifted to the spade queen. Bates won and ruffed a spade in dummy, then led a heart to the ten. West won the jack and exited with a club. Bates won in hand, ran the heart queen successfully, collecting the nine on his right and drew the last trump to reach this position:

♠ —
♥ —
♦ Q J 8 4
♣ Q 7

♠ 4 3
♥ 8
♦ —
♣ A 6 3

Bates knew that spades were 6-2, so he ran the diamond queen, discarding a spade. West could win and exit with a minor, but with clubs 3-3, he had 10 tricks. The full deal:

♠ 5
♥ A 6 4 3
♦ Q J 8 4 2
♣ Q 7 4

♠ Q 10
♥ K J 7
♦ A K 9 5 3
♣ 10 8 5

♠ K J 9 8 7 6
♥ 9 2
♦ 10 7
♣ J 9 2

♠ A 4 3 2
♥ Q 10 8 5
♦ 6
♣ A K 6 3

Well-Earned IMPs Brent Manley

It is rare to see a team score IMPs by spectacular declarer play at one table and imaginative defence in the other room. But in the match between the Carolyn Lynch and Peter Schneider squads in the Vanderbilt Knockout Teams, Larry Cohen and Curtis Cheek (for Lynch) were full value for a 14-IMP swing. Cohen, playing with David Berkowitz, was South.

Dealer South. EW Vul.

♠ K 9 4 2
♥ K J 10
♦ 10
♣ A J 10 4 2

♠ A J 6 5 3
♥ A 7 4
♦ A J 9 4 2
♣ —

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-----------|------|-------|
| — | Berkowitz | — | Cohen |
| — | — | — | 1 ♠ |
| Pass | 4 ♦ | Pass | 4 ♥ |
| Pass | 4 ♠ | Pass | 6 ♠ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

On the lead of the seven of clubs, Cohen put up the ace, pitching a heart. Then he played the ace of diamonds, ruffed a diamond, ruffed a club (West following with the five), ruffed a diamond, cashed the heart king, played a heart to the ace and ruffed another diamond (West pitching a heart), reaching this position:

♠ K
♥ J
♦ —
♣ J 10 4

♠ A J 6 5
♥ —
♦ J
♣ —

Cohen cashed dummy's spade king, and East showed out! The key issue was that, in the four-card ending, West was known to have three spades and a plain card left. Was it a heart or a club? There were two reasons to think it was a heart. West's club lead was consistent with a doubleton - it would have been a false card from three. Also, there was perhaps an element of restricted choice: with a club and a heart left, when West discarded on the third diamond he might have pitched a club. So Cohen ruffed a heart back to hand safely (both opponents following suit), then exited with his diamond. West suffered the indignity of having to ruff the trick to be end-played in trumps.

The full deal:

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

At the other table, the auction was the same, and Curtis Cheek, West, started proceedings against the slam with the king of diamonds. Declarer won the ace at trick one and played a spade to dummy's king at trick two, leaving him no play for 12 tricks.

Read Your Textbooks Barry Rigal

I'm a big fan of reading bridge books - after all, I wrote enough of them that I want to encourage you all to do the same. In our loss to the Welland team in the Vanderbilt, this deal presented a textbook theme - not one I had encountered in real life before.

Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|---------|-------|-----------|-------|
| Welland | Alder | Fallenius | Rigal |
| — | — | 1 ♣ | 1 ♦ |
| Pass | 6 ♦ | Pass | 7 ♦ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

The auction was distinguished by its brevity and lack of elegance. East had given a little thought to his two passes, so it was likely that there were breakers ahead in the side-suit splits. The opening lead was the heart seven to the eight, king and ace. If trumps were 2-1, life would be easy, so I had to assume they would be 3-0.

When I led a trump to dummy and East discarded, what possible shape could he hold? By far, the most likely was 5=2=0=6, but 5=3=0=5 was also possible. East was not expected to have four hearts. West would have bid spades at the one level or at a higher level preemptively with six or more of them.

The line of play that protects against both distributions is to cash a second heart, draw trumps and pitch the two losing hearts on the ace and king of clubs. Then you ruff a heart to hand and ruff a spade to dummy, discarding your losing spades on the club and heart winners.

The Tough Get Going Barry Rigal

On this deal from the Vanderbilt Knockout Teams, Kyle Larsen was faced with a tough defensive problem - partly because the 'normal' play looks obvious and the winning play is counter-intuitive. Larsen sat East and defended four hearts on the following layout.

Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| 1 ♦ | Pass | 1 NT | 2 ♥ |
| 3 ♣ | 3 ♥ | 4 ♣ | 4 ♥ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

Rose Meltzer (West) led the four of clubs (fourth best). It looks natural to try to win the ace of clubs and then attempt to cash three spade tricks. Larsen looked a little deeper. He realized that, with only 21 high-card points out, the most likely shape for declarer was 4=6=1=2 with good hearts and a top spade. Meltzer, Larsen figured, was 3=1=5=4.

For South to bid four hearts, he was surely a favorite to hold the spade ace instead of the king. If Larsen won the club ace and did not cash the second club, it would go away on the ace of diamonds after a successful finesse of the queen. If he won the club ace and played another club, declarer would discard two spades on the good club queen and the high diamond.

So Larsen put in the club ten, which won. He then cashed the ace and the defence eventually got two spade tricks. The full deal:

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

See last month's Bulletin for a list of winners of the major events.



WHITE HOUSE JUNIOR INTERNATIONALS 2007

Kees Tammens, Amsterdam

From 1993-2004, 's-Hertogenbosch hosted an international junior team event that eventually grew to 26 teams from 23 nations. Many players who would win important titles after their time as juniors (Rohowski, Versace, Hacketts, Brogeland, Nyström, Kranyak, Wooldridge - apologies for all ex-juniors, and there are many more, who I did not mention!) took part in these tournaments and still talk with great enthusiasm about this town in the south of the Netherlands.

In 2005, eight nations sent their junior teams to 'Twee Klaveren' in Amsterdam. This wonderful place (a nice café-restaurant with bridge, chess and other games on the menu) gave the juniors a great reception but is too small (eight tables with screens filled the room completely) for a bigger event. So in 2006 another move was made and this was continued in 2007.

Twenty teams from 16 European countries participated from 19-24 March in the 2nd White House Junior Internationals. The venue was the 'Witte Huis', in February also the location for the Top-16 with a bunch of the world's most famous players.

Round Robin

On Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday a full round robin of 19 matches (of ten boards) took place. Italy started very well but were caught in the final rounds by the Polish Under-20 team, which proved once again that in Poland, bridge is very popular with young girls and

boys. Italy, Norway (defenders of the Carrousel Cup 2006, the much-desired prize of the event), and Poland Juniors were the other three semi-finalists.

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Poland Under-20 | 357 |
| Norway | 355 |
| Italy | 354 |
| Poland Junior | 347 |

France missed the cut by a few VPs, and the Netherlands experienced sixth place as a disappointment.

Final Stages

Norway took a quick lead against Italy in one semifinal (every round a match was broadcast on BBO with lots of spectators, even in the morning). However, the Norwegians never gave in and won comfortably. In the clash between the Polish U-20 and Junior teams, the younger generation booked a remarkable win. So it was Norway and the Poland Under-20s in the final.

A slam missing two aces and some other catastrophes by the Polish boys gave Norway a big lead and for the second time in a row they were the winners. Congratulations to the victorious Norwegians: Eric Eide – Frederik Simonson and Tor Ove Reistad – Ivar Berg, and their non-playing captain, Olav Ellestad. In the play-off for third place Poland beat the Italians. The consolation Swiss was won by the Netherlands who had reinforced themselves (transnational pairs were allowed) with Inda Hronn Björnsdottir from Iceland.

On Saturday, a pro-am (sponsors, officials and guests formed pairs with juniors) pairs tournament was played. Many of the other juniors, who had to be tired after the long tournament followed by a Friday night on the town, showed up to play. Sponsor Jos Jansen and Rosaline (Roos) Barendregt (also webmaster of www.jeugdbridge.nl with results, bulletins and photographs of the White House) scored a beautiful first place. With many positive noises, it seems very likely that the 3rd White House Junior Internationals will be played in the 12th week of 2008.

Best Played Hand

Roos played an excellent three no trump during the junior event where she played in the Dutch Girls' team that finished in a respectable eighth place.

Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

A double by North of two spades would have been for takeout, so the Dutch girls reached three no trump. West led a small club to the bare ace in East. He shifted to a heart, won by West with the king, and another heart went to the queen in dummy. A spade went to the nine, then a diamond to the king was ducked by East. Another spade was played to the jack and the diamond jack was ducked by East.

Now Roos achieved a nice ending. She played the queen of clubs to West's king and he continued with a club to the jack in South. When declarer cashed the heart ace, pitching the diamond six, in this position:

| | | |
|-------|-------|--------|
| | ♠ A 7 | |
| | ♥ — | |
| | ♦ K 7 | |
| | ♣ — | |
| ♠ — | | ♠ Q 10 |
| ♥ 9 6 | | ♥ — |
| ♦ — | | ♦ A 10 |
| ♣ 8 6 | | ♣ — |
| | ♠ K | |
| | ♥ A | |
| | ♦ 8 6 | |
| | ♣ — | |

East found himself in an untenable position. He threw the diamond ten, so declarer cashed the king of spades and played a diamond to East who had to give the ninth trick in the form of the spade ace. A stepping-stone.

Peter Sisselaar, who has been a loyal supporter of junior bridge for 12 years, and is also a sponsor for many other Dutch events, was so impressed by this play that he created a special prize for it!

What About Seven Diamonds?

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

It was inevitable that this hand should produce much action and afterward there was intense discussion. First of all: how to open the huge North hand if you don't

have a tool like Roman Two Diamonds? In junior bridge, when opponents are not vulnerable, it is unlikely that they will not bid with all those hearts, so one club seemed a reasonable option. At the table where your reporter kibitzed, the bidding went like a whirlwind.

| West | North | East | South |
|------|--------|------|-------|
| — | 1 ♣ | 1 ♥ | Pass |
| Pass | Double | Pass | 3 ♦ |
| Pass | 7 ♦ | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |

South's first action was questionable, but what is better, two diamonds, three diamonds (if weak) or a weird one no trump? After a pass by South, what is the right action for North to reopen? Two hearts? Double? North chose the latter to let South pass with ♥KJ10954 or something like that, as it seemed the best chance for a big plus. At one table South elected to pass after the double and one heart doubled went only down two. At another table South also passed but West came to the rescue.

| West | North | East | South |
|------|--------|------|-------|
| — | 1 ♣ | 1 ♥ | Pass |
| Pass | Double | Pass | Pass |
| 1 ♠ | Double | Pass | 2 ♦ |
| Pass | 5 ♥ | Pass | 5 ♠ |
| Pass | 7 ♦ | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |

The scores: nine times plus 1440 in seven diamonds, 5 times plus 940 in six diamonds, one time plus 800 in two hearts doubled, two times plus 460 in three no trump, two times minus 50 (six clubs and seven diamonds down one).

Coulda Been a Contender

Colin Simpson, NPC of the English Juniors, reported a hand in which the winning line was spectacular, to say the least.

Dealer West, Both Vul.

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

After a one-diamond opening in West, a one-spade response, and a two-heart reverse, it was inevitable that East-West reached six diamonds; maybe even seven was an option.

Can you spot the play for six with open cards if North leads a spade? It is not allowed to play a small diamond to the nine or to run clubs before drawing trumps!

Solution: Win the spade ace and play the diamond nine to let it run to the jack! After this start, declarer can always ruff a heart in dummy, draw trumps, Using either a spade ruff or a club to return to hand, and then dispose of the other heart on the fourth club. Beautiful, but it is unknown if any of the juniors found this line of play.

IBPA COLUMN SERVICE

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

385. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| — | — | — | 1 NT |
| Pass | 3 NT | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |

West leads the four of spades against three no trumps. After counting the eight top tricks, five diamonds and three aces, declarer ducked the first round of spades and was devastated to find the jack of clubs on the table at trick two. As his options were now limited to finding the king of clubs onside, he covered the jack of clubs with the queen. West took this with the king of clubs and, as it did not matter which black suit he continued, the contract failed.

North was unsympathetic, as dummies often are after an error by declarer.

“The opening lead was fourth highest, as you could see both the three and two of spades in dummy. So, the defenders can cash only three spade winners whenever they gain the lead. As you saw, ducking the first spades was too dangerous to consider. So, you should win the first trick with the ace of spades and plan to make a ninth trick whenever East holds either the king of hearts or the king of clubs.”

“At trick two, you cross to dummy with a diamond and lead the nine of hearts, planning to play the queen from hand unless East produces the king. (If West were to take queen of hearts with the king, you would fall back on the club finesse.) As the cards lie, it does not matter whether East rises with the king, as the heart suit will produce the ninth trick.”

386. Dealer South. N-S Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| — | — | — | 1 ♥ |
| 1 ♠ | 2 ♠ | Pass | 4 NT |
| Pass | 5 ♥ | Pass | 6 ♥ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

After North cue bid two spades to show at least a limit raise to three hearts, South drove to the slam via Roman Key-Card Blackwood.

West led the queen of diamonds and North put down a rather disappointing dummy. However, declarer asked the question “Why hasn’t West led a spade?” He concluded that the answer had to be that West did not hold all three missing spade honours, for otherwise he would surely have led the suit. So, as the spade suit was certainly 5-1, East was sure to hold a singleton honour in spades.

Declarer took the diamond lead in hand with the king and drew trumps in two rounds. After cashing the ace of diamonds, he ruffed a diamond, eliminating the suit. Next, the ace and king of clubs were cashed, leaving only major-suit cards remaining in dummy and his hand.

Now came a low spade from dummy and East’s queen of spades was a welcome sight. Declarer ducked, giving West an unpleasant choice of poisons.

If he allowed East to hold the trick, his partner would have to concede a ruff-and-discard. The alternative for West was to overtake the queen of spades with his king. However, then he would be faced with either leading away from the jack of spades into declarer’s ace-ten tenace or giving a ruff-and-discard. Either way, declarer would make twelve tricks.

Of course, a spade lead would have beaten the contract.

387. Dealer South. E-W Vul.

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

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

After North cue bid to show a good raise to the three level in spades and then jumped to game over South's trial bid of three hearts, South drove to what proved to be quite a good slam.

West led the king of diamonds and, after counting his tricks, declarer formed a plan that aimed to make the contract when West began with both of the missing heart honours. After winning the diamond lead, he played the ace and king of clubs, throwing the five of diamonds from hand.

After ruffing dummy's last diamond with the ace of trumps, declarer returned to dummy by overtaking the queen of trumps with the king to ruff a club with the ten of trumps. Next, the nine of trumps was overtaken by the jack to return declarer to dummy.

Although there were no trumps outstanding, declarer saw that he could not afford to ruff dummy's last club. He would then be in hand with only one trump left, which would force him to start hearts by leading away from the ace and lose the contract when he had started with three hearts to only one honour.

Instead, declarer ran the eight of hearts next. As the cards lay, West was end-played after he took this with the queen of hearts. A heart return would be into the ace-jack and a diamond would allow declarer to discard a heart from dummy and ruff in hand. Then, after cashing the ace of hearts, he would make the last three tricks on a crossruff for his contract.

Notice that if West did produce a fourth club, declarer would ruff high, cross to dummy by playing the carefully preserved six of trumps to dummy's seven and then hope to pick up three heart tricks by running the ten of hearts.

388. Dealer South. E-W Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| — | — | — | 1 ♠ |
| 3 ♥ | 3 ♠ | Pass | 4 ♠ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

An unremarkable auction leads to a fair game that became decidedly dicey when West led the ace of hearts and East discarded the four of diamonds.

West continued with the jack of hearts and East ruffed it with the eight of trumps then exited with the jack of diamonds. Declarer saw that while the king of diamonds might be onside, finessing was too dangerous to consider - if the finesse lost, West would give his partner another heart ruff and the contract would be down immediately.

So, declarer rose with the ace of diamonds and cashed the ace and king of trumps, hoping that the remaining trumps would break 2-2. However, West parted with a heart on the second round of trumps. This left declarer with the remaining chance of discarding his queen of diamonds on the fourth round of clubs. This could only happen if East had at least three clubs.

If he had begun with three, running the clubs from the top would ensure the contract. However, declarer saw that if East had begun with three clubs then he would surely have discarded a club rather than a diamond at trick one - in line with general defensive principles. *(While this may be an indication of 4-1 clubs, it is by no means a certainty. For example, one might equally well assume West did not have a singleton club, since he did not lead one. - Ed.)*

Consequently, East must have begun with four clubs. As a result, he led the ten of clubs next and ran it when East played low. When it held, declarer was able to discard his diamond loser on the fourth round of clubs - just as he had hoped.

(A better line might be ace of diamonds, ace of spades, ace of clubs, clubs, leaving the spade king as an entry for the established club. This assumes merely that West would have led a club with two spades and one club.)

THE NINE

PO Sundelin, Stockholm

Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| — | — | — | 1 ♥ |
| 2 ♥ | 3 ♥ | Pass | 4 ♥ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

My teammate, Ragnar Unge, played four hearts in a Stockholm team game after West had shown a two-suiter with spades.

The diamond king was led. Unge won with the ace, played the heart king, felling the queen, and continued with a diamond. West won the queen, took the spade ace and exited with the spade queen (East had shown a doubleton ten in diamonds).

A spade ruff was followed by four rounds of trumps (!), end-playing East, who had to lead a club from queen-jack to four in the four-card ending. Ragnar cashed the diamond jack, then ran the club ten to pin North's nine. Nicely played.

(West might have done better to play the nine under the queen, hoping declarer would play him for jack-nine. However, this would have required East's exiting the queen from queen-seven-six-five. That would have worthy of a prize. — Ed.)

LATE ENTRANT

Mark Horton, Romford, UK

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|--------------------|------------------|---------|-------|
| Robles | Ringseth | Pacareu | Berg |
| — | Pass | Pass | 1 ♥ |
| Pass | 2 ♦ ¹ | Pass | 2 ♥ |
| Pass | Pass | Double | Pass |
| 2 ♠ | 3 ♥ | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |
| 1. Four-card Drury | | | |

Sometimes a brilliant defensive play can be so well hidden that as a journalist you only spot it well after the event. Consider this deal from last year's World Junior Championships.

West led the eight of spades and declarer won with the ace. Probably the best plan is to use dummy's trumps to ruff declarer's losers. Win the ace of spades, play a spade to the king and ruff a spade. Now take three rounds of clubs, ruffing, and play a diamond. There are various permutations now, but suppose East makes the natural play of rising with the ace of diamonds and switching to a trump.

The simplest line for declarer is to take the ace, ruff a spade and play a diamond. West is down to the king-queen-five of hearts and declarer has ten-six-three, so must score another trick.

In any case, at the table, declarer won the spade ace and played a diamond from the dummy. East went up with the ace of diamonds and switched to the seven of hearts, ducked by declarer. West won with the queen and considered his options.

The natural play was a trump, but West realised that declarer would win, ruff a spade and a club in dummy and exit with a diamond. West could cash the nine of spades, but would then have to lead into the ace-ten of hearts.

Cashing the diamond king before exiting with a heart stops the throw-in variation since declarer would be in the dummy after the black ruffs. Instead it lets declarer shine even more; he wins the heart in dummy to ruff a diamond high! If West throws a club he cashes the clubs ending in dummy, then ruffs another diamond. Over-ruffing achieves nothing, so West discards a spade. A club ruff in dummy and a spade to the king and another spade...a double en passant.

So, West set a trap for declarer, exiting with a club. Now declarer should have played to ruff a club and a spade as before, which produces a variation on the theme of end-playing West. However, after winning the king of clubs he played a second diamond. West won with the king and only now played a low heart. The end position was destroyed and declarer could arrive at no more than eight tricks.

Could Chile's Benjamin Robles and Joaquin Pacareu be in line for an IBPA award?

HERALD BRIDGE

Ron Klinger, Northbridge, NSW

(From the Sydney Morning Herald)

A Challenge

When you are in a tight contract, you will need the missing cards to lie favourably and hope that you can judge their location. Board 8 from Session 4 of the NSWBA Interstate Teams Selection Stage 1 presented such a challenge.

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

♠ J 10 7
♥ J 9 7
♦ A Q 7 4 3
♣ A 8

♠ A 6 5 4 2
♥ Q 2
♦ K 9 5
♣ Q 4 2

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

Lead: ♥A

Your partnership style is to open 11-point hands, but when you see dummy, you reflect that perhaps opening one spade was not one of your best decisions.

West continues with the heart king and a third heart, to which East follows. You discard a club and it is your next move.

As you have lost two tricks already, you have to restrict the spade losers to one. That is a tall order with your poor spot cards. You can play for this layout:

♠ J 10 7

♠ K 9 8 ♠ Q 3

♠ A 6 5 4 2

Lead the jack from dummy. If East covers, you win and lead low towards dummy.

Another prospect is:

♠ J 10 7

♠ Q 3 ♠ K 9 8

♠ A 6 5 4 2

Here you can lead low from hand towards dummy. If East ducks, your spade ace will fell the queen next round. If West takes the spade queen, you can finesse later against East's king. It is true that in this layout a fourth heart will create a trump trick for East, but West does not know that. Most defenders are reluctant to give declarer a ruff-and-discard.

Which option do you choose? Decide before looking at the full deal at the top of the next column:

♠ J 10 7
♥ J 9 7
♦ A Q 7 4 3
♣ A 8

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

♠ A 6 5 4 2
♥ Q 2
♦ K 9 5
♣ Q 4 2

Since West has five hearts to East's three, you might decide that West is likely to have the shorter spade holding. After three rounds of hearts, you cross to the diamond king and lead a low spade. West takes the spade queen and switches to a club.

Although the club king figures to be with West on the bidding, you do not need to take that risk. You rise with the ace and play the spade jack. If East ducks, you let the jack run. You draw trumps and the diamonds take care of your club loser.

West can defeat you with a club switch at trick three or a fourth heart after winning with the spade queen. But why should a player who bids like he does defend accurately?

Big Mouth

Almost every South in the Gold Coast Congress failed in six spades on this deal from Round 10 of the Open Teams. A notable exception was Felicity Beale of Melbourne.

Board 25. Dealer East. Both Vul. (Deal rotated 90°)

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

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

| West | North | East | South |
|---------------------|----------|-------|------------------|
| Karen | Rob | Lynn | Felicity |
| McCallum | Van Riel | Baker | Beale |
| — | — | Pass | 1 ♠ |
| Pass | 2 ♣ | Pass | 2 ♠ ¹ |
| Pass | 4 ♠ | Pass | 4 NT |
| Pass | 5 ♦ | Pass | 6 ♠ |
| Double ² | Pass | Pass | Pass |

1. Forcing
2. Not a good idea

How can South make six spades on the lead of the heart five?

When dummy appeared, McCallum (a world champion many times over) showed her cards to North.

“Yes, one down,” said Van Riel.

“Let me play it out,” said Beale. Without the double Beale would no doubt have finessed the spade queen. She now hoped that West’s double was based on the king-jack-ten of spades.

Declarer technique to deal with trump positions where a finesse will not work is to reduce your trump length to the same length as the defender who has the critical trump holding. Following that plan, Beale began by winning with the heart ace. She overtook the heart jack and discarded a diamond on the third heart winner. This eliminated the need for a diamond finesse.

She then ruffed a heart, crossed to the ace of diamonds, ruffed a diamond, played the club three to dummy and ruffed another diamond. Next came the ace and king of clubs, leaving South with the ace-queen-seven of spades and West with king-jack-ten. When Beale exited with the spade seven, McCallum had to concede the last two tricks to declarer, who deserved her doubled slam.

“I have just one regret,” Beale said later. “After partner had acknowledged one down at trick 1, I should have said to West, “If you have a 3=4=3=3 pattern, I can claim the slam now.”

Signal Happy

Dealer North. Both Vul.

♠ 8 5 3 2
♥ A K Q
♦ Q 9 5
♣ Q J 6

♠ 10 6
♥ J 5
♦ A 10 7 4 3
♣ K 10 3 2

♠ Q J 7
♥ 10 7 4
♦ K J 8
♣ 9 8 7 4

♠ A K 9 4
♥ 9 8 6 3 2
♦ 6 2
♣ A 5

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|------------------|
| — | Lilly | | Haughie |
| — | 1 ♣ | Pass | 1 ♥ |
| Pass | 1 NT | Pass | 2 ♣ ¹ |
| Pass | 2 ♦ | Pass | 2 ♥ ² |
| Pass | 3 ♥ | Pass | 4 ♥ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

1. Forces two diamonds from opener

2. Inviting game with five hearts

Lead: ♥J

Bill Haughie of Brisbane is one of Australia’s top players. As his surname is pronounced ‘Hoy’, you can understand why his nickname is ‘Shipper’. On this deal from the National Open Teams quarter-finals, he landed his contract via a psychological coup.

Haughie drew trumps and on the third round, West played the diamond three, odd card encouraging. Haughie continued with the two of spades, nine, ten. West returned the spade six to declarer’s ace and the spade king was cashed. This time West discarded the three of clubs, also encouraging. This tipped Haughie off that the club finesse would fail. How to overcome that?

Haughie exited with the club five from hand. West flew with the king and ‘knew’ what was happening. South’s failure to take a club finesse meant that East must have the club ace. Triumphant West cashed the ace of diamonds and exited with a club.

Haughie won with the ace, played the spade four to dummy’s eight and ditched his diamond loser on the club queen. Moral: Beware signalling against a classy declarer.

At the other table North was also in four hearts, one down on normal lines.

What’s Up, Duck?

Consider your defence here.

Dealer East. Both Vul.

♠ A 8 6 3
♥ 2
♦ A K J 5
♣ 9 6 5 3

♠ J 10 5 2
♥ A 8 6 4
♦ 3
♣ Q J 10 7

South opens one diamond and after a relay auction, North signs off in five diamonds. You learn that South has two spades, four hearts, six diamonds, one club with 10-12 HCP and no key cards with diamonds as trumps.

West leads the club ace, three, seven, king. West shifts to the ten of diamonds, taken by dummy’s ace. Declarer plays the heart two from dummy. Which card do you play?

The natural inclination is to rise with the ace. That could be the right defence if South’s spades are worse than king-small and South has worse than king-queen-jack-small in hearts. However, if South has the spade king, there is no defence if you rise with the ace of hearts.

A better chance is to duck the heart. You hope partner can win the heart and play another trump. Perhaps West has the heart king, perhaps declarer has king-jack to four and will misguess if you play low smoothly.

A second round of trumps could leave declarer a trick short since he will be able to ruff only two hearts.

The deal arose in Session 3 of the Swiss Pairs at the 2007 Gold Coast Congress:

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

At the table East rose with the ace of hearts at trick three and played the club queen. South ruffed and relied on the ruffing finesse in hearts to make five diamonds for plus 600 and 8 IMPs.

Take a look at the full deal and consider the situation after the club ace, a trump shift and the heart two from dummy, ducked by East instead of won with the ace. South plays the heart queen and West wins with the king. When West plays a second trump, which side will prevail, declarer or dummy?

Unable to ruff three hearts in dummy, South figures to be one down. There are no extra tricks in spades or in clubs. Is that your conclusion?

Curiously, as long as declarer recognizes what has happened on the second round of trumps, five diamonds can always succeed. On the second diamond East succumbs to a very, very rare position: a triple trump squeeze.

If East discards a spade, declarer can play the ace, king and ruff a third spade. That leaves the dummy's last spade high. Declarer ruffs two hearts and discards the other on dummy's spade winner.

Conversely, if East throws a heart, declarer can ruff two low hearts in dummy. On the third heart East's heart ace will fall and declarer's jack will be high.

East can foresee both of these scenarios easily enough and so might discard a club. Now the nine of clubs comes into its own. Declarer ruffs a heart, ruffs a low club, ruffs another heart, and finally, another low club ruff removes East's last club honour and dummy's nine of clubs is now high.

Should declarer blame East for rising with the ace of hearts and destroying his opportunity to execute this rare squeeze?

VIRTUE REWARDED

Phillip Alder, Hobe Sound, FL

(From the NYTimes)

Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

| North | East | South | West |
|-------|--------|-------|------|
| 1 ♠ | Pass | 2 ♦ | Pass |
| 3 ♦ | Pass | 4 ♣ | Pass |
| 4 ♥ | Double | Pass | Pass |
| 5 ♦ | Pass | Pass | Pass |

West led the heart three.

Many great plays go 'unrewarded.' Even though declarer makes the contract with the best line of play, the opposing cards are distributed so favourably that all sane approaches would have worked. But occasionally virtue sits firmly on its throne - as in the diagrammed deal from a Chicago game at the Regency Whist Club in Midtown Manhattan on February 21.

The declarer was Alan Greenberg of New York, known as Ace, the chairman of the executive committee of Bear Stearns Companies. His two-diamond response was natural and game-forcing. Four clubs and four hearts were cue-bids, showing first-round controls in those suits.

After four hearts was doubled, North could have redoubled to show first- and second-round heart controls, but he had yet to warn partner that he had a minimum opening. This is a drawback of two-over-one game-forcing: neither player limits his hand strength.

Against five diamonds, West led a heart. After winning with dummy's ace, declarer hoped to ruff his remaining heart on the board and concede one spade and one diamond. If diamonds were 3-2, playing the suit for one loser would not be a problem. (Playing the diamond suit without loss was not likely. West would have a doubleton diamond king only 13.6 percent of the time.) But if diamonds were 4-1, there was only one singleton that would help: the king.

So at trick two, Greenberg cashed dummy's diamond ace, being delighted to see East drop the king.

Now there was a natural reaction to cash the board's diamond jack, cross to hand with a club and ruff the last heart. But here West would ruff the club and could return either a low spade or his remaining trump to defeat the contract.

Instead declarer played a spade to his ace. If West ruffed that, he would have several clubs and the contract would still make. West could return a trump, but declarer would win on the board, cross to his hand with a club, ruff his last heart, play another club to his hand, draw trump and claim.

After his spade ace held, South ruffed his last heart on the board, cashed dummy's diamond jack and called for a spade (not a club, which would still have been fatal, West ruffing, putting his partner on lead with his spade queen, and receiving a second club ruff). East could win and give his partner a club ruff, but Greenberg had the rest.

After the play finished, dummy, the stoical (*That is British understatement!* – Ed.) Sam Lev of New York, to everyone's surprise, actually said, "Well played." Wow!

CIAO FROM HONOLULU

Jack Zhao, Tianjin

Hawaii: in my youth, this name meant paradise. When I was a child, I always dreamt of being there and experiencing the sun, the sea, and the beach. It was only a dream, and would stay as a dream, I thought. Until... the 2006 Fall Nationals was going to be held in Honolulu, Hawaii. And, we (Fu and I) had an offer to play in a professional team, so how could I resist the opportunity? So, that was that. Packing, squeezing time from our busy local schedule, we came to Hawaii to participate in the 2006 Fall NABC. Our team, captained by the sponsor, Jim Mahaffey, was a six-player team: Jim and his partner, also our team manager, Barnet Shenkin, Fu and me and the fine young Swedish pair, Fredrik Nyström and Peter Bertheau.

Playing in the American Nationals has always been difficult for us. They are in often the opposite time zone, 11 or 12 hours different from China. We were always suffering from jet-lag. The third set has always been our nightmare. This time, we decided to come two days early to adjust, and anyway, Hawaii was only six time zones away. Before the main events, we played two days of knockout teams as a warmup. The good thing about the American Nationals is that the overall standard is very high. That means you will always need to concentrate hard at the table. Otherwise, you might just lose in the very early stages of an event. We had to play very well to win our early rounds. These two deals

happened in the early stages of the tournament, prior to the main events.

First, let's see an interesting four spades. Fu opened one club and I responded one spade; after Fu's two-no-trump rebid and my check-back, I found out Fu had three spades; my four spades ended the auction. The king of diamonds was led and this was what I saw:

♠ A J 4
♥ Q J 8
♦ J 7 5
♣ A K Q 2

♠ Q 10 9 6 5
♥ A 7 3 2
♦ 8
♣ 9 8 7

After the diamond king held the trick, West continued a small diamond to the ten and I ruffed. This was obviously a good game. I couldn't see anything else but trying the trump finesse. I ran the spade ten and it held the trick.

However, when I played a second spade, West showed out, discarding a diamond. Knowing my contract was now in danger, I had no choice but to play the jack, losing to the king. East, of course, tried a third round of diamonds. I discarded a heart to keep the trump control. After some thought, East switched to the jack of clubs, which I won in dummy. I cashed the spade ace, then played the heart queen. When this held the trick, I continued with the jack of hearts; East covered with the king and I won the ace, West dropping the ten.

When I drew the last trump, West was squeezed in clubs and hearts. The full deal:

♠ A J 4
♥ Q J 8
♦ J 7 5
♣ A K Q 2

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

♠ Q 10 9 6 5
♥ A 7 3 2
♦ 8
♣ 9 8 7

I was lucky to find West with both the ten and nine of hearts, but I didn't have any other chance but finding him with ten-nine third or any four-card holding (assuming clubs weren't 3-3).

At the other table, the declarer went down and we gained a game swing. Our manager, Barnet, asked me, "Did they let you make that four spades?"

“Well, no,” I said proudly, “I squeezed West to make the contract!”

“Oh, but there wasn’t a squeeze available,” Barnet replied. When I told him how I played it, he said, “After you discarded a heart on the third diamond, what if East switches to the king of hearts?”

I started sweating! Yes, that was the killing defence! Neat, but I was rather embarrassed for not realizing it. That was a rare Merrimac coup in a suit contract, very pretty. Did it really happen at their table? I didn’t know, but he had my admiration for realizing it.

Note that if East hadn’t continued the third diamond, but had played back a spade instead, the count would not have been rectified. But, I could then cash the spade ace and the club ace-king; seeing the fall of jack and ten, I could then still run the heart queen and jack, then cash the last trump to strip squeeze West. Depending on his discards, I could unblock the nine of clubs and throw him in with the third heart to bring my fourth club trick, a classic stepping stone. But of course, the heart king would have spoiled everything.

When I was living in the Netherlands, I used to read a lot of bridge books. The most difficult bridge book was *Adventures in Card Play*, by Geza Ottlik. I was so amazed by the complex endings detailed in the book. Even now, words like backwash and entry shifting squeezes are only words to me, never met or executed at the table. However, in Hawaii, I had the chance to operate one.

With no one vulnerable, I had:

♠ 10 7 6 3
♥ K 7
♦ A Q 10 7 3
♣ 6 2

LHO opened one spade and Fu doubled; after a pass from RHO, I jumped to three diamonds; four clubs from LHO. Fu bid four diamonds, after four spades from RHO, I bid five diamonds. When this was passed out, I had the feeling that my bid might have been the right move.

LHO led the ace of spades and when dummy came down, I saw that I was right.

♠ 9
♥ Q 10 2
♦ K 8 5 4 2
♣ A Q 8 3

♠ 10 7 6 3
♥ K 7
♦ A Q 10 7 3
♣ 6 2

After winning the ace of spades, West switched to the jack of clubs. I put in the queen and it won the trick. When I played a diamond to the ace, LHO showed out, not surprisingly, discarding a spade. Then I played the

heart king from hand; LHO won the ace and played back the club king; I was pleased to see East follow to this trick. Trying to count out West’s distribution, I played the queen of hearts and ruffed the heart ten in hand. When West showed out again, he was marked with 6=2=0=5 distribution. Therefore, I couldn’t ruff a third spade safely with a low trump. I ruffed a spade in dummy and saw the king fall from East. When a diamond was played to the ten, in the last four cards were:

♠ —
♥ —
♦ K 8
♣ 8 3

♠ 10 7
♥ —
♦ Q 7
♣ —

When I played the queen of diamonds from hand, East’s last trump was extracted, and West, holding two spades and two clubs, had a difficult time. If he discarded a spade, I would play low from dummy and ruff out the last spade. If he discarded a club, then I could overtake with the diamond king and ruff out the clubs. It was a typical entry shifting squeeze! Finally, I had a chance to operate a squeeze I had always dreamt about! For the record, West’s hand was:

♠ A Q J 8 5 2
♥ A 9
♦ —
♣ K J 10 9 4

After a ninth place finish in the Open Board-a-Match Teams, we were prepared for the main event, the Reisinger Teams, also board-a-match. However, a totally unexpected accident happened: our team manager Barnet Shenken forgot to register our team the night before, so we were not allowed to play! You can imagine how furious the boss was. We still don’t know what is going to happen, but it was a serious mistake. However, playing in the USA, even if you don’t play in the main event, you can still find plenty of things in which to play. So, instead, we played in the North American Swiss Teams Championship.

After the first day of qualifying and the second day of semifinals, we qualified rather easily for the finals. However, we didn’t do very well, so our carry over was only 7VP; the leading team, Lynch (Cohen-Berkowitz, Passell-Wold) had 40VP! The maximum you can get per match is 20VPs, so we started almost two matches behind.

After four handsome wins in the morning matches, we met Lynch in the fifth round. We lost the match 6-14 and thought we might be out of the race. No! We won our next two matches by large margins, and before the last round, Lynch lost to a team of Icelanders 0-20!

So, going into the last match, Lynch was still on the lead but only 1 VP ahead. Sharing second were the Icelanders and us. We had to play each other in the last round. As it turned out, Lynch also lost their last match, so the winner of our match would be first! But we lost our match by 17 IMPs.

One of the key swings against us occurred when the Icelanders bid and made this difficult four spades. You can try it yourself. Plan the play on the lead of the two of spades.

♠ 10 9 7 4
♥ Q J 6 2
♦ A
♣ Q 8 6 2

♠ K Q 6 5
♥ A 8
♦ J 8 4
♣ A 7 4 3

| West | North | East | South |
|------|---------|------|-------|
| Fu | Partner | Zhao | You |
| -- | -- | 1 ♦ | Pass |
| INT | Double | 2 ♦ | 4 ♠ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

On a small spade lead, the declarer put up the ten and I covered with the jack. Winning in hand with the king, declarer then played a diamond to the ace and ran the heart queen. When that won, he played another heart to the ace, ruffed a diamond in dummy, ruffed a heart back to his hand, then ruffed his last diamond in dummy.

Declarer then played the spade nine, the last trump in dummy, to the eight, six, and ace. Poor Fu, having no more red cards in his hand with which to force declarer, had to concede three more tricks to South, and the contract. Our hands were:

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

At the other table, our teammates misguessed the ending and went down. We ended up in third place in the Swiss Teams. Not bad, but we felt we'd missed a good chance.

There was an even greater disappointment for me than our failure to win any event, or even to play in the reputedly very tough Reisinger Board-a-Match Teams. Having come to the paradise of my childhood dreams, I didn't even get to go to the beach...after the tournament, we had to fly back to China immediately because we had other commitments to keep. No, I'm not complaining, I chose to be a bridge player and will stay what I am. Ciao.

NEWS & RE-VIEWS

124 Straight NABCs

It was, of course, *Gail* Greenberg who has attended all those NABCs consecutively, as we reported last month. Unfortunately, we inadvertently truncated her given name. Sorry, Gail.

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Upcoming Online Transmissions

| | | |
|-----------|--------------------------|------|
| May 5-13 | Zone 7 Championships, NZ | BBO |
| May 19 | Scottish Cup Final | BBO |
| May 25-28 | Norwegian Club Ch. | BBO |
| Jun 5-10 | Nordic Championships | BBO |
| Jun 15-30 | Open Europeans, Turkey | Swan |
| Jul 28-2 | Governor's Cup, Sweden | Swan |

World Bridge Calendar

| DATES | EVENT | LOCATION | INFORMATION |
|-------|-------|----------|-------------|
|-------|-------|----------|-------------|

2007

| | | | |
|---------------|--|-------------------------------|---|
| May 4-8 | Schapiro Spring Foursomes | Stratford, 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 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 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 | Vinftsted, 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.unibrige.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 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.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 13-16 | 41 st Isle of Man Congress | Douglas, Isle of Man | pdweerd@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.bridgegear.com.ar |
| Dec 7-10 | Città di Milano | Milan, Italy | www.federbridge.it |
| Dec 21-23 | Junior Channel Trophy | Netherlands | www.ebu.co.uk |

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| Mar 6-16 | ACBL Spring NABC | Detroit, MI | www.acbl.org |
| Jun 14-28 | 49 th European Championships | Pau, France | www.eurobridge.org |
| Jul 17-27 | ACBL Summer NABC | Las Vegas, NV | www.acbl.org |
| Sep 2-9 | 4 th World University Championships | Lodz, Poland | www.unibrige.org |
| Oct 3-18 | World Mind Sports Games | Beijing, China | www.worldbridge.org |