



BULLETIN

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Every two years at this time, zonal qualifying for the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup and latterly, the Senior Bowl takes place in earnest. All WBF Zones except Europe have trials in May and June to select their teams for these competitions, this year to take place in Shanghai in the autumn. Europe chose its nations last year, this year being a European Open Championships year. Also, the USA chose one of its teams last year; the competition for USA2 is going on as we go to press.

In the following report, we'll detail some of the excitement at the various Zonal competitions just completed. Known qualifiers are listed. Keep in mind that, as far as Europe is concerned, it is the *country* that has qualified, not the players listed. The players *may* be the same, but it is up to the each NBO to send who it wants. In the case of Italy and Ireland in particular, it is difficult to imagine them sending a different team to the Bermuda Bowl than the ones which qualified in last year's Europeans.

Zone I - Europe

Bermuda Bowl

Italy - Norberto Bocchi-Giorgio Duboin, Fulvio Fantoni-Claudio Nunes, Lorenzo Lauria-Alfredo Versace

Ireland - John Carroll-Tommy Garvey, Nick Fitzgibbon-Adam Mesbur, Tom Hanlon-Hugh McGann

Norway - Boye Brogeland-Erik Sælensminde, Bjorn-Olav Ekren-Ulf Tundal, Geir Helgemo-Tor Helness

Sweden - Peter Bertheau-Fredrik Nyström, Fredrik Björnlund-Peter Fredin, Bengt-Erik Efraimsson-Anders Morath

Netherlands - Ton Bakkeren-Huib Bertens, Bauke Muller-Simon de Wijs, Vincent Ramondt-Berry Westra

Poland - Bartosz Chmurski-Piotr Gawrys, Bogusław Gierulski-Jerzy Szrzyteczak, Apolinary Kowalski-Piotr Tuszyński

Venice Cup

France - Danielle Allouche-Sylvie Willard, Bénédicte Cronier-Cathérine d'Ovidio, Catherine Fishpool-Fabienne Pigeaud

Netherlands - Carla Arnolds-Bep Vriend, Marion Michielson-Meike Wortel, Jet Pasma-Anneke Simons

England - Michelle Brunner-Rhona Goldenfield, Heather Dhondy-Nicola Smith, Catherine Jagger-Sarah Teshome

Germany - Anja Alberti-Mirja Schraeverus, Daniela von Arnim-Sabine Auken, Pony Nehmert-Barbara Hackett

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Denmark - Nadia Bekkouche-Trine Binderkrantz, Stense Farholt-Maria Marit Rahelt, Marlene Kirstan-Camilla Bo Krefeld (*continued on page 2*)

Croatia - Renate Muller-Izvorka Petrovic, Nina Pecina-Sandra Ruso, Marina Pilipovic-Nikica Sver

Senior Bowl

Germany - Hans Humburg, Ulrich Kratz, Göran Mattsson, Werner Schneider, Bernhard Straeter, Horst-Dieter Uhlmann

Sweden - Sture Ekberg, Sune Fager, Sven-Olov Flodqvist, Bernt-Åke Jansson, Åke Sjöberg, Hans-Olof Hallén

France - Patrick Grenthe, Patrice Piganeau, Jean-Marie Py, Jean-Louis Stoppa, Francois Stretz, Philippe Vanhoutte

Denmark - Jens Auken, Flemming Dahl, Peter Lund, Kirsten-Steen Moller, Steen Moller, Georg Norris

Poland - Krzysztof Antas, Aleksander Jezioro, Tadeusz Kaczanowski, Krzysztof Lasocki, Jerzy Russyan

Italy - Franco Baroni, Paolo Farina, Ezio Fornacari, Arturo Franco, Carlo Mariani, Marco Ricciarelli

Zone 2 - North America

Bermuda Bowl

USA 1 - Steve Garner-Howard Weinstein, George Jacobs-Ralph Katz, Zia Mahmood-Michael Rosenberg

USA 2 - To be determined by Trials in Chicago June 1-10

Canada/Mexico - Playoff date TBD

Venice Cup

USA 1 & 2 - To be determined by Trials in Chicago June 1-10

Canada - Sylvia Caley-Isabelle Smith, Julie Fajgelzon-Pamela Nisbet

Senior Bowl

USA 1 & 2 - TBD by Trials in Bethesda MD July 2-8

Canada - Boris Baran-Eric Murray, John Carruthers-Joseph Silver, Fred Hoffer-Don Piafsky

Zone 3 - South America

Three teams in each category to be determined by Trials in Quito June 2-9

Zone 4 - Asia & Middle East

Two teams in each category were determined by Trials in Karachi May 12-20 - See report, this issue.

Zone 5 - Caribbean & Central America

Bermuda Bowl

Trinidad & Tobago - David Clarke, Trevor Hart, Roger Mapp, Bobby Persad, Mohan Seepersad, Roger Vieira

Venice Cup

Guadeloupe - Chantal Bistoquet, Natacha Kavasnikova, Françoise Mondor, Muguette Peli, Catherine Rey

Senior Bowl

Guadeloupe - Joseph Boulogne, Jacqueline Cassin, Jean-Pierre Favard, Dominique Gerin, Fred Mondor, Jean-Claude Pélletier

Zone 6 - Pacific Asia

Two teams in each category to be determined by the PABF Championships in Bandung, Indonesia June 3-13. China Qualifies automatically as hosts.

Zone 7 - South Pacific

Bermuda Bowl

Australia - Murray Green-Andrew Peake, Pauline Gumby-Warren Lazer, Richard Jedrychowski-Bruce Neill

New Zealand - David Ackerly-Scott Smith, Alan Grant-Anthony Ker, Jeff Miller-Graeme Stout

Venice Cup

New Zealand - Jan Alabaster-Jan Cormack, Rose Don-Paula McLeish, Shirley Newton-Jenny Wilkinson

Australia - Candice Feitelson-Cathy Nill, Liz Havas-Barbara Travis, Rena Kaplan-Paula Schroom

Senior Bowl

Australia - Bill Haughie-David Lilley, Ron Klinger-Zolly Nagy, John Lester-Gabi Lorentz

New Zealand - Stanley Abrahams-David McLeish, Chris Ackerly-Arleen Schwartz, Trevor Robb-Douglas Russell

Zone 8 - Africa

Two teams in each category were determined by Trials held in Mombasa from April 14-22 - See report, this issue.



Zone 4 Championships

Phillip Alder, Hobe Sound, FL
Raman Jayaram, Baroda, India

The 14th Bridge Federation of Asia and the Middle East (BFAME) Championships (Zone 4 of the WBF), played at the Carlton Hotel in Karachi, between May 12 and 20, began with drama off the table and ended with drama on the table. Because of the political unrest on inauguration day, the Indian and Sri Lankan contingents of over 30 players and officials took five long hours in driving from the Karachi airport to the hotel because of road blockages.

On the table, all three main events went down to the wire. In the Seniors event, a play-off was needed after India and Pakistan finished level in the 60-board final, after Pakistan had overcome a huge lead. In the Women's team event, India led Jordan by 48 IMPs with 20 boards

to go. Jordan trounced India in that final set 94-17 to emerge winners by 29 IMPs. And India won the Open event for the fourth consecutive time, beating Pakistan by just 2 IMPs after many lead changes. This finals was decided on the last two boards. Down 10 IMPs at the end of Board 98, India scored 12 IMPs in the last two to just pip Pakistan.

Participation levels were disappointing, to say the least. Five teams in the Open, four each in the Women's and Seniors. To my (Rj's) mind, two teams out of four (or five) participating teams qualifying for the World Championships where the number is restricted to 22 from eight zones, is not merely ridiculous, but also unfair to almost any team from the European Zone that would have easily qualified if it were in this zone.

Earlier, the round stages went along expected lines. All three Indian teams qualified comfortably for the finals with a carry over of 15 IMPs each in the Women's and Seniors events against Jordan and Pakistan respectively, and a whopping 25 IMPs in the Open event final against Pakistan. India created a world record of sorts on the third day of the round robins, with all three teams put together winning 168 Victory Points out of 175 that were on offer that day.

The HBL Friendship Pairs – Phillip Alder

The initial event of the Championships was the Habib Bank Ltd International Friendship Pairs, won by Alope Sadhu and Kamal Roy (both from India). Here are some deals from the pairs:

Board 3. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
	<i>Marwan Ghanem</i>		<i>Shireen Barakat</i>
—	1 ♦	2 ♦ ¹	3 ♦ ²
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	5 ♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 5+-5+ in the majors
2. Expecting more bidding

North was probably itching to double four spades, but it is only one down. It was hard, though, for South not to go on to five clubs (which is doomed by South if West leads a heart, but can always be made by North).

West led the ace of spades. Declarer ruffed, played a trump to dummy's ace, and cashed the king of spades, discarding a heart. Now South should have called for a diamond. (Ruffing a spade also works, but that is very lucky.) Instead, she cashed the queen of clubs first. This should have cost a trick, but after a diamond to the king and ace, the queen of diamonds, a diamond ruff in the dummy, a spade ruff in hand, a diamond ruff on the board, and the jack of spades, discarding her last heart, West made a bad mistake by ruffing. South claimed the last three tricks with her trump and two high diamonds. Plus 420 was a cold top: 11 match points. But if West had calmly discarded a heart, declarer would have only scored her remaining trump, going one down. Surely the most common defensive error is winning a trick too early.

Board 20 was an interesting declarer-play problem.

Board 20. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Ghanem</i>		<i>Barakat</i>	
—	Pass	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

I do not like North's choice of a one-spade response. His hand is good for Drury, two clubs showing a maximum pass with at least three hearts. If not using that convention, I would respond two diamonds, to show where my values are. The hand has only seven losers in support of hearts, which suggests bidding game - but partner is third in hand.

After the one-spade bid, South had a rebid problem. Some would try two clubs, hoping to get past this round, or three clubs, but South chose three hearts, a slight underbid. Ghanem led the eight of diamonds, second-highest from a weak suit. Declarer surely does best to win on the board and immediately play a trump. He can always return to the dummy with a club ruff to play diamonds. But South immediately tried to take the three top diamonds. When East could ruff the third, declarer could take only 11 tricks. Minus 650 gave Barakat and Ghanem eight match points (11 top). Fortunately for North-South, they had stopped short of slam, saving three match points.

In the Zonal Championship Trials, only five teams would vie for the two available Bermuda Bowl berths: Bangladesh, India, Jordan, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. There are 11 countries in the Zone, but most did not make the trip to Karachi for reasons of security, either in Pakistan or their own countries, or lack of financial resources, or finally, simply lack of interest. In the Women's, India, Jordan, Pakistan and Palestine would compete, while in the Seniors, India, Jordan, Pakistan and Sri Lanka would take part.

In all three series, a triple round-robin, followed by a final between the top two teams, would determine the BFAME Champions.

Open Teams, Round Robin I, Match I, India v Jordan - R. Jayaram

"What could have been," is a lament most of us have experienced. Here are two deals taken from the India-Jordan match, which best explain that feeling.

Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

<p>♠ 9 8 3 2 ♥ 7 6 2 ♦ J 9 6 ♣ A K 9</p> <p>♠ K 5 ♥ 9 8 5 4 ♦ 7 3 ♣ 7 6 5 4 3</p>	<p>♠ 10 7 ♥ J 10 3 ♦ A K 5 ♣ Q J 10 8 2</p> <p>♠ A Q J 6 4 ♥ A K Q ♦ Q 10 8 4 2 ♣ —</p>
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In the closed room, Kamal Roy-Aloke Sadhu of India had a bidding mishap, ending in six spades and going two down.

West	North	East	South
<i>Pritish</i>	<i>Sireen</i>	<i>Debasish</i>	<i>Marwan</i>
<i>Kushari</i>	<i>Parakat</i>	<i>Roy</i>	<i>Ghanem</i>
—	Pass	1 ♣	Double
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	4 ♣
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

The drama was in the open room, where Sireen Barakat was in the perfectly normal four spades. Debasish Roy cashed his two diamonds and gave Pritish Kushari a third-round diamond ruff. Kushari craftily played a club. Why? Kushari wanted declarer to be in hand to *facilitate an immediate spade finesse*. Never do what the opponents want you to do. Barakat fell for the ploy and down one she went! Jordan won 3 International Match Points instead of 13.

Senior Teams, Round Robin I, Round I, India v Pakistan - Phillip Alder

As the team events got underway, I decided to waddle into the open room to watch two long-time friends, Subash Gupta and Sattar Cochinwala, battle it out in the Senior Bowl Qualifying. I sat down just as the play was beginning on this board.

Board 5. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Sattar</i>	<i>Saroj</i>	<i>M.A. Ansari</i>	<i>Subash</i>
<i>Cochinwala</i>	<i>Bhattacharjee</i>		<i>Gupta</i>
—	—	—	1 NT
Pass	2 ♥	Double	Pass
3 ♣	3 ♥	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Saroj Bhattacharjee should probably have just settled for four spades, either directly or via a Texas four-heart transfer, as his system dictated. But here was Gupta struggling in three no trump.

The contract would have failed dismally if West had led from his longest suit, but he selected the jack of hearts. Declarer took the trick with his ace and played the king of spades. East won with his ace and switched to the five of clubs. If declarer had risen with his king, he would have taken nine tricks: five spades, two hearts, one diamond and one club. However, his play of the eight prevented the opponents running the whole club suit if the ace was offside.

After winning the club eight with his nine (dummy pitching a heart), West returned the ten of hearts. South took this trick and would have been all right if he had now run dummy's spades. This would have been the position with one spade to go:

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

The last spade would have squeezed East! If he kept two diamonds, he would be end-played in hearts, forced to lead away from that king of diamonds at trick twelve. He would do best to discard down to the singleton king, but declarer should have no difficulty reading the position.

Nevertheless, Gupta envisioned this ending and realized that he would then be in the wrong hand to take the diamond finesse if he judged that to be the winning play. And what would he discard from hand on the last spade in any case?

So South, after winning with his king of hearts, ran the queen of diamonds to go two down. It was the simplest line and needed the least to succeed. Alas...

In the other room, South was in four spades. The declarer, Salim Zaki, took the heart lead and played the king of spades. Back came a heart. Now South's winning line was similar: cash five rounds of spades, squeezing East in three suits. But he also immediately ran the queen of diamonds. East won with his king, cashed the queen of hearts, and gave his partner a heart ruff. That was one down, and three International Match Points to Pakistan.

Board 9. Dealer West. NS Vul.

	♠ A Q 7		
	♥ Q 7 6 5		
	♦ 7		
	♣ A 8 7 6 5		
♠ 4 3		♠ J 10 9 5 2	
♥ J 9 8 4 3		♥ A 2	
♦ A J 10 5		♦ Q 9 8	
♣ K J		♣ 10 9 2	
	♠ K 8 6		
	♥ K 10		
	♦ K 6 4 3 2		
	♣ Q 4 3		
West	North	East	South
<i>Gupta</i>	<i>Cochinwala</i>	<i>Bhatta'jee</i>	<i>Ansari</i>
Pass	1 ♣	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

South's two-no trump response is dubious. Why not show the five-card suit? The deal could easily belong in a minor-suit partial, game or slam, which will be easier to find if the first response is made at a low level. Even so, then the auction probably would have gone one club-one diamond-one heart-two no trump-three no trump-pass. That might have engendered a spade lead, after which it would have been relatively easy to defeat the contract.

After the actual heart lead, though, it is harder. East, after taking his ace of hearts, had to switch to a diamond, the eight being the 'normal' card in much of the world, the nine being 'normal' in Scandanavia and Poland. This allows the defenders to collect the first five tricks. At the table, East returned a heart at trick two.

After this reprieve, the declarer did very well. He led a low club, taking West's jack with dummy's ace, and returned a club, ducking from his hand to bring down West's king. Now South had nine tricks: three spades, two hearts and four clubs. This turned out to be a flat board.

The Nine Against Five Race - R. Jayaram

In many contracts, declarer and the defenders continuously tussle, the former to collect the required number of tricks and the latter to beat the contract. To my mind, the most fascinating of such deals occur in the play of three no trump contracts. Equally, if not more importantly, there are pitfalls, often not avoided, while discarding from one hand on partner's winners. Against what I believe was top-class defence, Debasish Roy (West) of India made a three no trump contract in Round 4 of the Open Teams event on the following layout, providing for a multitude of eventualities, including the two I have mentioned above.

Board 7. Dealer West. Both Vul.

	♠ K 8 3		
	♥ K J 5 2		
	♦ Q 7 5 4		
	♣ Q 9		
♠ A 10		♠ Q J 9 7	
♥ A 10		♥ Q 9 8 7	
♦ K J 10 8 6		♦ A 9	
♣ K J 10 7		♣ 6 4 3	
	♠ 6 5 4 2		
	♥ 6 4 3		
	♦ 3 2		
	♣ A 8 5 2		
West	North	East	South
<i>D. Roy</i>	<i>Prera</i>	<i>Kushari</i>	<i>Salgado</i>
1 NT	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

The play went like this: the two of hearts was led to the declarer's ten, then the spade ace was cashed, followed by the spade ten. Prera (North) began an excellent defence for the Sri Lankan pair by ducking.

The spade ten was overtaken in dummy, and Debasish had his own valid reasons to pull a low club to the jack which lost to the queen. The ace of hearts was now driven out. Debasish continued to put his faith in the club suit by playing the ten from his hand. A very important nine appeared from his left and this time around it was the turn of Salvado (the Sri Lankan South) to duck.

This business of ducking was becoming annoying. But Debasish was not giving up yet. He led a diamond to the ace and played the queen of spades, jettisoning his ten of diamonds and reaching this position, end-playing North!

♠ —
 ♥ K J
 ♦ Q 7 5
 ♣ —

♠ — ♠ 9
 ♥ — ♥ Q 9
 ♦ K J 8 ♦ 9
 ♣ K 7 ♣ 6

♠ 5
 ♥ 6
 ♦ 3
 ♣ A 8

Now you know why Debasish did not play on spades early: because of discard problems; that a diamond play would have created entry problems; and also how he did not give any chance to the defenders.

Counting Can Also Be an Art - R. Jayaram

Counting is the first science all of us learned in our lives. Players like the unassuming Prithvi Kushari demonstrate at the table that this science can also be done artistically. Here is an example taken from Round 10 of the open event.

Board 10. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

♠ A Q 9 8 6
 ♥ J 7 4
 ♦ Q 6
 ♣ K 4 2

West	North	East	South
—	D. Roy	—	Kushari
2♥	3♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Prithvi Kushari and Debasish Roy avoided the four-spade contract that was popular with many pairs. The king-of-hearts lead was taken on the table, and East unblocked the ten. The ten of spades was played, covered by the jack and queen, nicely ducked by West. Three diamonds came next, West discarding a spade and a heart.

A spade to the nine fetched the king and West returned his last spade. Now Kushari knew that West had started with 4=6=1=2 distribution. Declarer cashed his last two spades, and West had to decide whether to keep two hearts and two clubs, or to blank his ace of clubs to

retain three hearts. If it were the former, declarer would play his jack of hearts (to provide for ten-nine in the East hand) and the king of clubs would be his ninth trick; if it were the latter, a low club from Kushari would do the trick as the jack of hearts would have to score.

The Finishes

To say that the finishes in all three series were dramatic is an understatement.

First, in the Seniors final, India had had a 15-IMP carryover, and led 109-62 with 20 boards remaining. Pakistan then outscored India 81-34 to tie the match at 143 at full time. In extra time, Pakistan lost 10 IMPs in a slam that should have been made and would have given them 11 IMPs instead. The final margin was 18 IMPs, 24 to 6 for India.

In the Women's final, India also had a 15-IMP lead and led 135-87 with one 20-board set to go. Jordan won that set in Nickell-like fashion 94-17, to win going away.

The Open Teams final followed a similar course, with India enjoying a 25-IMP carry-forward and adding to it the first stanza to lead 82-34. Pakistan chipped away at that lead and actually led by 13 going into the last 20 boards. A relatively calm set of boards left Pakistan's lead at 10 IMPs with two boards to play. These are those two boards...

Open Teams Final, Session 5, India v Pakistan - Phillip Alder

It had been nip-and-tuck, with the lead changing hands several times. This was the penultimate deal:

Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

♠ Q 8 6 4
 ♥ 9
 ♦ K J 10 7 6 2
 ♣ 6 4

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

♠ K J
 ♥ 7 6 5 2
 ♦ A 8
 ♣ K J 9 8 5

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Sadhu	Masood	K. Roy	Ahmed
—	—	—	1NT ¹
Double	3♦	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		
I. 12-14 HCP			

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Jaffer	Kushari	Khan	D. Roy
—	—	—	1 ♣
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	1 NT
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

In the closed room, Pritish Kushari responded in his major, then used a two-club checkback that was either a game-invitational hand or planning, as here, to play in two diamonds. Sarfaraz Ahmed Khan balanced with two hearts, but West knew his partner was bidding most of his points, so he did not act. Three diamonds drifted one down, losing one spade, one heart, one diamond and two clubs.

In the open room, Alope Sadhu's double of the slightly off-centre weak no trump was a tad aggressive, but it certainly worked here. Kamal Kumar Roy had no compunction about bidding four hearts, a contract that could not be beaten. Plus 620 and minus 50 was worth 11 IMPs and a lead of 1 IMP with one board to play.

Board 20. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Sadhu	Masood	K. Roy	Ahmed
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Jaffer	Kushari	Khan	D. Roy
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 ♣ ¹	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		
1. Checkback			

In the closed room, four spades could not be beaten, even after an opening club lead ruffed by North. Declarer lost one spade, one heart and the ruff. His diamond loser disappeared on dummy's fourth club. What would Tahir

Masood lead against three no trump? If a heart, Pakistan would win; if a diamond, India would win.

Well, he selected the ten of diamonds. Declarer took 11 tricks, giving India another IMP and the win by 235-233. It was that close.

Congratulations to the qualifiers for Shanghai:

BERMUDA BOWL QUALIFYING

India – Ashok Goel-Kamal Mukherjee, Pritish Kushari-Debasiah Roy, Kamal Roy-Alope Sadhu

Pakistan – Javed Ahmed-Tahir Masood, Abdul Rehman Alanna-Jan-e-Alam Fazli, Rashid Jaffer-Sarfaraz Ahmed Khan

VENICE CUP QUALIFYING

Jordan – Mais al-Bitar-May abu-Garbieh, Aida abu-Jaber-Yasmin abu-Jaber, Azza Qashu-Hala Zabaneh

India – Rita Choksi-Leena Mayadas, Hema Deora-Promilla Shivdasani, Usha Kabra-Sheelu Thadani

SENIOR BOWL QUALIFYING

India – Saroj Bhattacharjee-Subhash Chandra Gupta, JP Goenka-Sudhir Inamdar, Ahsok Ruia-Archie Sequira

Pakistan – MA Ansari-Sattar Cochinwalla, Anwar Kamal-Ghulam Muhammad, Masood Mazhar-Salim Zaki



The African Zonal Championships Dilip Gidwani, Accra

The fourth edition of the African Zonal Championships kicked off on April 11, in Mombasa, hosted at the Leisure Lodge Resort, a beach and golf resort, reputed for its hospitality and excellent ambience. Mombasa itself is a town with history, replete with charm and charisma.

From April 11-13, a Tournament Director's course, under the tutelage of Jean-Francois Chevalier from France, turned out to be a whopping success with 22 members from all over Africa participating.

The Transnational Teams was played from April 14-17. Ten teams vied for the African Open Championships, played over a three-day full round-robin of 16 boards. In the fray were five teams from Kenya, two from Zambia and one each from South Africa and Mauritius, with one trans-national team from Tanzania and Kenya.

The Open Pairs Championship was scheduled for Tuesday, April 17. This was played in two sessions.

Finally, the Zonals, from April 18 through April 22, filtered out the two best teams from the African continent, to

represent Africa in the World Championships in Shanghai, China from September 29 to October 13, 2007.

The Championships were organised by Kenya Bridge Africa Ltd. & Coast Bridge Association. Meanwhile, local press coverage in Mombasa was impressive. Extensive coverage appeared in the 'Coast Week' (a weekly Mombasa newspaper whose slogan is "the most from the coast") issues of April 6-12 and April 13-19. The curtain-raiser was titled "KENYA POISED – MAKE 2007 THE YEAR OF BRIDGE". The report extolled the virtues of playing the game of bridge and underlined the contribution to Kenyan Bridge by Bharat Bharadwaj (Chairman - Kenya Bridge Africa Ltd.), Tushar Pujara (President - African Bridge Federation) and Pulin Gandhi (Coast Bridge Association).

MANY LESSONS ON ONE DEAL

This deal (the names of the players will remain secret, for reasons that will soon become obvious!) offered object lessons in bidding, declarer play and defence!

Transnational Teams. Round 4 Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

West opened one heart (OK with you?) and this was passed around to South, who balanced with one spade. West now ventured six clubs! East returned to hearts and North led a club. Declarer won the ten in dummy and played a heart to his jack, losing to North's queen. And now, North returned another club! Declarer discarded three diamonds from dummy when South could not ruff the clubs and ruffed a diamond. Result: six hearts made! Both declarer and the defence could have done better.

The Gala Dinner, held at the Baobab Lawns in the Leisure Lodge Resort was an exceptional affair. An impressive march-past of all the participating nations was followed by speeches from the dignitaries. A sumptuous buffet and a dance show, depicting the culture of Kenya, Bollywood and Arabia made the evening a very enjoyable one. The Kenya Minister for Sports, Hon. Maina Kamanda was represented by the Coast Provincial Director of Sports, Indakwa Jaxon.

The Transnational Teams, played over a full round robin of nine rounds, ended as an all-Kenya affair, won by Rohit Chanderia, Rohit Malde, Ajit Shah and Chuni Shah. Rakesh Sharma, Robert Kerr, Michele Capri and Ashwin Shah finished runners-up, followed by Pulin Gandhi, Tushar Pujara, Nitin Malde, Ketan Shah, Janak Babla and Panachand Savla.

Winners of the African Pairs Championships were Glen Holman and Tim Cope of South Africa

DAVID SLAYS GOLIATH

Bermuda Bowl Qualifying. Round 8. Kenya v Egypt. Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

The Egyptian East-West in the closed room on the following deal got to five hearts and went down one for 200 to Kenya. In the open room:

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

West	North	East	South
Ashwin Shah	Tarek Sadek	Rakesh Sharma	Waleed el-Ahmady
—	—	Pass	2 ♠ ¹
Double	3 ♦ ²	4 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Spades and a minor
2. Pass or correct to clubs

Rakesh Sharma played the hand well. On the lead of the jack of spades, he won with the spade ace and ruffed a small spade immediately. Then he ruffed a small club to hand and ruffed another spade with the heart queen. Sadek discarded a club and Rakesh got back to his hand with another club ruff and trumped his remaining low spade with the heart jack. Sadek pitched another club. Declarer then cashed the diamond ace and king and ruffed another club low, leaving him with the ten, nine, eight of trumps and the spade king. Ruffing the spade king with the heart six in dummy concluded an elegantly-played hand. Sharma had ruffed two low spades with high trumps and the high spade with a low trump! His play ensured ten tricks and plus 620; 13 IMPs to Kenya.

Note that Sadek cannot gain by overruffing dummy on either the third or fourth round of spades: declarer will still prevail, losing at most two trumps and a spade.

Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

The Egyptian East-West in the closed room played four hearts on a diamond lead, for 13 tricks, plus 510 to Egypt. Kenya's Ashwin Shah and Rakesh Sharma were more ambitious in the open room, and got to the good six-heart slam on this auction:

West	North	East	South
Ashwin Shah	Tarek Sadek	Rakesh Sharma	Waleed el-Ahmady
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 ♥	Pass
5 NT	Pass	6 ♦	Pass
6 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Here, East-West were exploring the possibility of grand slam! North made the more challenging lead of the spade two. Is that a singleton West wondered? Should declarer go for the diamonds to break 3-2 and play the spade ace at trick one? Or should he play for the spade honours to be split? The odds to be compared are a 5-1 spade break against a 4-1 diamond break. The 5-1 break is less likely than a 4-1 break, so playing low on the lead will gain more often than not. (As the cards lie, the contract makes irrespective of the view declarer takes - but if the diamonds had broken 4-1, the right play would have been to duck the spade).

Ashwin Shah played low and South won his spade queen and returned a spade. On the lie of the cards, 12 tricks rolled home. Well bid and well played. And 10 well-earned IMPs to Kenya. Kenya eventually won the match 20-10 in VPs. South Africa defeated Egypt, 19-11 in the final round to win by a clear 45 VPs.

BERMUDA BOWL QUALIFYING

South Africa - Alon Apteker, Chris Bosenberg, Tim Cope, Neville Eber, Craig Gower, Glen Holman
Egypt - Waleed el-Ahmady, Reda Amiry, Ayman Azzam, Del el-Kourdy, Ahmed Samir, Tarek Sadek

VENICE CUP QUALIFYING

Egypt - Nessrine Ezz el-Din, Nessrine Hamdy, Lily Khalil, Maud Khouri, Noheir Omar, Sophie Sarwat

South Africa - Diana Balkan, Peta Banducci, Roz Bernstein, Petra Mansell, Merle Modlin, Ghita Sandler

SENIOR BOWL QUALIFYING

Egypt - Amr Askalani, Mohsen Kamel, Yehia Khalil, Marwan Khedr
South Africa - Bill Bateman, Shirley Bateman, Jim Graham, Peter Maybury

IBPA COLUMN SERVICE

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

389. Dealer South. E-W Vul.

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

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

North's pass of three diamonds promised either an ace or a king, and South decided to give up on a grand slam and be content with playing a small slam.

West led the king of diamonds and declarer played the ace and king of trumps, revealing the 4-1 break and a certain loser there. While declarer could have relied on the club finesse to make his contract, he decided that an endplay might offer a better chance.

After drawing a third round of trumps with the queen and throwing a club from dummy, declarer crossed to table with the ten of spades and ruffed a diamond in hand. Next he led the jack of spades to dummy's queen to ruff dummy's last diamond. As declarer had hoped, this also removed East's last diamond.

East did not like his options when declarer continued with the ace and king of spades. If he ruffed the latter with his trump winner he would have to return a club, giving declarer three tricks in that suit for the contract. As discarding a club would fare no better - declarer would simply cash the ace and king of clubs for his eleventh and twelfth tricks - East folded his cards and said, "Making six".

390. Dealer South. E-W Vul.

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

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

Many players would have given a second negative in preference to raising two spades to four. As it turned out, South was rather pleased when dummy was displayed after West led the ten of clubs. Declarer ruffed the lead, cashed the ace and king of hearts and ruffed a third heart high, which was necessary as the cards lie for otherwise East would over-ruff and West would make a trick with the king of diamonds. After returning to hand with a club ruff, declarer led a fourth round of hearts and discarded a diamond from dummy, a manoeuvre that allowed declarer to ruff a diamond in dummy without any great fear of either defender being able to ruff the second round of diamonds (West will have between two and five diamonds about ninety percent of the time).

You might like to explore what would happen if West led an unlikely trump. If declarer used the same approach of discarding a diamond on the fourth round of hearts East defeats the contract by ruffing the queen of hearts and returning a trump. This leaves declarer with a diamond loser as there would be no trump left in dummy to ruff the queen of diamonds. So on a trump lead, declarer should take the diamond finesse after East discards on the third round of hearts.

391. Dealer South. E-W Vul.

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

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

West led the king of clubs. Declarer ducked this trick and took the club continuation with the ace. After cashing three rounds of spades, declarer saw he had a near certain line for his contract by playing a third round of clubs at this point.

As West began with five clubs, all he could do was to cash his winners in the suit, on which declarer threw two diamonds from dummy and a low card from each red suit from his hand. As West only had hearts and diamonds remaining, he now had to lead into one of declarer's tenaces. This would give declarer four spades, four red-suit tricks and the ace of clubs - just enough for his contract.

Note that playing a fourth round of spades before playing a third club would cost the contract! (It leaves South hand with no winning discard on the fifth round of clubs.)

392. Dealer South. N-S Vul.

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

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

Perhaps using the grand slam force of five no trumps to explore for the queen of spades was optimistic, given that North was unlikely to have three-card support. Nonetheless, declarer rightly expected the small slam to have a good play.

Declarer took the queen of hearts lead with the ace and made the odd looking play of the three of trumps from hand and playing dummy's seven! This guaranteed an entry to dummy which allowed the ten of clubs to be discarded on the king of hearts.

If declarer had carelessly played the ace or king of trumps at trick two he would have to lose a trump and a club.

LORDS v COMMONS

Patrick Jourdain, Cardiff

The House of Lords was the comfortable winner of the annual encounter with the House of Commons by a margin of 4820 aggregate points. This put the Lords one win ahead over the 33-year history of the bridge match.

Lord Skelmersdale accepted the Jack Perry Trophy for the Lords team. The Anthony Berry Memorial Trophy for the Best Play of the match went to Lord Caithness.

The Commons team contained three Labour MPs, three Conservative, and two Liberal Democrats, with Michael Mates MP as captain. The event was organised by London Export at the Crockford's Club in London.

A gem of an ending went uncompleted on this deal:

Board 23. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

The competent East-West pair for the Commons reached the excellent spot of six spades. South led a diamond. Declarer could count 12 winners if both black suits behaved, so he correctly rose with the ace. But convinced by earlier bad breaks that the selector of the hands had some bad news planned, when he took two rounds of trumps, he left a trump entry in dummy thinking this would help if clubs were 5-1. The snag was that when the trumps were 4-1, the trump suit was blocked, and declarer had no entry to his own hand to complete drawing trumps.

Declarer made a good recovery by playing winning clubs until North ruffed, then he over-ruffed and returned to dummy while drawing North's last trump. At this point declarer, recalling his original trick count, claimed 12 tricks. The defenders were sharp enough to note that, as North had ruffed one of the club winners the tally was actually now 11. The slam was ruled one down for a major swing to the Lords.

But suppose declarer had continued clubs, ditching hearts from hand, and retaining those two precious tiny diamonds. This would be the ending when the last club was led:

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

The last club, on which declarer disposes of his last heart, squeezes North in an unusual way. If he throws a diamond, declarer can exit from dummy with a low diamond. But he throws a heart declarer can ruff a heart and play a diamond to the ten, leaving North to concede the last trick to dummy's queen of diamonds.

The squeeze works whenever the diamond honours are split so you could call it a double-trump-squeeze-without-the count! Both defenders have to keep two diamonds to avoid declarer exiting from dummy with a successful guess, and so have only one heart left. Declarer ruffs a heart and guesses diamonds.

Of course the hand is spoilt by the fact that declarer could have drawn trumps normally. But exchange dummy's small trump with one of declarer's honours, e.g., K Q J opposite A 8 7 5 2, and the ending would have developed automatically when North proves to hold four trumps.

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The Cavendish Invitational

Las Vegas, May 9-13, 2007

Donna Compton, Dallas
Barry Rigal, NYC

The 2007 Cavendish returned again to Las Vegas, and kicked off with the John Roberts Teams. Twenty-two teams were entered, 17 of which contained current or former World Champions; four of the remaining five had World Championship medal winners in their ranks. Is there a tougher short team event anywhere in the world?

John Roberts Teams. Session 1, Match 1 Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

♠ A 8 7 2
♥ J 8 6 5 4
♦ 10 6
♣ A 8

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

♠ 9
♥ K 10 9 3
♦ J 7
♣ K Q 7 6 5 2

West	North	East	South
Wolpert	Cohler	Kranyak	H. Weinstein
—	Pass	1 ♠	2 ♣
3 ♣	Double	3 ♠	4 ♣
4 ♠	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

North-South have a difficult problem here, both in the bidding and the play. Weinstein meant his four-club bid as looking for a sacrifice, but Cohler hoped that it showed a better hand.

At the table, Weinstein's low club lead worked well - and poorly. It let the defenders cash two clubs - but now the wrong defender was on lead. Weinstein continued with a third top club and declarer had plus 790.

Weinstein could have played the heart king at trick three, which would have been enough to set four spades, because the transportation problem is too hard with trumps 4-1. And note that five clubs, which was found in the other room for minus 300, works out as a cheap save. Helness-Helgemo had the same problem on defence. Maybe North should shift to a heart at trick two? The net result was 10 IMPs to Moss instead of 11 IMPs the other way.

2007 John Roberts Teams. Session 2, Match 3 Board 21. Dealer North. NS Vul.

♠ 8 2
♥ Q 8 7 4 3
♦ A 2
♣ A J 6 2

♠ J 10
♥ A K J
♦ K Q J 7 3
♣ 10 9 7

♠ A 9 5 4
♥ 10 9 6 2
♦ 4
♣ K Q 5 4

♠ K Q 7 6 3
♥ 5
♦ 10 9 8 6 5
♣ 8 3

Mark Jacobus heard (or rather, saw) the auction start (one heart) pass (one spade) to him. You or I might have risked two diamonds. Jacobus tried one no trump and was promptly raised to three no trump by Eric Rodwell. He received a low club lead (a heart or diamond is also fatal to the defence, a spade more challenging) from Fu Zhong.

Jacobus ran the lead around to his hand and knocked out the ace of clubs. When North won the third club and shifted to spades, he ducked in dummy, then won Jack Zhao's heart shift, knocked out the diamond, then took the next spade to cash the club queen. Now he simply took his heart and diamond winners to exit with the heart jack. At trick 13, North had to give dummy the ninth trick with the heart ten. That was good for six IMPs - the opponents in the same seats never bid and defended two diamonds down 200.

Board 24. Dealer West. Neither Vul

♠ A 8 5 4 3 2
♥ A 10 9 3
♦ A 7 5
♣ —

♠ 9 7 6
♥ Q 8 7 2
♦ 4 3
♣ A 10 6 3

♠ 10
♥ K J
♦ K 10 9 6
♣ Q J 8 5 4 2

♠ K Q J
♥ 6 5 4
♦ Q J 8 2
♣ K 9 7

It was Fu's turn to take a macho bid next. After opening one spade as North, he saw the auction proceed (two clubs) three clubs (double) back to him. He tried four clubs but gave up in four spades. It would be embarrassing to go down in game after making a slam try, when partner gives you a 12-count would it not?

Fu ruffed the club queen lead, drew two trumps, then led a small diamond to the jack as Rodwell ducked, and Jacobus showed an even number. Fu now had to decide what to do in hearts knowing Rodwell probably had a 1=2=4=6 shape but had elected to make a simple

overcall. He chose to duck a heart completely. When this forced the heart jack, he was home as he could set up the heart ten-nine for his tenth trick.

But even if no honour had appeared, declarer would probably have been home by ruffing the next club and playing the diamond ace and another diamond to make his last two trumps separately. Since his teammates had found the five-club save over which North-South had bid on to five spades down one, this was 10 IMPs in.

2007 John Roberts Teams. Session 2, Match 1 Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

♠ A 9 7 5
♥ 7 6 3
♦ A J 8 2
♣ J 6

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

West	North	East	South
2 ♣	Pass	Pass	2 ♥
3 ♣	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Chris Willenken was kicking himself for a missed opportunity here. He and Roy Welland reached four hearts on the king of clubs lead. He won, and played the king of hearts.

The defenders took it and cashed the queen of clubs, then shifted to the king of spades. To succeed, declarer has to win the ace (unblocking the Jack), draw a second trump, but not the third, and then advance the ten of spades. West will take the queen of spades and can get out with a diamond, but you take the ace of diamonds, cross to hand with a trump, and run all the hearts for a spade/diamond squeeze.

If you don't unblock spades, or if you draw all the trumps prematurely, you get locked out of dummy, or out of your hand and the squeeze does not work.

Frequent Cavendish attendee Sam Leckie noted in the Daily Bulletin that over the years he had made many helpful suggestions which had been adopted by the organizers. One was that the competitors wear name badges.

Leckie: "After my remark yesterday about name badges I was collared by Bob Hamman who explained that he had misunderstood my suggestion. He thought I meant a name badge for myself because, as he put it, many players over the years had asked him, "Who the hell is that guy we see hanging around the refreshment table most days?"

Leckie noted that Hamman is a nice guy who always says the right words!

The final rankings:

- Kasle, Gaylor**, Drew Casen, Neil Chambers, John Diamond, Jim Krekorian, John Schermer **\$59,100 181 VP**
- Deutsch, Seymon**, Billy Cohen, Ron Smith, Paul Soloway, Alfredo Versace, Valerio Gubilo **\$47,280 169 VP**
- Welland, Roy**, Chris Willeken, Agustin Madala, Antonio Sementa **\$30,395 168 VP**
- Yeh, Chen**, Patrick Huang, Chih-Kuo Shen, Hao-Juh Shi, Juei-Yu Shih, Ze-Jun Zhuang **\$18,575 166 VP**
- Altschuler, Gilad**, David Birman, Sam Lev, Jacek Pszczola **\$13,510 158 VP**

This year, a new wrinkle was introduced to facilitate the auction of the pairs. A written auction was conducted prior to the live auction, and any pair whose top bid did not reach a \$15,000 threshold was deemed to have been sold to the highest bidder and not auctioned live. As usual, a minimum bid of \$12,500 was required to be made by each pair on itself. The top bids:

PAIR	AMT	OWNER
Levin-Weinstein	\$47,000	Compton
Helgemo-Helness	\$46,000	Mahaffey
Hampson-Greco	\$41,000	Hamman
Hamman-Mahmood	\$41,000	Mahaffey
Zhao-Zhong	\$41,000	Zimmerman

2007 Cavendish Invitational Pairs - Session 2 Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

♠ J 3
♥ J 5 3
♦ A 10 9 5
♣ A 8 7 6

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

♠ 9 6
♥ A Q 10 8 7
♦ 6 3 2
♣ K Q 3

Never confuse the impossible with the unlikely. John Diamond opened one heart as South, using some feeble excuse about the vulnerability. After his opponent introduced an intermediate overcall of two spades, Jim Krekorian drove the hand to four hearts.

After two top spades, West shifted to the diamond four, ducked to the queen. East now played a third spade back - to protect his trump trick...

Not so fast! Diamond discarded his eponymous diamond loser and ruffed in dummy. He led the heart jack and a

heart to the ten, finding the bad break, then led a diamond to dummy and ruffed a diamond. Now three rounds of clubs ending in dummy left the lead where it needed to be for the trump coup.

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

Antonio Sementa showed why he and Agustin Madala were leading the event after one session: he heard his partner open two hearts, and his RHO overcall two spades; he jumped to four hearts and when his LHO bid four spades he led the heart ace; and when his partner followed with the two, he found the critical switch to the ace and another club. This set up the second club winner before declarer could discard it on the diamonds (Mike Passell, amongst others, did the same - and he had doubled four spades).

Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

Gary Cohler, as North, played three no trump here, after a weak jump to two spades on his left, on a spade lead. He won in dummy and took four rounds of diamonds on which the suit-preference element in his LHO's discards suggested he had the heart ace; accordingly he advanced the club queen from dummy!

Now Cohler had his ninth trick without letting West on lead (which would have been critical had hearts been 4-3).

2007 Cavendish Invitational Pairs - Session 3

The most interesting declarer play deal of the event so far saw many declarers succeed, and some fail. At the table I was watching, Mike Passell was at the helm in four spades after preempting with two spades initially.

(Drew Casen might have responded three no trump to two spades and would have had an easier time).

Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

Against four spades, John Diamond led the diamond ten (what else would you expect?). Passell finessed, then played one trump and a club to the jack. Jim Krekorian won and exited with a diamond. Passell now eliminated clubs before diamonds - a mistake? Then in the four-card ending, with three hearts and a spade in both hands, he led a low heart. Diamond's careful play of the heart nine doomed him to down one.

By contrast, Hugh McGann played four spades on a club lead and ducked in dummy - a nice deceptive maneuver. Eric Rodwell took the club ace and king. But McGann ruffed and simply took both red-suit finesses (he assumed that Rodwell might have come into the bidding with all four of the missing key-cards).

Note that on the diamond lead, declarer surely does best to finesse then strip off diamonds in the process of drawing trumps. Now he leads a club to the queen and king. To give the defence a chance, East must win and smoothly return a low club! Now if declarer falls for the bait he will assume the missing club honour is on the left and produce the same losing position as Passell took. (Provided East did not play the club ace on the queen when it is played from dummy!)

Of course, East-West could get into the auction - at their own risk. Roy Welland as West heard the auction go two spades-pass-three no trump, back to him. He doubled (light take out or penalties) and ran to four clubs when it was redoubled. Chris Willenken sacrificed in five clubs over four spades and Welland ruffed the opening spade lead, tried a club to the nine and soon claimed plus 750!

Well perhaps claiming is not the right expression; five clubs doubled might seem easy - but it requires a little care. Compare what happened to two other declarers here. Doug Doub ruffed the spade, passed the club ten, and when that held, he took a heart finesse and claimed 11 tricks a few moments later.

A less careful declarer led a club to the nine and next ran the diamond jack...and Bob Hamman ducked! Nice

play Bob; now declarer could ruff a spade to hand to take one heart finesse but had no more entries to repeat the finesse, and had to go down one. (Of course had declarer led a diamond to the diamond ten this position could not have arisen.)

Board 18. Dealer East. NS Vul.

♠ 6 4
 ♥ A 6 4
 ♦ J 8 5
 ♣ K J 6 3 2

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

♠ J 10 7 2
 ♥ 9 7 5
 ♦ 10 7 6
 ♣ A 7 4

West	North	East	South
Hussein	Abdou	Sadek	Eisenberg
—	—	1 ♥	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
3 ♣	Double	3 ♦	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♦	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Tarek Sadek and Ahmed Hussein managed to find a way to four hearts here. On the lead of the club ace and another club, Abdou got to play a third club and Sadek had to decide whether to ruff high or low. The percentage play might be the heart eight, but the double and the lead make it rather closer than it might appear in abstract. Sadek ruffed high, then led a heart to the king.

Abdou thoughtfully ducked this, won the next heart, and led a fourth club to promote the heart nine for down one. Quite a few pairs allowed four spades (or occasionally three no trump) to make, but very few pairs bid to four hearts.

**2007 Cavendish Invitational Pairs - Session 4
 Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.**

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

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

♠ A 9 7 6 4 3
 ♥ 6
 ♦ K
 ♣ A Q 9 8 2

You certainly do not want to play four spades here. Admittedly though, if North opens and rebids diamonds,

it will be tough to lead that suit and now declarer can make ten tricks.

West	North	East	South
Altschuler	Versace	Birman	Giubilo
--	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

David Birman did exceptionally well when he led the spade ten, ducked in dummy, to the queen, and Gilad Altschuler shifted to the heart seven to the king - on which Birman discouraged.

Now came a diamond; Birman took the diamond ace and played a second spade, ducked by Versace (who had to guess who had the diamond queen) around to the spade eight for the critical club shift. Birman covered Versace's club ten with the jack and now there was no transportation left between the two hands. So all Versace could do was come to the club and try the diamond nine. Birman took his queen and exited with a club to dummy, and sat back for the third spade winner to Altschuler. Down one.

Could declarer have done better? Yes, at double-dummy; if he infers that the spades rate to be 4-2 with the opening leader quite likely to have the diamond queen (else he might have ducked the diamond ace?). Declarer takes the second spade and leads the club eight to the king, overtakes the club ten with the ace, cashes the club queen, and gets out with the club two to the jack! The defence have been gifted a club trick, but now have to return a red suit around to declarer, and end up taking two diamonds, one club and just one spade trick.

Board 18. Dealer East. NS Vul.

♠ Q 10 8
 ♥ K Q 7 4
 ♦ K 6
 ♣ Q 8 3 2

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

♠ A 5 4
 ♥ A J 9 6
 ♦ Q 7 4
 ♣ A 10 9

These days playing a 4-4 major suit fit is so passé. Howard Weinstein-Gary Cohler bid one no trump-three diamonds (optional Stayman)-three no trump. Steve Weinstein heard his RHO East open two clubs (hearts and a minor) and bid two no trump, raised to three no trump.

In three no trump on a low spade lead, Howard Weinstein put in the eight at trick one and was delighted by the result. He took the spade king with the ace and now

passed the club nine at once, so that if a diamond came back he could finesse the second club into the safe hand. As it was, he had three spades, three clubs, four hearts and one diamond for plus 660.

Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

<p>♠ J 9 8 ♥ 9 8 6 4 2 ♦ K 4 ♣ 7 5 4</p> <p>♠ K 10 5 3 ♥ J 7 5 ♦ 5 3 ♣ Q 10 8 2</p> <p>♠ Q 6 4 2 ♥ Q 10 ♦ Q J 10 7 6 ♣ K 9</p>	<p>♠ A 7 ♥ A K 3 ♦ A 9 8 2 ♣ A J 6 3</p>
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In three no trump by East, you or I would know to lead fourth highest from our longest and strongest - wouldn't we? Louk Verhees led the normal diamond queen and Bruce Rogoff guessed to overtake. When this was ducked, Rogoff returned the diamond four and East put in the nine on the second round. Verhees won and could see that he needed to shift; what was the right suit to play?

On a low spade shift (even assuming partner is kind enough to possess the spade jack-nine so that the shift does not cost), declarer will surely win the spade king and take a club finesse, so he will have little option but to drop your heart queen in the ending.

Verhees instead switched at trick three to the ten of hearts! Declarer did not put up the jack. Instead he won in hand, led a spade to the king, and took the club finesse. Verhees won and returned a club, and declarer now went for the endplay. After the spade ace and another club he had reduced to:

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

When declarer cashed the diamond ace and crossed to dummy with a club, North pitching a low heart, then the spade jack, East could legitimately hope that North had begun life with the queen-jack fourth of spades and queen to four hearts. If that were so, a spade play would now endplay North to lead a heart around to the jack. Unlucky - down one.

Board 26. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

On this deal, Alfredo Versace did very well, I thought. As North he defended four hearts by Louk Verhees, West, and led three rounds of spades, despite knowing his partner had three and declarer two. The point was that declarer could not play to ruff a club or the fourth round of spades would kill the discard, and if declarer drew trump, he would lose the club ruff.

**2007 Cavendish Invitational
Final Standings**

PAIR	IMPs
1 Bobby Levin-Steve Weinstein	3455
2 Drew Casen-Mike Passell	2987
3 Bruce Rogoff-Louk Verhees	2747
4 Curtis Cheek-Joe Grue	2664
5 Geir Helgemo-Tor Helness	1880
6 John Kranyak-Gavin Wolpert	1739
7 Robert Blanchard-Sam Lev	1595
8 Michael Elinescu-Entscho Wladow	1526
9 Eric Greco-Geoff Hampson	1315
10 Peter Fredin-Michael Moss	1235

Prizes

	OWNER \$	PLAYER \$
1 st	274,400	28,420
2 nd	176,400	18,270
3 rd	117,600	12,180
4 th	88,200	9,134
5 th	78,400	8,120
6 th	68,600	7,104
7 th	58,800	6,090
8 th	49,000	5,076
9 th	39,200	4,060
10 th	29,400	3,046

So Stevie Weinstein won the Cavendish Invitational Pairs for an incredible fifth time! Three times with Bobby Levin and twice with Fred Stewart. He was also leading after four sessions in a sixth event, with Zia as his partner, but failed to close on that occasion.

Ira Chorush and Hemant Lall won the World Bridge Productions Pairs.