



# BULLETIN

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### A Walk Among the Giants

*From the Daily Bulletin at the Nashville NABC*

It was déjà vu as Bob Hamman and Bobby Wolff sat face to face across the table for the first time in nearly a decade. It was just one board, but it was a noteworthy reunion nonetheless. The occasion was an exhibition match arranged by Zia Mahmood, who was playing with Tommy Latham of the Nashville area. Latham held the winning ticket in a raffle that was part of a major fund-raising effort started by Zia more than a year ago to help pay for a new school in an earthquake-ravaged area of his native Pakistan. More than \$150,000 was raised, almost entirely from contributions by bridge players, bridge clubs and a variety of bridge organizations.

Zia and Latham played in the opening-night pairs game at the NABC and Zia also arranged for them to play 15 boards against a series of expert players, including Hamman and Wolff, German stars Sabine Auken and Daniela von Arnim, Italian world champions Alfredo Versace and Norberto Bocchi, the reigning World Open Pairs champions Zhao (Jack) Jie and Fu Zhong and American star David Berkowitz. It was all meant to be fun, and Latham was not disappointed.

This was the very first board they played - against Hamman and Wolff, one of the all-time great partnerships in the history of the game.

#### Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

| West   | North | East   | South  |
|--------|-------|--------|--------|
| Wolff  | Zia   | Hamman | Latham |
| —      | 1 ♣   | Pass   | 1 ♠    |
| 2 ♦    | 3 ♣   | Pass   | 3 ♥    |
| Pass   | 4 ♥   | Pass   | Pass   |
| Double | Pass  | Pass   | Pass   |

Wolff started with the top two diamonds. He played a club at trick three, taken by Latham in hand with the queen. The contract is unbeatable if declarer cashes

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# Bridge Down Under

## Ron Klinger, Northbridge, NSW

(From the Sydney Morning Herald)

### CLUBLAND

Pairs who use a strong club system enjoy a considerable advantage. This does not arise after opening one club, but because all the other opening are limited to modest hands. Enjoying popularity among some of Australia's top pairs is a method where one club = any hand of 15+ HCP and the other openings are restricted to 10-14 hands, a mini-Precision approach, if you will. Not only are the non-one club openings very limited, but the approach also allows you to open weak, distributional hands, around the 10-point mark.

The weakness of a strong club system is that no shape has been revealed by the one club opening. If you rob the opponents of significant bidding space, they will sometimes misjudge the situation. Therefore, if playing against a strong club system, it generally pays you to intervene, even on light values.

I confess that sometimes I choose to intervene too lightly and have paid a high price for that, but in the long run, coming in is better than staying out. Witness this deal from Round 6 of the final of the Geologi Cup, won by Indonesia Seniors with Australia Open second:

**Dealer North. NS Vul.**

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

| West | North       | East | South       |
|------|-------------|------|-------------|
| —    | Hans<br>1 ♣ | Pass | Nunn<br>1 ♠ |
| Pass | 2 ♥         | Pass | 2 NT        |
| Pass | 3 ♣         | Pass | 3 NT        |
| Pass | Pass        | Pass |             |

Here the North-South bidding was natural (two hearts was a reverse) and it is doubtful if a one-diamond overcall by East would have had any effect on the final contract. Declarer had no trouble making game.

| West | North                    | East | South                          |
|------|--------------------------|------|--------------------------------|
| —    | Nagy<br>1 ♣ <sup>1</sup> | 1 ♦  | Richman<br>Double <sup>2</sup> |
| 3 ♦  | 4 ♣                      | Pass | Pass                           |
| Pass |                          |      |                                |

At the other table, North opened with a strong one club, showing 15+ HCP with any shape, and South's double promised 6-8.

With only slight familiarity with the Nagy-Richman competitive methods, I cannot comment on the nuances of their sequence, but the final contract was inelegant. Declarer made eleven tricks easily, losing one diamond and one club, for plus 150, but a loss of 10 IMPs.

Clearly Nagy intended four clubs as a strong action, but Richman wrote off his diamond honours as useless. That left him with only four working points and he chose to give up on game.

Even reaching five clubs would not have been a triumph, although it would have succeeded. If the heart queen and club king are both offside, five clubs might fail while three no trump rolls home.

What would it mean if North doubled three diamonds? If you can play that as takeout, showing a strong hand without any promises about major suit length, South has a choice of two winning decisions. If South bids three no trump, that works and if South chooses to pass, that is even better. Witness the huge result scored by the Indonesian Seniors North-South when East did too much:

| West | North            | East | South               |
|------|------------------|------|---------------------|
| —    | 1 ♣ <sup>1</sup> | 1 ♦  | Double <sup>2</sup> |
| 3 ♦  | 4 ♣              | 4 ♦? | Double              |
| Pass | Pass             | Pass |                     |

1. 15+ points, any shape
2. 6-8 points

East's four diamonds was particularly foolish and deserved the 1400 penalty inflicted by South.

### GROSS COMPETENCE

We frequently report misplays in the hope that they might be instructive for readers and because errors are so much more frequent than brilliancies. This time it is a rare pleasure to be able to report two fine plays, both from the Victor Champion Cup (an Australian National Open teams Championship) and both via a similar coup.

**Round 1. Board 15. Dealer West. EW Vul.**

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

| West | North            | East           | South          |
|------|------------------|----------------|----------------|
|      | Adam<br>Sarten   |                | Joe<br>Haffer  |
| Pass | 1 $\diamond$     | 1 $\heartsuit$ | 1 $\spadesuit$ |
| Pass | 2 $\heartsuit^2$ | 3 $\heartsuit$ | Pass           |
| Pass | 4 $\spadesuit$   | Pass           | Pass           |
| Pass |                  |                |                |
|      | 1. 5+ spades     |                |                |
|      | 2. Strong hand   |                |                |

Lead:  $\heartsuit 8$

East won with the heart queen and cashed the heart ace, on which West played the ten. East was already end-played and exited with the diamond two to the jack and ace.

East's exuberant bidding at unfavourable vulnerability convinced Haffer that East held all the significant high cards. He therefore declined the chance of the spade finesse and cashed the spade ace at trick four. Then came the diamond four to the queen and a diamond back to dummy's ten.

East declined to ruff, but it was irrelevant. Haffer pitched a club on the diamond king and then played a spade. East won and had the choice of playing a club or conceding a ruff-and-discard. Either way declarer had no club loser. That was worth plus 420.

An initial club lead would be enough to defeat four spades, but there was still a realistic chance at trick two if West had made a more helpful lead. It is an error to play middle-up-down with 10-x-x. It is standard to lead low from three cards headed by a single honour, whether it is from K-x-x or 10-x-x. Middle-up-down denies holding an honour in the suit.

From the heart eight lead, East could not tell whether that was a singleton or top from a doubleton or an error from 10-8-x. Suppose West had correctly led the two of heart. This denies a doubleton and promises either a singleton or an honour card in the suit. East can win trick one and play a low heart at trick two to West's ten. Now a club switch will defeat declarer.

**Dealer South. EW Vul.**

|                      |                          |                      |
|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
|                      | $\spadesuit$ 10 8 2      |                      |
|                      | $\heartsuit$ J 8         |                      |
|                      | $\diamond$ J 10 7        |                      |
|                      | $\clubsuit$ A K 9 7 3    |                      |
| $\spadesuit$ K 6 3   |                          | $\spadesuit$ Q 9 7 4 |
| $\heartsuit$ K 4     |                          | $\heartsuit$ 10 9 5  |
| $\diamond$ A Q 6 5 3 |                          | $\diamond$ 9 4       |
| $\clubsuit$ Q 10 8   |                          | $\clubsuit$ J 6 5 4  |
|                      | $\spadesuit$ A J 5       |                      |
|                      | $\heartsuit$ A Q 7 6 3 2 |                      |
|                      | $\diamond$ K 8 2         |                      |
|                      | $\clubsuit$ 2            |                      |

| West         | North          | East | South          |
|--------------|----------------|------|----------------|
|              |                |      | Jamie<br>Ebery |
| —            | —              | —    | 1 $\heartsuit$ |
| 2 $\diamond$ | Pass           | Pass | Double         |
| Pass         | 3 $\clubsuit$  | Pass | 3 $\heartsuit$ |
| Pass         | 4 $\heartsuit$ | Pass | Pass           |
| Pass         |                |      |                |
|              |                |      |                |

Lead:  $\spadesuit 3$

Ignore the bidding and focus on the play. Ebery captured the spade queen and played the club ace and king, ditching a diamond. He continued with a club ruff, followed by the spade jack. West won and returned a spade to the ten.

As West had overcalled, vulnerable against not, with such a poor suit, Ebery placed West with all the missing high cards. Ebery therefore shunned the heart finesse and played a heart to the ace and a second heart. West won with the heart king, but with only diamonds left, he had to concede a trick to Ebery's diamond king.

That was worth plus 420 and 10 IMPs when four hearts failed at the other table.

*Satisfaction is, in itself, success.*

## STILL TOPS

Who are the leaders on the list of Australia's top 100 master-point winners? Number 1 is Bob Richman with over 9000 MPs, followed by Paul Lavings on 8400. For over forty years the top MP winner was Tim Seres, but Tim has not played in duplicate events for many years now. Tim is still third with 8370 MPs.

What do Lavings and Richman have in common? In their formative years they both spent countless hours watching Seres in action and playing in rubber bridge games with and against Seres. By competing against the top, they became tops themselves.

A keen young student of the game is Gabby Feiler. He also spends time watching Seres in action and he reported this deal from a recent game at the Double Bay Bridge Centre.

**Dealer North. Neither Vul.**

|                       |                           |                        |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
|                       | $\spadesuit$ Q J          |                        |
|                       | $\heartsuit$ A Q 4        |                        |
|                       | $\diamond$ A K Q 3        |                        |
|                       | $\clubsuit$ A Q 10 6      |                        |
| $\spadesuit$ —        |                           | $\spadesuit$ A 9 7 6 3 |
| $\heartsuit$ K 8 7 5  |                           | $\heartsuit$ 9 6 2     |
| $\diamond$ J 10 9 5 4 |                           | $\diamond$ 7 6 2       |
| $\clubsuit$ K 8 7 2   |                           | $\clubsuit$ 9 5        |
|                       | $\spadesuit$ K 10 8 5 4 2 |                        |
|                       | $\heartsuit$ J 10 3       |                        |
|                       | $\diamond$ 8              |                        |
|                       | $\clubsuit$ J 4 3         |                        |

| West  | North    | East   | South |
|-------|----------|--------|-------|
| Tony  | Michael  | Murray | Tim   |
| Burke | Courtney | Green  | Seres |
| —     | 2 ♣      | Pass   | 2 ♦   |
| Pass  | 2 NT     | Pass   | 3 ♠   |
| Pass  | 3 NT     | Pass   | 4 ♠   |
| Pass  | 6 ♠      | Pass   | Pass  |

Lead: ♦J

Seres won the lead in dummy and continued with the spade queen. East played low and West discarded a diamond. With the 5-0 break, there seem to be two trump losers, but Seres showed that this was not the case in fact.

He played the spade jack and that was ducked, too. It would not help East to take the spade. Seres then cashed two more diamond winners on which he pitched two clubs. After the club ace and a club ruff, Seres led the heart jack and let it run. After a heart to the queen and the heart ace, these cards remained:

|          |        |         |
|----------|--------|---------|
| ♠ —      | ♠ —    | ♠ A 9 7 |
| ♥ —      | ♥ —    | ♥ —     |
| ♦ 3      | ♦ 3    | ♦ —     |
| ♣ Q 10   | ♣ Q 10 | ♣ —     |
| ♠ —      | ♠ —    | ♠ —     |
| ♥ K      | ♥ —    | ♥ —     |
| ♦ 10     | ♦ —    | ♦ —     |
| ♣ K      | ♣ —    | ♣ —     |
| ♠ K 10 8 | ♠ —    | ♠ —     |
| ♥ —      | ♥ —    | ♥ —     |
| ♦ —      | ♦ —    | ♦ —     |
| ♣ —      | ♣ —    | ♣ —     |

When the club came from dummy, South was bound to score two more tricks and make the slam. The technique is akin to trump reduction when you cannot pick up an opposing honour by normal finessing.

## Here and There

### Mark Horton, London

### JUST ANOTHER DAY

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

| West       | North              | East     | South            |
|------------|--------------------|----------|------------------|
| Miechowicz | Martens            | Zarowski | Jassem           |
| —          | 1 NT               | Pass     | 2 ♣              |
| Pass       | 2 ♠                | Pass     | 3 ♥ <sup>1</sup> |
| Pass       | 3 NT               | Pass     | Pass             |
| Pass       | 1. 4x3 with spades |          |                  |

One hallmark of the expert is to follow up good bidding with good play. This deal from the Grand Prix of Poland is a perfect illustration.

North-South did well to reject their spade fit, as the mirror image of their hands would have left them with no play on the lie of the cards. Even so, three no trump was not exactly a laydown.

East led the two of clubs and West put up the queen, and when that held, continued the suit, declarer winning the third round. He was in no rush to take a heart finesse and played four rounds of spades ending in dummy, West discarding the three and five of hearts and East the four of diamonds. Now declarer exited with a low diamond and East won with the nine, cashed the jack of clubs, on which everyone discarded a diamond, and exited with the queen of diamonds to dummy's ace as West followed with the jack.

From the available evidence, declarer decided West was 2=5=3=3, and cashed the king of hearts. He followed that with the jack, scooping in East's ten to land his contract in spectacular style.

For Krzysztof Martens it was just another day at the office.

## BERGEN RISING

When your opponents open the bidding, it can sometimes be difficult to reach your best contract, whether it is a part score or a game. It is even harder to envisage a slam. However, there are times when the activity of the opposition can be turned to your advantage. Take a look at this deal from the match between Bergen and Tromsø in the Norwegian Team Championship.

Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

| West   | North       | East    | South      |
|--------|-------------|---------|------------|
| Eide   | Marstrander | Høyland | Kristensen |
| Pass   | 1 ♣         | 1 ♠     | Pass       |
| 2 ♣    | Pass        | 3 ♣     | 3 ♥!       |
| Double | Pass        | 4 ♠     | Pass       |
| 5 ♠    | Pass        | 6 ♠     | Pass       |
| Pass   | Pass        |         |            |

Having passed initially Magne Eide started with a strength showing cue bid of two clubs and East showed his second suit. West then indicated a willingness to take a penalty by doubling South's remarkable intervention. When Sven-Olai Høyland removed the double by jumping to game it seemed clear that he must at best hold a singleton heart and a good spade suit. With two controls and an obviously useful club queen, West invited his partner to bid a slam - an invitation East was delighted to accept.

With the black kings where you would expect them to be declarer was not hard pressed to take all the tricks, plus 1010.

Bergen gained 11 IMPs against the plus 510 recorded at the other table, en route to a comfortable half-time lead.

### POLISH JUDGEMENT

It's never too shabby to bid a vulnerable game at IMPs, especially when you have both passed on the first round of the auction. This deal from the Polish Trials caught my eye because it looked as if game was too difficult to bid:

Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

| West     | North     | East         | South      |
|----------|-----------|--------------|------------|
| Kowalski | Gierulski | Araszkiewicz | Skrzypczak |
| Pass     | Pass      | 1 ♠          | Pass       |
| Pass     | Double    | 2 ♠          | 3 ♠*       |
| Double   | 4 ♣       | Pass         | Pass       |
| Pass     |           |              |            |

In my old fashioned way, I would have raised one spade to two spades, but when West passed, North was quickly in to the fray. I thought South made a good bid at his next turn - a double could easily be misinterpreted - but North didn't think he had enough for game. Eleven easy tricks, plus 150.

Closed Room

| West  | North     | East     | South       |
|-------|-----------|----------|-------------|
| Pikus | Krupoxicz | Cichocki | Lutostanski |
| Pass  | Pass      | 1 ♠      | Pass        |
| Pass  | Double    | 2 ♠      | 2 NT        |
| 3 ♠   | Pass      | Pass     | 4 NT        |
| Pass  | 5 ♣       | Double   | Pass        |
| Pass  | Pass      |          |             |

After a similar start, South showed his interest in the minors in a straightforward way, and maybe North should have bid over three spades. However, South knew that his partner could have at most one spade, which meant that whatever values he had were bound to be working overtime. He backed his judgement and there was even a little icing on the cake when East thought he had enough to double. This time, the eleven tricks delivered plus 750 and 12 IMPs.

I'll leave you with a little question. If North had bid five clubs in the Open Room, which auction would be more deserving of a prize? I'm still thinking about it!

### That Extra Chance

Bob Pitts, Flint, UK

Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

I recently played for the very first time on the same team as the IBPA President and what an enjoyable experience it was. Patrick was a most pleasant team-mate, despite some of the odd results that partner and I brought back.

It is the mark of a quality player when he can spot a line of play that gives him an extra chance for his contract, and Patrick was wide awake on this deal. As South he opened a weak no trump and after an unopposed Stayman auction, he became declarer in the normal contract of three no trump on the lead of the five of hearts.

He won, and assuming that the diamond suit would produce five tricks, he had to consider where his ninth winner would come from. A successful finesse in either black suit would suffice, but if it lost and West had led from a five card suit, then the contract would be off.

Hoping for West to have only two cards in the suit, Patrick cashed a high diamond from each hand and then played back a heart. West could cash four winners, but then would have to return a black card and save the guess on which suit to finesse. Had West had another diamond, declarer could still decide on which finesse to take after garnering extra information from East's discards on the hearts.

## The Normal Plan

Mel Colchamiro, Long Island, NY

Suppose you were playing in three no trump and received the spade seven lead:

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

| West | North            | East | South            |
|------|------------------|------|------------------|
| —    | —                | —    | 2 NT             |
| Pass | 3 ♣ <sup>1</sup> | Pass | 3 ♦ <sup>2</sup> |
| Pass | 3 ♥ <sup>3</sup> | Pass | 3 NT             |
| Pass | Pass             | Pass |                  |

1. Puppet Stayman
2. No 5-card major; at least one 4-card major
3. 4-card spade suit

Suppose you win the jack with the king and lead the spade nine to the ace, West following with the six and East the four. Next, you play a low club to the jack, which loses to the king. The West defender thinks a bit and exits with the nine of clubs. Your plan?

The 'normal' plan is to cover with the ten .... but that is why I'm showing you this hand. The actual West defender's clubs were king-nine-seven-six vs East's queen-three and I am nominating this for the 'defence of the year.' The full deal:

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

The declarer did cover with the ten of course and made only two club tricks. Reasonably certain from the defence that he now had three club tricks, he tried a spade next, but when West showed out, the game was down the drain.

Declarer could have recovered by an end-play on East in spades and diamonds. This was a match point top for the defence, and a bottom for declarer.

The deal occurred at The Franklin Bridge Centre, Franklin Square, NY in April. The nine of clubs player was local star Mitchell Pollenz, playing with his uncle Emmett Pollenz - both members of the locally-famous Pollenz clan.

## 2006 Bridge Awards in China

Fu Tsiang, Beijing

In 2006, the CCBA (China Contract Bridge Association) Magazine organized the selection of their Hands of the Year in the following categories: bidding, play and defence. The awards are named after ShenHua, the sponsor.

During the previous year, editors collected many deals from events held by the CCBA. In March 2007, a committee consisting of players, journalists and officials voted for the award winners.

### 2006 Shen Hua Bidding Award

Winner: Hou Xu

From: Open Final of National Championship, 30<sup>th</sup> March

Board 49. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

♠ —  
♥ K Q 10 6 2  
♦ A K 9 6 5 4 2  
♣ 5

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

♠ J 7 6 5 4 3 2  
♥ 9  
♦ 3  
♣ Q J 4 3

| West   | North      | East   | South            |
|--------|------------|--------|------------------|
| Hou Xu | Shi HaoJun | Li Jie | Zhuang ZeJun     |
| —      | 1 ♣        | 1 ♥    | 3 ♦ <sup>1</sup> |
| 4 ♥    | 4 ♠        | Pass   | Pass             |
| 5 ♥    | Pass       | Pass   | 5 ♠              |
| 6 ♣!   | Pass       | 6 ♥    | Pass             |
| Pass   | Pass       |        |                  |

1. Spade suit, preemptive

After East's one heart overcall, it was easy for West to visualize a slam. At many other tables, West jumped directly to seven hearts with this hand. But Hou Xu treated it more skillfully and successfully.

When South showed a spade preempt, Hou Xu knew that although they could make a heart slam, the trouble was that their suit was lower than that of the opponents. If North-South followed any heart bid with a spade bid step by step, EW would never get the slam bonus. Worse, they didn't know how many tricks a spade contract would be down.

First, Hou Xu selected a tactical four-heart bid. Even if it were passed out, maybe it could result in a higher score than was available from a spade penalty. North called four spades and Hou Xu bid five hearts as planned. This was passed to the South, who saved in five spades.

Now Hou Xu popped his long-planned six-club bid. He hoped six clubs would have two effects: first, it requested a club lead if North declared a spade contract. At such a high level, this would normally show a club void. If North-South believed this, possibly they would not continue to the six or seven-level – East-West could play their heart slam in peace.

Second, if North-South still bid to six spades, Hou Xu was ready to bid seven hearts. South might be confused by the pseudo-cuebid and make a wrong lead. If South didn't lead a club, seven hearts might be made even if East did not hold the club ace.

Finally, North-South kept quiet and East-West played the heart slam they hoped for.

In the other room the auction was:

| West   | North  | East | South |
|--------|--------|------|-------|
| —      | 1 ♣    | 1 ♥  | 1 ♠   |
| 4 ♥    | 4 ♠    | Pass | Pass  |
| 5 ♠    | Double | 7 ♥  | 7 ♠   |
| Double | Pass   | Pass | Pass  |

Six hearts plus one versus seven spades doubled down four won Hou Xu's team five IMPs even though they did not reach the grand slam.

**2006 Shen Hua Declarer Play Award  
Parallel Winner 1: Dong Yong Ling  
From: Women Round Robin of National  
Championship, 27<sup>th</sup> March**

**Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.**

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

♠ Q 9 8 6 5  
♥ 9 6 4 2  
♦ A 4  
♣ Q 5

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

How would you play four spades on the lead of the club seven? One heart loser can go on one of dummy's club honours. You can afford to lose two trump tricks. Do you choose to ruff a heart then draw trumps?

Dong Yong Ling, a long-time player on the Beijing Women's Team, won the club ace in dummy and played the heart king. West ducked this trick, although if she'd taken her ace at once and played another heart, declarer would have faced a difficult guess.

Dong continued with the heart queen, taking note of the appearance of the ten from East. West won the heart ace and exited with the eight. Dummy ruffed and East's jack dropped, establishing the nine in declarer's hand.

Dong decided to cross to hand with the ace of diamonds before leading trumps, to test whether West held a singleton spade ace. The spade king won the trick and East's jack forced Dong to think for a long time. She finally pulled the diamond king and ruffed a diamond back to hand, East following with the jack. If there had been no false card from East, West's red suit holdings should be 4-4. Because West didn't continue with another club after winning the heart ace, it was probable she held a singleton there.

Dong now carefully played the heart nine, ruffing in dummy with the four of spades. She safely ruffed a diamond back to hand and threw out the club queen to wait for the tenth trick with the queen-nine of trumps.

This was the full deal:

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

Dong's play avoided the potential danger successfully. After six tricks this was the position:

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

Deep Finesse pointed out there was just one card that could lead the contract home at each of the next tricks. At the table, Dong Yong Ling selected the only correct card at each trick.

**2006 Shen Hua Declarer Play Award**  
**Parallel Winner 2: Fu Zhong**  
**From: Open 1/4 Final of The 3<sup>rd</sup> All-China**  
**Games 27<sup>th</sup> May**

**Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.**

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

| West    | North | East   | South |
|---------|-------|--------|-------|
| Shi     | Fu    | Zhuang | Jack  |
| Hao Jun | Zhong | Ze Jun | Zhao  |
| —       | —     | —      | 1 ♦   |
| Pass    | 2 ♣   | Pass   | 2 ♦   |
| Pass    | 2 ♠   | Pass   | 3 ♦   |
| Pass    | 3 NT  | Pass   | Pass  |
| Pass    |       |        |       |

At several tables, East had led the heart jack, denying a higher honour, so declarer knew he should duck West's queen. West continued hearts, but declarer could safely finesse clubs into West.

At other tables, the heart deuce was led and it was a standard coup for West to play the queen. For those declarers who dared not duck, their contract was doomed at once. Fu Zhong faced the same difficult situation. Should he duck the first round at the risk of losing five heart tricks immediately, or win with the heart king and depend on four or five fast tricks in clubs?

Knowing that taking five club tricks was anti-percentage, Fu ducked the heart queen. This was the first and most

important decision on this hand, but the contract was not yet home. Holding so many points, West knew his partner could hardly have an entry, thus continuing hearts would be hopeless. He switched to the jack of diamonds.

Fu Zhong realized that he had made the correct decision at the first trick when he saw West's switch. After winning the second trick with ace of diamonds, Fu played a heart from dummy, establishing the king and cutting the defenders' lines of transportation at same time.

West won the heart ace and played the spade nine. Now Fu read West's shape: the spade nine was perhaps from a doubleton, he must have three hearts for his plays in that suit, and since he was not afraid to attack diamonds, he should hold at least jack-ten-eight to four or queen-jack-ten to four in that suit. It seemed likely that there were four clubs in the West hand.

Fu Zhong made up his mind on a throw-in. He played the ace-king of spades, the heart king, and a club to dummy's ace. He then cashed the diamond king and ran the club jack. Then a diamond end-played West finally. A neat, proficient play!

**2006 Shen Hua Defence Award**  
**Winner : Liu Jing**

**From: Open B Class Round Robin of**  
**National Club Championship 29<sup>th</sup> July**

**Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.**

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

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

There were no artificial bids. West chose the ace of diamonds against three no trump. When East followed with the two, West continued with the diamond king and nine, East and declarer following to both.

At the fourth and fifth trick, declarer played the king and queen of spades, jack and ten from East, and small cards from declarer. West discarded two hearts. After a period of time thinking, declarer played the club king from dummy, six from East and five from declarer. Now what should West do?



♠ 6 3  
 ♥ Q 10  
 ♦ —  
 ♣ 8 7 4

♠ —  
 ♥ J 9 6 5  
 ♦ J  
 ♣ A J 3

(West must still follow to the club king.)

At this moment both South and West knew each other's hand almost exactly. Declarer knew that West held heart length and the club ace for his bidding. Conversely, West knew that South should hold 4=4=3=2 shape since he opened one diamond with only three diamonds. How to prevent declarer from taking his nine tricks was the question?

Suppose West wins the club ace and cashes his diamond winner? Then declarer would have two entries to hand to lead a heart to the ten, cash the queen, and return to hand for the ace and king. How about ducking the king of clubs? Then, which card should West discard when declarer comes back to hand with ace of spades? Pitching a heart would establish South's fourth heart, pitching the diamond winner would only result in a stepping-stone after declarer finessed the heart ten, unblocked the queen, then played the club queen. Did success rely on East's holding the club queen?

Liu Jing, a postgraduate at China Normal University, the winning team of the 3<sup>rd</sup> World University Bridge Championships in October, 2006, is regarded as a rising star of Chinese bridge. He analysed the situation and found the only correct answer: playing the club jack under the king! Now there was no way for declarer to establish two entries to cash four heart winners, nor to endplay West with a club because West had kept a low club to reach the East hand.

A very clever young man, and a killing defence that would be material for a textbook on logical defence.

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## IBPA COLUMN SERVICE

**Tim Bourke, Canberra**

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### 401. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

After a cue bidding auction in which North denied holding a black king, West led the king of clubs. Declarer took this with the ace of clubs and played the ace of trump, discovering the 3-0 break.

He now thought he had a way of avoiding the spade finesse for he cashed the ace of diamonds and crossed to dummy with the seven of trumps. Next he played the king of diamonds, discarding his club loser and followed this with the jack of diamonds, this time throwing the three of spades.

West took this with the queen of diamonds and returned a diamond, which East ruffed and declarer over-ruffed. After drawing trumps, ending on table, declarer had to take the spade finesse for his contract. Alas, West produced the king of spades and declarer was left to moan about his luck.

As is the norm, dummy was unsympathetic. "You shouldn't cash the king of diamonds. Just run the jack of diamonds, discarding a club from hand. West wins with the queen of diamonds and can do no better than return a club, which you ruff. Then you can cross to the queen of trumps to throw the queen and three of spades on the king and ten of diamonds." He was right, if a little undiplomatic.

**402. Dealer South. Both Vul.**

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

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

After West led the queen of diamonds to declarer's ace, trumps were drawn with the king and ace. Then declarer led a club to the queen. West took this with his king and continued diamonds. Declarer ruffed, crossed to dummy with the queen of trumps and took the heart finesse. When East produced the queen of hearts and the jack of hearts did not fall under the ace, declarer had to accept a one set in a cold contract.

Declarer should have taken the diamond lead with the ace, crossed to dummy with queen of trumps and ruffed a diamond. Then a trump to the ace allows a second diamond ruff. After a trump to the ten, now is the time to take the club finesse. Again West wins but cannot play a red suit successfully; a heart lead gives declarer his tenth trick with his queen of hearts while a diamond lead sees declarer ruff in dummy for his tenth trick while discarding a heart from hand.

So, West exits with a club and declarer counters by taking this with the ace and playing his last club. Surely West will allow East to win the trick, to avoid having to lead a heart or concede a ruff-and-discard. So, after winning the club, East plays a heart. Declarer plays low from hand and West has to win the trick with the jack of hearts and concede the contract with whichever card he plays next.

**403. Dealer South. Both Vul.**

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

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

As the raise of opener's rebid of two hearts to four promised a scattered collection of queens and jacks, South decided to risk bidding a small slam in hearts.

West led the jack of spades and declarer ruffed with the ten of trumps, to gain two entries to dummy when trumps were 2-1. After drawing trumps with ace and king, he crossed to dummy by overtaking the eight of trumps with the nine. The question then was minor-suit finesse should be taken?

Declarer saw that running the jack of diamonds would leave him poorly placed if West were to win the trick. Then, one club finesse would be possible, which would leave the fallback position of relying on East having king of clubs no more than doubleton. So declarer played a club to the queen, judging it was less likely to draw a defensive duck that playing a club to the jack.

When the queen of clubs held, declarer reckoned that East did indeed hold the king of clubs and his problems now reduced to getting back to dummy and finding a parking spot for his eight of clubs. This was solved by playing ace, king and another diamond. On winning the trick with the queen of diamonds, and brightening declarer's day, West got off play with a spade. After ruffing this return, declarer crossed to dummy with the seven of trumps, discarded the eight of clubs on the jack of diamonds and repeated the winning finesse in clubs.

**404. Dealer South. Both Vul.**

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

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

West led the five of spades and East played the queen. Declarer counted eight top tricks, one in spades, three in hearts, one in diamonds and three in clubs. So, he needed only one extra trick from the club suit. The only problem could be that clubs were 4-1 with East holding club length and beginning with two or three

spades. In such cases, if East gains the lead he will defeat the contract by playing a spade.

The solution found was to take the queen of spades with the king, cross to dummy by leading the king of hearts to the ace and leading a low club. The idea was to play the nine if East followed with a low card, planning to duck the trick in to the hand that could do no damage to the contract.

As the cards lie, East concedes an overtrick immediately if he plays low on the first round of clubs for the nine will win. At the table, East inserted the jack of clubs so declarer took this with the queen, returned to dummy by leading a low heart to the queen and finessed the nine of clubs. All that remained to do was to cash the queen of clubs and claim ten tricks.



## Summer NABC, Nashville

**Brent Manley, Memphis, TN et al**

*(Other authors as noted.)*

The ACBL Summer Nationals returned to Music City at the end of July.

Winners of the major Championships were:

**Spingold Teams:** Nick Nickell-Hemant Lall; Bob Hamman-Paul Soloway; Jeff Meckstroth-Eric Rodwell

**Life Master Pairs:** Zia Mahmood-Chip Martel

**Grand National Teams:** Warren Spector-Mike Becker; Larry Cohen-David Berkowitz; Jeff Meckstroth-Eric Rodwell

**Open Pairs:** Joan Jackson-Petra Hamman

**Intercollegiate Championship:** UCLA – Jeffrey Schrader-Blake Haas; Jason Chu-Barry Ko

**Open Swiss Teams:** LouAnn O'Rourke-Marc Jacobus; Geoff Hampson-Eric Greco; Giorgio Duboin-Norberto Bocchi

**Master Mixed Teams:** Don Stack-Linda Eakes; Jack & Nancy Spear

**Fast Pairs:** Bobby Levin-Geoff Hampson

**Senior Teams:** Geof Brod, Rich DeMartino, John Stiefel, Pat McDevitt

**Women's Teams:** Phyllis Fireman-Mildred Breed; Tobi Sokolow-Janice Seamon; Sabine Auken-Daniela von Arnim

Let's look at some of the bridge.

### Why Draw Trumps?

When you have a nine-card trump fit missing the queen, guessing whether to finesse or play for the drop is often a problem. It's especially a problem when you are playing in a slam and missing a side ace!

**Dealer North. Neither Vul.**

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

| West | North<br><i>Aquila</i> | East | South<br><i>Assini</i> |
|------|------------------------|------|------------------------|
| —    | 1 ♦                    | 2 ♠  | 3 ♥                    |
| Pass | 3 ♠                    | Pass | 3 NT                   |
| Pass | 4 ♥                    | Pass | 4 NT                   |
| Pass | 6 ♥                    | Pass | Pass                   |
| Pass |                        |      |                        |

At the other table, there had been no East-West bidding and the four of spades was led. With nothing to go on, declarer won and played the ace of hearts and another heart. Then East had a sure trump trick and the ace of diamonds.

Jan Assini didn't try to guess trumps when she also declared six hearts - she had a better plan.

Again, the spade four was led and Assini, playing with Frank Aquila, won with the spade ace, discarding a diamond from dummy. She played a club to the ace, and ruffed a club. She then led the diamond four to dummy's king, losing to the ace. When West exited with a diamond, declarer won the queen and continued with the spade king, discarding the remaining diamond from dummy.

Assini now led the five of spades and ruffed with dummy's heart two. She led another club from dummy and ruffed with her heart seven as East discarded a spade (and not a diamond!). She advanced the (now good) ten of spades and West ruffed with his eight of hearts, overruffed by dummy's jack. At trick ten, she led a club from dummy and ruffed with her heart nine.

These were the remaining cards (*see top of next column*):

Assini now led the diamond seven. Because she had played the way she did, she had a pretty good idea of how the opponents' cards were divided. Assini reasoned that if

East had a third diamond, he would have discarded that instead of a spade when she led the third round of clubs.

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

Thus, Assini ruffed the diamond with dummy's king of hearts, as East under-ruffed. The queen of clubs was ruffed in turn by the heart three and over-ruffed by the ten. The heart ace collected the queen at trick thirteen.

### Using Your 'Turn' Signal-Indicator by Larry Cohen (Sending a Message - Part I)

On this deal from the final of the Grand National Teams, the defence was confronted by the challenge of how to discourage partner from continuing a suit in which the signaler has a very strong holding. How do you get partner to turn directions?

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

At one table, Robert Levin and Glenn Milgrim arrived in three no trump by South, which was defeated two tricks when the defenders, Jeff Meckstroth and Eric Rodwell, took the first five diamond tricks and a later spade trick.

At the other table...

| West         | North     | East    | South            |
|--------------|-----------|---------|------------------|
| Willenken    | Berkowitz | Welland | Cohen            |
| —            | —         | —       | 1 ♣ <sup>1</sup> |
| Pass         | 1 ♥       | Pass    | 1 ♠              |
| Pass         | 2 ♣       | Pass    | 2 ♠              |
| Pass         | 3 ♣       | Pass    | 3 ♠              |
| Pass         | 4 ♠       | Pass    | Pass             |
| Pass         |           |         |                  |
| 1. Precision |           |         |                  |

How should the defence take its four tricks: two diamonds, a club and a spade?

A club lead would beat four spades easily. West, however, reasonably led the diamond ace. How should East signal? He is desperate for a club switch.

East discouraged in diamonds with the hope that partner would read this as requiring the 'obvious' shift, hopefully to clubs. West did switch, but to hearts. This could have been right if declarer held king-doubleton in clubs and ace-doubleton in hearts, but I think the actual layout in which South holds the ace of hearts was more likely in view of the strong club opening.

East-West were playing upside-down carding, so the 'discouraging' signal was the diamond nine. Maybe West read that as suit preference for hearts? How should East get a club switch? The diamond jack? If West played another diamond (other than the ten to hold the lead), East would win and be end-played.

Anyway, after the heart shift, I had ten easy tricks. (I was a bit surprised by the 5-0 break, but I had the extra trick to throw a loser). This result gave our team 11 IMPs.

*(On the given deal, if East plays the diamond king at trick one, West may well continue with the ten, then the five would be suit preference for clubs. However, that is fortuitous; if the ten had been with declarer, East would likely be on lead at trick two. — Ed.)*

### The Unreal Deal by Mark Horton (Sending a Message - Part 2)

Larry Cohen's column in the ACBL Bridge Bulletin - The Real Deal - is justifiably popular. This deal from the final of the Grand National Teams may appear in due course - or maybe not. (I'll wager a farthing that it does - Cohen's a pretty humble guy. Besides, he may do it out of self-defence. Berkowitz will certainly use this deal to bolster his case that Cohen is the "World's Worst Opening Leader"! - Ed.) This was Cohen's hand as North:

♠ J 10  
♥ J 10 2  
♦ 7 4 3  
♣ J 9 7 6 5

And he saw this auction (both sides were vulnerable):

| West   | North | East | South     |
|--------|-------|------|-----------|
| —      | Cohen | —    | Berkowitz |
| —      | —     | —    | 3 ♦       |
| Double | 4 ♦   | 5 ♦  | Pass      |
| 6 ♦    | Pass  | 7 ♠  | Pass      |
| 7 NT   | Pass  | Pass | Double    |
| Pass   | Pass  | Pass |           |

Having made a very law-abiding bid, all you have to do is find the winning lead. Before we reveal the answer, here is how you might approach the problem. In the absence of a double, you would have led a diamond, but

now it seems clear partner has an ace in one of the other three suits.

If it is in spades, it surely cannot run away (and Partner did not double seven spades, which he would have done with the ace of trumps, unsporting as he is), so that narrows the choice down to a heart or a club.

If partner's ace is in hearts, the fact that you have the club suit held must mean that thirteen tricks will not be available. However, given that East's bid of five diamonds suggests length in both majors, there must be some risk that if Partner's presumed ace is in clubs, the opponents may be able to take the tricks they need. Okay, time to make up your mind. The full deal is coming up:

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

As you can see, you need to lead a club. Talking to Cohen about this deal, he revealed that he and David Berkowitz play that a double in this situation suggests that partner lead the highest reasonable suit. It was clear that there was no need to lead a spade, and with a diamond already ruled out, the choice lay between the other two suits.

Larry was worried that if he led a club and partner's ace was in hearts, the lead might just be into some holding like ace-king-queen-ten, giving declarer seven spades, two diamonds and four clubs. There was also the chance that partner might just have good diamonds headed by the king-queen-jack, and so leading that suit might produce a more substantial penalty.

Even so, we agreed that you really should lead a club - but at the table, Larry led a diamond and declarer claimed plus 2490 and a useful 14 IMPs against the 1460 recorded at the other table.

### Sending a Message - Part 3

This deal from the GNT Flight A Final posed a defensive problem. You are East.

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

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

Partner leads the fourth-best two of hearts against three no trump and your jack wins the trick as declarer plays the ten. You continue with the heart six to declarer's ace and Partner's five. Declarer plays a diamond to the nine and your ten.

You shift to the king of spades, and Partner plays the jack. Your discards are upside-down, if that matters. What do you do now?

At the table, the defender continued spades. Declarer won the ace, and cleared diamonds to make the contract for a result remarkably duplicated at the other table.

Here is the complete deal:

**Dealer East. EW Vul.**

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

You did well to switch to the king of spades. If you routinely return a heart when in with the ten of diamonds, declarer has no problem giving up a second diamond to set up that suit. This gives him three diamonds, three clubs, two hearts and one spade for nine tricks. You can take two hearts and two diamonds.

When you lead the king of spades, however, declarer must duck or you can take two diamonds and three spades. The problem occurs if Partner has spades headed by the ace-jack-ten-nine. A continuation would be necessary in that case as declarer could have a hand similar to this:

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

Partner knows his spades are not strong enough to have you continue (and he has no entry) and so he was trying to tell you to revert to hearts. What do you think is the best card to send the message? The jack seemed ambiguous at best; perhaps it was merely informative, from ace-jack-ten-nine, or perhaps it was discouraging.

The truth is that Partner should be able to play any of his five spades to get you to shift back to hearts! Why? If declarer had held the proposed hand, he'd have won the first heart, ducked a diamond and taken his nine tricks.

### The Unusual No Trump Ending

The defence found by Antonio Sementa and Christal Henner on the following deal was especially impressive. Sementa was West, Henner East.

Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

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

Sementa agonized over his lead, but found the best shot, the ten of diamonds. Declarer took the queen with the ace and led a heart to the queen, then ran the clubs. This was the ending:

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

Declarer led a spade to the queen and Sementa's ace, and Sementa played a diamond to Henner's king. When she played the heart jack to Sementa's ace, South was squeezed in spades and diamonds. He could either unguard the jack of spades or discard the jack of diamonds. Either way, the defence had the rest of the tricks for one down. It was a 6-IMP gain because North-South at the other table played in three clubs with an overtrick for plus 130.

## IBPA Annual General Meeting & Awards Presentation

**The AGM will be held in Shanghai on Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> or Tue 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2007.**

### Proposed Agenda

1. **Minutes** of the AGM held on 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2006 in Verona (see Bulletin 499, page 7) and matters arising.
  2. **Officers' Reports.**
  3. **Appointees' Reports.**
  4. **Accounts** for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2006, budget and subscriptions for the year 2008.
  5. **Elections:** Already elected for a two year term to 2008 are:  
 President: Patrick Jourdain (Wales);  
 Chairman: Per Jannersten (Sweden);  
 Exec Vice-President: Jan van Cleeff (Net);  
 Organisational Vice-President : Dilip Gidwani; Secretary: Maureen Dennison (England); Treasurer: Mario Dix (Malta).  
 Proposed for annual election are:  
 Hon. General Counsel: Bill Pencharz (Eng);  
 Hon. Auditor: Julius Butkow (South Africa)  
 Automatically continuing without election are the President Emeriti: Tommy Sandsmark (Nor); Henry Francis (USA).
  6. **Election of Executive members:**  
 Executive members whose term expires and are available for a 3-year term to 2010:  
 Chris Diment (Australia); Panos Gerontopoulos (Greece); Brent Manley (USA).  
 Already elected to 2008: Julius Butkow (RSA); John Carruthers (Can); Barry Rigal (USA).  
 Already elected to 2009: Christer Andersson (Swe); Peter Lund (Denmark); Ron Tacchi (Fra).
- Note:** Appointees in post: Awards Chairman: Barry Rigal (USA); Editor: John Carruthers (Can). Membership Secretary: Mario Dix (Malta). Sponsored Members: Irena Chodorowska (Pol).
7. **The IBPA Annual Awards**
  8. Any other competent business.

**Patrick Jourdain (President)**

## ...A Walk Among the Giants, *continued from page 1*

his diamond, plays the ace of spades and ruffs a spade, then runs clubs through East, but he played the heart king from hand. Hamman ducked - had he won the ace of hearts and played another heart, Latham would have had no chance at ten tricks. When Hamman ducked, however, Latham played the ace of spades, ruffed a spade and simply ran club winners. Hamman pitched plain cards from hand but eventually had to ruff. Latham over-ruffed and played a spade from hand, ruffing with dummy's jack of hearts. The heart ace was the third and last defensive trick.

Zia was elated, shaking Latham's hand and asking, "May I kiss you?"

"It was a pleasure playing with Zia," Latham said, "I like the way he treats people." Latham said his wife, Patricia, was also charmed by the suave Zia.

Zia was overwhelmed by the generosity of the worldwide bridge community in its support of the project. On May 19, World Bridge Federation President Jose Damiani visited Pakistan for the opening of the school, whose official name is the World Bridge Campus. It is planned to accommodate 180 or more students from three to ten years old with an all-female teaching staff.

Said Zia: "The school is proof that when people of diverse religions and cultures come together, nothing is impossible." He said a plaque will be placed at the school with these words: "This campus has been built by contributions from bridge players around the world. May these students achieve their dreams and share the same love for their fellow humans as shown by those who have made this school possible."

Added Zia: "The bridge world should be proud." He was also appreciative of the world-class bridge players who showed up to help Latham have one of the most memorable experiences of his bridge career.

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## ...Correspondence *continued from page 16*

afford to do that, especially when it comes to youth. Young people today have so many pastimes to choose from, and this places bridge (and even more so, chess) in a disadvantageous position. We need to realize that chess and bridge will no longer be the only inexhaustible games, as in the past. There are already some first class computer games that can beat chess and bridge in this respect – and there will be many more in the near future. The only chance of bridge to survive is to promote its strong social element. We don't want to do that! Allegedly, because Juniors drink beer and stay up late at night during Junior Camps (yes, this is the first generation of young people to break the rules!), but in reality because we do not wish to spend a penny for the youth!

Thank you, John, for your kind words and wishes – as well as for your support all these years.

Panos Gerontopoulos, Athens

Hi JC and Katie,

A great August IBPA Bulletin. John, as always your editorial is open and honest. However, there are a few corrections you might want to make:

1. There is no World Youth Teams Championship scheduled for 2008. There is only Beijing and the IMSA Teams (at least to the best of our knowledge).
2. The EBL did indeed remove Panos as head of the Youth Committee but he is still on the EBL Executive... However, he was not re-elected to be a WBF representative from the EBL.

I totally agree with you that there should be a World Youth Championship every year... Juniors are not Juniors very long and this is truly a necessity. I am continuing to try hard to promote youth bridge but it is becoming more and more difficult. However, a USA team was invited to participate in this year's South American Youth Championships, and we did send a team on three weeks' notice. Good for bridge! You bet it is!

Regards, Joan Gerard, White Plains, NY

Hi, John,

I thought I should let you know about an apparent case of mistaken identity in the Antalya article in the IBPA August Bulletin. The deal in question is the last one, where Barnet Shenkin is given as North and Veronique Bessis is given as East. The article does not state the context, but I can tell you that the hand comes from the mixed teams round of sixteen. However, Barnet Shenkin was part of the MAHAFFEY team and Veronique Bessis was part of the PAYEN team, and these two teams did not meet in that round. In fact, MAHAFFEY's opponents were VENTIN, and as Michel Bessis was part of that team it seems likely that he was sitting West and someone assumed that his wife was East when in fact it was Nathalie Frey.

Best wishes, Tony Gordon, London



## Correspondence ...

The Editor reserves the right to shorten correspondence

Email: [ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca](mailto:ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca)

Dear Mr. Carruthers,

Our attention is drawn to your Editorial in issue No. 510 of 10<sup>th</sup> July 2007. The matters contained in your Editorial obviously are based on information supplied to you by Samina Esmail who holds herself out as Chairperson of Kenya Bridge Association, and are untrue, defamatory and libelous. We would have expected you as Editor of a responsible bulletin to have checked the facts.

Kenya Bridge Africa Ltd. was incorporated following a resolution passed at a Special General Meeting of Kenya Bridge Association on 14 September 2000, and not 'by some members of the KBA Executive' as your Editorial states, and was confirmed at the Annual General Meeting of KBA on 2 April 2001.

At the meeting held on 2 April, 2001 members were asked to reconfirm if they still wished to continue running the affairs under Kenya Bridge Association rather than Kenya Bridge Africa Ltd. By a show of hands, 42 persons voted in favour of the affairs to be run by KBA Ltd. and 5 against. It was therefore resolved by an overwhelming majority of members of Kenya Bridge Association that KBA Ltd. Would continue to run bridge in Kenya. Samina Esmail was present at that meeting. Bridge in Kenya flourished for two years under KBA Ltd., then a splinter group was formed, naming itself KBA.

We wish to point out that there is no legal basis for your statement, 'how did a private company replace the KBA in the first place against Kenya Law'. There is, we state, no such law. Kenya Bridge Africa Ltd. is recognized by the World Bridge Federation. All our efforts to resolve the issue have been in vain and the matter is in court pending a hearing. In the meantime, the purpose-built hall built by Kenya Bridge Africa Ltd. at Nairobi Gymkhana remains closed to both parties.

As for the recent All Africa and Zonal Bridge Championships, we and Kenya's Minister for Sport invited Samina Esmail's group, for the sake of the country and in the interest of bridge in Kenya, to join the Organizing Committee and to jointly organize the event, which invitation she refused. Instead, she filed an application in court to stop the Championships from going ahead. The application was not successful and she withdrew it recently with an order for costs against her and her fellow plaintiffs. It is therefore not true that 'KBA sought a compromise solution so that the championships would run smoothly but Kenya Bridge Africa Ltd. backed by the ABF and WBF snubbed their rival'.

The position of the Kenya Government as confirmed by the Minister for Sports is that the Government will accept the Court's decision on the issue between the two bodies.

Therefore, it is also not true that Kenya Bridge Association is the body recognized by the Government.

The All Africa Bridge Championships - boycotted by the Samina group - were nevertheless a very successful event and recognized by all participants as the best Zonal held in the last 20 years' history of BFAME or ABF.

B. Bhardwaj, Chairman, Kenya Bridge Africa Ltd.

*Obviously, there is disagreement and hard feeling between the two parties. I have replied in some detail to Mr. Bhardwaj, the highlights being that I did check the facts, that I had not heard from Ms. Esmail prior to publication of the editorial in question, that the Government of Kenya lists Kenya Bridge Association as its affiliate, not KBA Ltd., and that I shall happily publish corroboration of his statement regarding the Minister for Sport's position if he sends it to me. – Ed.*

Hallo John,

I couldn't agree more than with your editorial in the IBPA Bulletin. Indeed, there should be a junior world event every year. The time that you will be able to qualify for a world junior event is only 2-3 years. Some juniors start serious bridge when they are 20/21 and then reach the stage to be able to compete at the international level when they are 23/24 and after that they just are too old.

Kindest regards, Kees Tammens, Amsterdam

Dear John,

Reading Barry Rigal's and your report on the 21<sup>st</sup> European Youth Team Championships, I wondered why you didn't say a single word on the performances of the winning teams and their players. I expected at least some boards played by the champions. Furthermore, I missed any background information about the end of the career of Panos Gerontopoulos as the driving force in European junior bridge. Is the Bulletin not the medium for bridge journalists to exchange information about issues such as this one?

Greetings, Bob van de Velde, Amsterdam

*Frankly, we received no interesting deals involving the winners – we simply published what we saw. Further, there is disagreement among the parties concerned regarding Panos' career-end. See the Daily Bulletins from Jesolo for more detail. – Ed.*

Dear John,

In my opinion, Junior Camps were probably the most important events of the youth programme, because they were the only purely social bridge events we were offering to young people. Although it is true that most sport federations only care about their top players, bridge cannot

Continued on page 15...