



BULLETIN

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Editorial

Is there anything that can start a bridge argument faster (and sustain it longer) than an Appeals Committee or Tournament Director ruling? The most contentious of these involve the receipt of unauthorised information due to hesitations in the auction (occasionally in the play), and incorrect explanations of the bidding resulting in possible damage to the non-offending side. In the latter case, the authorities quite rightly take a very dim view of misexplanations of conventional bids and bend over backwards to ensure the non-offending side is not disadvantaged. What do you think of this one from the recent Yeh Bros Cup?

K.O. Italy 2 v USA 1. Board 23. Dealer South. Both Vul.

<p>♠ 6 3 ♥ 9 ♦ K Q 8 4 2 ♣ K Q J 8 6</p> <p>♠ 5 2 ♥ A 10 8 6 ♦ A J 9 7 5 ♣ 5 4</p>	<p>♠ 9 ♥ Q J 5 4 3 2 ♦ 10 6 3 ♣ 9 3 2</p> <p>♠ A K Q J 10 8 7 4 ♥ K 7 ♦ — ♣ A 10 7</p>
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West	North	East	South
<i>J Stansby</i>	<i>DeFalco</i>	<i>L Stansby</i>	<i>Garozzo</i>
—	—	—	2 ♣
Pass	3 ♥ ^{1,2}	Pass	7' ♠
Double	7 NT	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Both minors, slam try, explained correctly by North to East according to North-South's agreement. However, this agreement was a new one, made two days previously, and De Falco admitted to Lew Stansby that Garozzo may have forgotten it.
2. Explained incorrectly to West by South as a good six-card **spade** suit, their prior agreement. Garozzo was not obliged to inform the opponent that he could tell from his hand that this was not the case, merely what their agreement was – it looks like he thought De Falco had a good heart suit and had forgotten the **old** agreement. The crux of the matter is, however, that he misinformed West as to the actual agreement.

Opening Lead: ♠9!

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Let's look at Garozzo's seven-spade bid. He had obviously forgotten their agreement (a recent system change, so recent as to have not yet made its way their convention card, a significant breach); he expected De Falco to have six hearts to the ace-queen at worst, so a grand slam seemed a 68% shot or better. The heart jack would make it near-impregnable. And there could be no damage to East-West if seven spades were cold.

As West, what would go through your mind, informed that three hearts showed good spades and seeing South bid seven spades? Obviously, on the auction, Garozzo has a big spade fit and he should have a secondary source of tricks (which can only be clubs from your hand) and first round control of both red suits. Equally as obviously, you'll have the suspicion that a wheel has come off since you have both red aces. Should you double? Would Garozzo have opened ace-jack to five or six spades, no red cards and solid clubs with a two-club bid? Why not?

Our view is that double is a ridiculous bid which can only come to grief. Pass, lead a red ace, and hope South is not able to ruff it. South should be ruffing both red aces, but if so, the grand slam must be cold. If seven spades is cold, you lose 6 IMPs by doubling if your teammates bid and make it. If 12 tricks is the limit of the hand, assuming your teammates bid the hand intelligently to a small slam and make it, you win 17 IMPs if you pass and beat seven spades a trick. How many do you win if you double and beat seven spades a trick? 17 IMPs. All the double succeeded in doing was alerting De Falco to the wheel rolling down the road. When seven no trump comes back to you as West, what now? A double now looks to us as though you are alerting Partner that you do not have the spade ace, the likeliest reason for the double of seven spades. Nevertheless, Lew Stansby led the spade nine and De Falco wrapped up all 13 tricks with alacrity. From East's point of view, could North not have had 11 minor-suit tricks and the ace-king of hearts? Of course he could, but it is debatable whether JoAnna Stansby should double seven no trump with that holding. (In all likelihood, she never entertained the idea that either contract would make on any lead.)

Merely looking at the auction as it occurred on BBO, one knew something had gone badly wrong. It was not long before we were informed by the Vugraph operator that the TD had been called. Soon after that, we were informed that the 'Solomonic' (according to the Daily Bulletin) ruling under Law 12c(iii) was 1 IMP to USA 1, based on the chances of seven spades and/or seven no trump going down. This was hardly Solomonic, and would certainly have resulted in an appeal from Italy 2 had the match result been a loss by 14 IMPs or fewer (the IMP result of 2490 minus 1430). At the time, that seemed possible, but the Italians stormed to the front and won the match handily, obviating the need for an appeal. But wait! What if the USA appealed the ruling

and were allowed to score plus 2000, as they would have done on a heart lead? That would have been a 22-IMP gain on the board. Fortunately for all, especially the Appeals Committee, even 21 more IMPs would not have been enough to salvage the match for USA 1. There had been a middle of 35 IMPs where an appeal was possible from one or the other side!

The Daily Bulletin pointed out that De Falco was always pulling to seven no trump (really?), since he could tell Garozzo had forgotten their agreement from his own hand. How is this so? Could Garozzo not have held the same hand with the ace of hearts instead of the king? Then seven spades would be cold, seven no trump off one on a diamond lead. Was it instead possible that De Falco was awakened by the double and believed from it that Garozzo had forgotten the new agreement? Sure it was. The DB pointed out that seven no trump was 'cold'! Their reasoning was thus: pass of seven spades and double of seven no trump calls for a club lead; pass and pass would induce a passive spade lead. How about this scheme? Pass/pass = you are on your own; pass/double = lead a club; double/pass = lead a spade; and double/double = lead a red card. That scheme credits JoAnna Stansby with great subtlety (and perhaps clairvoyance!).

Put yourself on the unfortunate Appeals Committee that hears this case, knowing the match is on the line and that the winner will play in the final for \$60,000, with the loser collecting \$30,000. How would you rule? It looks to us as though West engineered their side's fate on her own, quite apart from any misinformation. Had seven spades gone all pass, and had she led the ace of diamonds after getting the wrong information, that would have been a different story. Here though, the case was far from clear, despite the swiftness of the TD's ruling. It would have made an interesting committee. What do you think?

For a different view of this deal, read the Coriolan Neamtu article, "An Entertaining Weekend" on page 7.

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THE 2008 YEH BROS CUP

Barry Rigal, New York

For the 10th Yeh Bros Cup, Kaohsiung, the second-largest city in Taiwan, with a population of about 1.5 million was once again the host. Kaohsiung is situated on the southwest coast, on the Taiwan Strait. As one of two Central Municipalities under the administration of the Republic of China, Kaohsiung City is a second-level political division, with the same status as a province. The city is further divided into eleven districts, each with a district office that handles day-to-day business between the Kaohsiung City government and its citizens.

Kaohsiung is a major centre for manufacturing, refining, and transportation. It is the major port through which most of Taiwan's oil is imported, which accounts for the large amount of heavy industry. With its harbour one of the four largest in the world, Kaohsiung is also the centre of Taiwan's shipbuilding industry, as well as home to a large naval base.

The downtown area is centred around Kaohsiung Harbour with the island of Chijin on the other side of the harbour acting as a natural breakwater. The Love River flows into the harbour through the Old City and downtown. Kaohsiung's natural landmarks include the coral mountains Ape Hill, Shoushan and Banpingshan.



Kaohsiung Harbour

The 24 teams would play a 10-round Swiss of 10-board matches to determine the 16 qualifiers for knockout play. The knockout qualifiers would be divided into an upper and lower bracket, with the teams in the upper bracket (top 8 finishers) dropping into the lower bracket after a loss. For the teams in the lower bracket, one loss would be fatal.

The format for the Swiss was a delayed match-up. Accordingly, the field was divided into two pools of USA/Europe and the Rest of the World, Russia being somewhat arbitrarily treated as outside Europe (nothing personal, Vladimir). The first two matches were arranged

in advance, with teams from one pool meeting teams from the other pool. In round three, teams were paired up on the basis of match one, and so on.

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

<p>♠ 6 4 ♥ Q 10 ♦ Q 8 7 ♣ K Q J 9 8 5</p> <p>♠ A 7 ♥ A K 9 7 2 ♦ K J 6 5 4 ♣ A</p>	<p>♠ K J 10 9 3 ♥ 8 4 ♦ A 2 ♣ 6 4 3 2</p> <p>♠ Q 8 5 2 ♥ J 6 5 3 ♦ 10 9 3 ♣ 10 7</p>
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West	North	East	South
<i>Del'monte</i>	<i>Ferraro</i>	<i>Gosney</i>	<i>Sementa</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1 ♥	2 ♣	Double	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
6 ♦	Pass	6 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Having reached this so-so slam, should you go after diamonds before playing trumps? It looks better to play for trumps 3-3, after which you can guess whether to put all your eggs in the basket of spades, or play a combination chance in spades and diamonds. With North having six clubs and presumably three hearts, if he has the spade queen it will put in an appearance in two or three rounds. The only time that line fails when going after diamonds succeeds is with this specific 4-2 trump break, when the defenders tap you out with a second club. Now you can't exploit the 3-3 diamond break with the queen wrong; your best chance is to play off the ace and king of spades in case the queen drops, then fall back on the diamond finesse.

But of course when you draw one round of trumps, the ten appears. You need to assume trumps are not 5-1 - if the ten is a true card you might well run into the 4-2 trump break and maybe the odds on playing on diamonds have got better. At the table, declarer played on trumps first and went down.

A Shiftless Defender

On this deal from match 8, most tables made three no trump. However, look at this defence from Migry Campanile in the match between Israel and France. (See *top of next page.*)

Campanile led a spade as East against the one no trump -three no trump auction, and declarer's trick count was up to seven. North, Mark Bompis, then made the natural, if potentially unsuccessful, play of the queen of diamonds from hand, Campanile winning the king.

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

If Campanile routinely returned a heart or spade, as was the case at many tables, declarer has no problems establishing diamonds and returning to dummy to make use of them. In fact, on Vugraph, one table played a spade, the other played back a diamond. But Campanile returned a club, and now declarer had no chance. A well-deserved 13 IMPs to Israel.

One Man's Routine

I'm not going to ask for your sympathy but the job of a bulletin editor is often a hard one. Yes, we get the privilege of laughing at the players in print and not granting them the right of response, which in the language of MasterCard is 'Priceless'. Against that, the art of extracting well-played deals from the players is something akin to squeezing blood out of a stone.

Take this example for instance; Haig T chamitch brought me the deal. Antonio Sementa, who was not going to bring me the hand himself, told me that he thought the play was routine.

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Del'monte</i>	<i>Ferraro</i>	<i>Gosney</i>	<i>Sementa</i>
—	—	—	1 ♦
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	3 ♠	Double	4 ♣
Pass	4 ♦	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	5 ♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West took a long time but eventually led his singleton club, against five diamonds, giving declarer the inside track on the deal. How would you play from here?

Sementa won the club cheaply in dummy and drew all the trumps ending in dummy. Had he not done so, West would have ruffed in and now defeated the hand by cashing his side's spade winner and eventually collecting the heart trick. Instead Sementa had reached the critical position:

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

Sementa made the key play of leading a heart to the ten before ruffing the clubs good, relying on East (known to have four clubs and two diamonds, and presumably only five spades since East/West had not bid) to have a doubleton heart honour. When West took the heart king and played back a spade East could lead two rounds of spades, denuding North of side entries. But Sementa ruffed out the clubs, then played the ace of hearts, dropping the queen, and dummy was good.

Down to the Wire...

Board 32. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

It was lucky for Italy2 that they had just enough IMPs in the bag to be able to survive the following disaster. They led by 18 IMPs as the final deal hit the green baize in their KO match against Italy1.

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>De Falco</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Garozzo</i>
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	3 NT	Pass
4 ♣	Pass	5 ♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

West	North	East	South
Versace	Madala	Giubilo	Sementa
Pass	3 \diamond	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

Three no trump was not going to be easy for East/West but five clubs played like a dream and plus 600 figured to be a pick up against three diamonds doubled, which looked destined for down one. However, instead of leading a top spade, Giubilo led his heart three, covered by the four, jack and king. Madala returned a heart, and Giubilo pitched a spade rather than a club; this play turned out to have interesting consequences!

Declarer took the heart ace, and played the heart ten, pitching his club when Versace covered. The spade jack was ducked (which might be critical to avoid trump promotions), then came a spade to the ace. Now declarer led a winning heart to pitch his last spade as East ruffed and declarer in turn ruffed the club return.

Declarer next passed the eight of diamonds to hold his trump losers to one and make plus 470. The defenders had one last chance; if Giubilo rises with ace of diamonds and returns a club declarer cannot unblock the diamonds and return safely to hand. The diamond jack scores the setting trick on a spade over-ruff.

Curiously, the low spade discard was not quite good enough by East; declarer could make the contract by force in an unusual fashion at trick three; he must lead a heart intermediate and when West covers, declarer ruffs with diamond queen!

The Knock-Outs Round 2

Board 30. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

	\spadesuit 6 3	
	\heartsuit A	
	\diamondsuit K Q J 10 9 5 4	
	\clubsuit A 7 6	
\spadesuit A 10 5 4		\spadesuit K Q J 9 8 2
\heartsuit 9 6		\heartsuit 8 7 5 3
\diamondsuit 8 7 3		\diamondsuit A 6
\clubsuit Q 8 4 2		\clubsuit 3
	\spadesuit 7	
	\heartsuit K Q J 10 4 2	
	\diamondsuit 2	
	\clubsuit K J 10 9 5	

In the Closed Room, Garozzo (Italy2) jumped to three hearts (intermediate) over one spade. Then, when raised to four hearts, he competed to five hearts over four spades. West had no reason to lead a club and five hearts rolled home.

By contrast, Jacobs (USA I) heard his partner overcall two hearts. He bid four diamonds over three spades, then five diamonds when the auction reverted to him at four spades. East led his singleton club. Declarer unblocked hearts, then led a second club, and Giubilo ruffed and played the spade king. Versace very carefully

overtook to play a third club (essential if his partner had the bare king of diamonds instead of the ace). Down one instead of two but still 11 IMPs.

Undefeated Match

Sweden took on Italy2 in the match of the two remaining teams in the top bracket. The winner would have the rest of the day off, and would play the final the next day with a 6.5-IMP lead. The loser would drop into a three-way match with the two teams who would themselves just have survived a 'winner-take-all' three-way contest.

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

	\spadesuit K Q 10 8 7	
	\heartsuit Q 7 3	
	\diamondsuit J 6	
	\clubsuit A 9 5	
\spadesuit A J 6 4 2		\spadesuit 3
\heartsuit 6 5		\heartsuit A K 8
\diamondsuit Q		\diamondsuit A 10 4 3 2
\clubsuit Q J 10 7 4		\clubsuit K 8 3 2
	\spadesuit 9 5	
	\heartsuit J 10 9 4 2	
	\diamondsuit K 9 8 7 5	
	\clubsuit 6	

Both tables reached five clubs, Nyström from the East seat after South had doubled a diamond call, Versace as West after an uninformative auction. Versace received a heart lead and won and played ace and another spade, ruffing. Then he played a trump to hand and the defenders won to play another trump. Versace ruffed a spade in dummy, and discovered he had two spade losers now, and nowhere to park them. Down one.

Nyström received the lead of the heart jack and won in hand, played the ace and ruffed a spade, then the heart king and ruffed a heart. When North followed with the the heart queen it seemed likely that South's length in the red-suits would give him short spades. So Nyström ruffed a spade with the club king. Had both opponents followed he would have played on trumps to make 11 or 12 tricks. As it was, when the bad spade break came to light, he ruffed a diamond to dummy and ruffed another spade with the eight of clubs. His second chance came in when South could not over-ruff, and now declarer simply lost the long spade and the ace of clubs.

The Last Three-Way

USA I, Israel and Italy II had reached the finals of the lower bracket; they needed to win the last three-way to take on Sweden in the finals. After taking a big lead against Israel in the first half of their match, Italy put their other opponents, USA I away in fine style in the second half of what had been a close match. The score was 40-3, and this deal was critical in that it could so easily have gone the other way.

Board 42. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

♠ Q
 ♥ K Q J 8
 ♦ 6 5 2
 ♣ K Q J 9 7

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

♠ A 9 8 7 6 3
 ♥ 9 4
 ♦ J
 ♣ 10 8 5 4

West	North	East	South
J Stansby	De Falco	L Stansby	Garozzo
—	—	2 ♠	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			
West	North	East	South
Versace	Jacobs	Giubilo	Katz
—	—	Pass	Pass
1 ♣	2 NT	3 ♠	Pass
Pass	4 ♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

If Lew Stansby thinks a hand is good enough for a vulnerable pre-empt you won't hear me arguing! The East hand looks like a text-book example, and look what happened to him when De Falco to my mind guessed very well not to re-open with four diamonds to show diamonds and a major. Garozzo licked his lips and passed, then led the jack of diamonds, overtaken. De Falco cashed his four red-suit winners and led a fourth diamond. Stansby ruffed with the four of spades and could now ensure two more plain winners and three more trump tricks; down 500.

In the other room, might either Katz (or more likely Jacobs) have doubled three spades? I have huge sympathy for both the actions taken by the Americans, even though four diamonds went down 300 for a 13-IMP loss instead of at least a 7-IMP gain that doubling would have generated.

The Final

Board 2. Dealer North. NS Vul.

♠ 10 6
 ♥ A Q J 5
 ♦ A Q 8 5
 ♣ Q J 7

♠ 5
 ♥ 6 4
 ♦ K 10 9 7 4 3
 ♣ K 5 4 3

♠ A J 8 3
 ♥ K 7 3
 ♦ J 2
 ♣ 10 9 8 2

♠ K Q 9 7 4 2
 ♥ 10 9 8 2
 ♦ 6
 ♣ A 6

West	North	East	South
Versace	Fredin	Giubilo	Fallenius
—	1 NT	Pass	4 ♦ ¹
Double	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Transfer to four spades

West	North	East	South
Bertheau	De Falco	Nyström	Garozzo
—	1 NT	Pass	4 ♦ ¹
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Transfer to four spades

Since Versace had doubled four diamonds, Giubilo led that suit. Fredin won in hand and led a spade to the king. When it held the heart finesse looks safe enough (yes, you might lose out to heart ruffs, but only then). Fredin led a low trump off dummy though, and if East had won and shifted to a club, declarer might have had a problem. But East did not know what declarer's clubs were and Versace had followed with encouraging diamonds at trick one and as a discard, so Giubilo pressed on with diamonds and now Fredin had no problem winning in hand and pitching dummy's club loser. Then he could cross to the ace of clubs and play a third trump, and had control.

At the other table, on a club lead, De Falco had four finesses to consider, but with neither spades nor hearts behaving, the critical finesses were in the minors. He guessed to take the club ace, but then crossed to the diamond ace to lead a spade to the king, and now could no longer avoid three losers in the majors.

The Swedes still had 7 IMPs to spare when time ran out on an Italian comeback. Congratulations to Peter Bertheau, Björn Fallenius, Peter Fredin and Fredrik Nyström.

AN ENTERTAINING WEEKEND

Coriolan Neamtu, Bucharest

A very personal report with a few laughs about the 2008 Yeh Bros Cup.

From my point of view as an enthusiastic bridge player, nothing is more exciting than to watch a Vugraph match between bridge titans - whether they fight for a title, for renown, or only for money. Just as some people like to go to the opera or concerts, or prefer to follow the striking of a small ball with a cudgel, for me, bridge Vugraph fits as snugly as a glove.

For my enjoyment of the Yeh Bros Cup weekend I must thank Fred Gitelman for his magnificent invention BBO and the Vugraph show offered free to the bridge community. The success of this broadcast is also due to the quality of the operators who transmit the matches and to the competent co-ordination by Roland Wald,

maître de cérémonie, who chooses the commentators too. Referring to this matter, many are excellent (I'll not mention who, it's well known), but some only make comments such as, "I think that will make the game", or "That will squeeze the defender," and other such remarks.

Watching a match in your armchair is very pleasant. One can be critical at a commentator's expense, or of the player's competence, and you can shout at declarer's line of play without violating the kibitzer code. All this is like manna from heaven for kibitzers: to see all four hands, proving the German saying, "*Der beste Kartenspieler ist der Kiebitz!*"

We online kibitzers have a secret wish to see them - they who are better than us - make a mistake. This is behaviour similar to those who go to the circus with the hope that one of the lions will finally ignore the whip and will leap upon the trainer's neck, or to those who go to the *corrida* only to see a bull poke his horns into the matador's posterior. *N'est-ce pas?*

The Yeh Bros Cup has an established reputation as a very important team tournament. This year the event, played in Kaohsiung (Taiwan), had plenty of drama, mistakes and extraordinary misses. The event is sponsored by Mr. Yeh and has generous cash prizes: \$158,000 total, with \$60,000 to the winner of the teams and \$30,000 for the runner-up. Guests of the sponsor were the Bermuda Bowl finalists, the top three from the European Championship, other zonal champions and some other famous teams. So, we had, not even five months after Shanghai, a second mini-world championship. There were 24 participating teams, including USA, Italy, Australia, France, Egypt, Israel, India, Holland, Norway, Sweden, Russia, South Africa, Hong Kong, and Japan.

And now, you are ready for a deal or two?

My first deal comes from the fratricidal match (how I love that term) between Norway and Sweden, and my secret wish was to see how the world champions *en titre* would be defeated by their eternal rivals and neighbours. And so it was.

K.O. Sweden v Norway. Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Tundal	Nyström	Grotheim	Bertheau
—	1 ♥	Pass	2 ♣ ^R
Pass	2 NT ^A	Pass	3 ♣ ^R
Pass	3 NT ^A	Pass	4 ♣ ^R
Pass	4 ♦ ^A	Pass	4 ♠ ^R
Pass	4 NT ^A	Pass	5 ♣
Pass	5 ♦	Pass	5 ♠
Pass	5 NT	Pass	6 ♣
Pass	6 ♥	Pass	7 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

R = Relay

A = Answer to relay

West	North	East	South
Fallenius	Kvam	Fredin	Helgemo
—	1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♠	Pass	5 NT
Pass	6 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

The bids not annotated with "R" or "A" in Nyström-Bertheau's auction were either natural or cue bids, and only these bids were not alerted. Seven spades made in both rooms, but it was 11 IMPs for Sweden, who bid the grand slam and won the match.

As you see, the sequence at Nyström-Bertheau's table was a series of relays. The Swedes play an elaborate system of relays which I was determined to criticize because for me, an amateur, it was not clear if the intricate sequences were designed to reach the best contract or to confuse the opponents, or, indeed, to offer them useful informations for the conduct of the defence. But after this impeccable sequence made by Nyström-Bertheau, they arrived in the optimum contract, while the Norwegians, quickly and modestly, remained in the small slam.

In the face of such an outstanding result, allow me to propose this deal as a candidate for the IBPA's Romex Best Bid Hand of the Year award.

My second exhibit was also very exciting and I was delighted to have logged on to BBO to see it. (*This is the deal that is the topic of the editorial. See page 1 for the hand record.*)

Imagine yourself Lew Stansby, after the play, opening a window and throwing yourself into the abyss, eventually asking JoAnna, "You had the ace of hearts?" Because, you can see how many down De Falco would have gone on the heart queen lead.

In unison, after DeFalco claimed, the opponents called: "Directoooooor!", invoking a wrong explanation of the three-heart bid and asking for an adjusted score.

'The pope's chevalier' was in no doubt and awarded 1 IMP to USA 1 on the deal.

For me, and for anyone of good faith, it's clear that East made a stupid lead (*not so clear – Ed.*) and he was good for payment. I would never lead a spade, even under torture. It's presumed that any player of their calibre has a sixth sense, but maybe it was atrophied, or perhaps Lew was under hypnosis? The suit in which Garozzo – who alone had more Bermuda Bowl wins than all the other participants put together – wanted to play a grand slam !? Also, for me to go home and tell my friends that I won a match against Garozzo in the appeals committee is inconceivable.

In fact, if I reflect a little on the matter, all four players present at the table must need a psychiatrist, not a director:

The first was Papi, who forgot his own convention and declared *d'emblee* seven spades.

The second was Dano DeFalco who, having many examples from the past with his partner, should have taken it more slowly. First, say he has diamonds, next clubs. Logical, no?

The third was Joanna Stansby, because of the doubles.

The fourth, and the one who merits 99.9% of the blame, was Lew, because any beginner knows that, having the queen and jack, he must hope that the king is on the table and maybe the ace with partner. You lead a singleton only when you want a ruff. Certainty, he was hypnotized, I'm absolutely sure.

I don't have the details to tell you about what happened later in the Stansbys' house. (*They are both very tolerant and supportive partners. – Ed.*) However, justice triumphed when Italy won the match easily.

The final of this memorable event was also dramatic. Italy2, with a 30-IMP deficit before the last segment against Sweden, scored well on board after board, bringing down the difference to 7 IMPs with only three boards to play. But again a bidding accident by DeFalco-Garozzo cost them, this time 11 IMPs, and the title went to Sweden. Did justice triumph here as well?

Epilogue: Seeing the success of this tournament, a suggestion came to mind: Bill Gates, as interested in bridge as he is, should sponsor an invitational event for 16 top pairs similar to the Macallan, Generali, Cap Gemini, Sunday Times etc.? And with generous prizes, more than those offered by Mr. Yeh or the Cavendish, he could show to all that Microsoft is at the top of the bridge world as it is in software.

IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

429. Dealer West. E-W Vul.

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

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

This deal occurred in a teams match and the auction was the same at both tables, as was the heart king lead. Upon winning the ace, both declarers drew trumps with the ace and queen but then their paths diverged.

The first declarer led a diamond to the queen and was disappointed when East took this with the king. The club exit was covered by the ten and take by West with the king who then shifted back to diamonds. Declarer rose with the ace of diamonds and, hoping for a 3-3 diamond break or for East to hold the queen of clubs, played a third round of diamonds to East's ten. When East placed a club on the table, declarer played the jack of clubs and West's queen of clubs was the setting trick.

The declarer at the other table showed how to make the contract against any distribution of the outstanding cards. After ruffing the six of hearts in dummy at trick four, he played the ace of diamonds followed by the four of diamonds. East took this with the ten of diamonds and shifted to a club. Declarer played the ten of clubs and West took this with the queen of clubs only to find himself end-played. West saw that the only chance for the defence was that East held the jack of clubs and so he exited with the club king. This gave declarer two club tricks to go with his five trumps, a heart ruff and the two red aces.

Notice that had West exited with a low diamond, declarer would play dummy's queen of diamonds and it would either hold the trick or, if East produced the king of diamonds, the suit would be 3-3. Either way, declarer would make ten tricks.

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430. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

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

While this was not an elegant auction the final contract was a good one but declarer made something of a meal of the play.

West led the jack of spades to declarer's king. After cashing the ace of diamonds, declarer crossed to dummy with the ace of clubs and led a second diamond. When East discarded a heart there was no longer any way to make nine tricks.

Declarer's error was to play the second diamond. The best approach, which guarantees nine tricks whenever clubs are no worse than 4-2, is to advance dummy's queen of clubs with the intention of discarding the ace of spades. When East takes his king of clubs, the best he can do is to play another spade. Declarer makes two spades, two diamonds and five clubs.

Of course if clubs prove to be 5-1, declarer has the additional chance of bringing in an extra trick in diamonds.

431. Dealer West. N-S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
1 ♦	Double	1 ♥	2 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	pass
Pass			

As it turned out, East's dicey bid of one heart gave declarer the information to bring home his contract.

West led the two of hearts, an obvious singleton. Declarer took this with dummy's ace of hearts and led the king of trumps, which held the trick. As he had only one sure entry to his hand, declarer made the crucial move of cashing the king and queen of diamonds before calling for the jack of trumps. Anxious not to be left on play, West took this with the ace and exited with his remaining trump which declarer took in hand with the queen. After discarding one of dummy's clubs on the ace of diamonds, declarer gave the defenders a choice of poisons by exiting with the seven of clubs.

As West did not want to be on play he followed with the two, forcing East to win the trick. After winning the heart exit with dummy's king, declarer played a club to his king. East could do no better than taking this with the ace and exiting with the queen of clubs. This allowed dummy to ruff while declarer threw his remaining heart from hand.

432. Dealer West. E-W Vul.

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

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

When North doubled the weak two-bid for take-out, South showed his values with a leap to three spades. As he had no attractive continuation, North raised this to game and West began by leading the ace-king of hearts.

While five diamonds might have been easier to play, that is no reason to fail in four spades and declarer showed how to survive the moderately unfavourable layout shown. After ruffing the second heart, he crossed to dummy with a trump to the ace to ruff dummy's last heart. Then, after drawing two more rounds of trumps with dummy's king-queen, declarer simply played on diamonds.

This gave East the choice of two evils. The first was to ruff the fourth round of diamonds with the ten of trumps and then to have to return a club into dummy's ace-queen, thereby conceding the contract. The second was to discard a club, which would allow declarer to cash the ace of clubs for his tenth trick.



WHITE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL TEAMS

Amsterdam, February 22-24, 2008

Jan van Cleeff, Amsterdam,

Lex de Groot, Arnhem,

Rosaline Barendregt, Amsterdam

And the Five Level Belongs to...

Sixteen invited teams were divided into two seeded sections - the top two in each section would contest the semifinals.

Board ten of round one gave us some nice long suits. They had to be treated carefully:

Lavazza vs. Dutch Women

RR 1. Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Simons</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Pasman</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
—	—	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♥ ¹	Pass	2 NT ²
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Diamonds
2. Spade one-suiter

On a heart lead declarer took all thirteen tricks.

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>Vriend</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Arnolds</i>
—	—	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	3 NT	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	5 ♦	Pass	5 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Agustin Madala led a low club (good lead!). Antonio Sementa cashed two top clubs and returned the diamond nine (good switch!), destroying transportation. Five spades minus one is another clear indication that the five level is not where you want to be.

Wrang, not Wrong

How would you play six spades from the East seat on the following deal?

Sweden vs. Israel

RR 3. Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Nilsson</i>	<i>O Herbst</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>I Herbst</i>
1 ♣	Pass	1 NT	Pass
Zillion relays and...		Responses ²	
...	Pass	4NT ³	Pass
5 ♥	Pass	6 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Game forcing, 5+ spades
2. At least 5/5 in spades and diamonds
3. Roman Key Card for spades

Ilan Herbst led the queen of hearts. I was kibitzing the declarer, Fredric Wrang from Stockholm. The Swede went into the tank. I have to admit that I had no clue how to play the hand, but Wrang had. To the first trick he played low from dummy and ruffed in his hand. Next, he cashed his top diamonds, pitching a club and a heart from the dummy. He ruffed the third diamond with the three as South discarded a club. Now Wrang cashed the ace and king of clubs, ruffed a heart, ruffed a diamond, ruffed another heart, and ruffed the fifth diamond with the ace. In the three-card ending he discarded his last diamond on the club queen, and when Ophir Herbst, North, followed suit, declarer showed his spade fork. He made twelve tricks no matter who possessed the trump queen. Wrang not Wrong! The full layout:

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

Israel vs. Team Orange Red. Round 6.

Board 24. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

(See next page.) Israel's Ilan Herbst declared four hearts from the South chair. He won the diamond lead with the ace and played a spade to the jack. West won and tabled the king of clubs, won with the ace. Herbst then played a trump to his queen and a trump to the ace,

noting the 4-1 distribution. A low club from dummy was led and when East followed low, South's ten won the trick. Herbst continued with the nine of clubs. In with the club queen, Ton Bakkeren switched to a spade. Herbst won the ten and ended up with eleven tricks.

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

In the other room, the contract was the same. Here declarer, Berry Westra, won the diamond queen opening lead in the dummy, played a spade to the jack and ace, and also won the club king switch with the ace. He then cashed the ace and king of trumps, played the spade king and ruffed a spade. Westra finessed the ten of trumps and drew the last trump, pitching a club from dummy (a diamond instead would have done the job).

Now, convinced that west held the club queen, he played club ten, overtaking with the jack. East won and returned a club, setting up the eight as a winner when he came in with the queen of spades. Down one. Israel won the match 17-13 and became one of the top four qualifiers.

A Birthday Present

**Lavazza vs. Russia. Semifinals, Session I.
Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
Zmudzinski	Madala	Balicki	Sementa
—	—	Pass	1 ♣
1 ♦	Double!	3 ♠	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	
1. Hearts			

Sementa had a spade stopper and a running suit - and who cares about diamonds? Zmudzinski happily cashed the suit and that was that. Down two.

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Gromov	Bocchi	Dubinini
—	—	Pass	2 ♣
2 ♦	2 ♥	3 ♠	5 ♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Giorgio Duboin cashed two top diamonds and erred by switching to spades. It took only three rounds of trumps for West(!) to concede eleven tricks to declarer on a red-suit squeeze. That was a nice present for Gromov, who celebrated his birthday today.

The top finishers were:

1. **Lavazza** - Bocchi-Duboin, Sementa-Madala, Lavazza-Ferraro npc: Massimo Ortensi
2. **Bulgaria** - Popova-Gunev, Stefanov-Aronov
3. **Russia** - Gromov-Dubinini, Zmudzinski-Balicki

WHITE HOUSE JUNIOR INTERNATIONALS

9-16 March 2008

'Witte Huis' in Amsterdam
Kees Tammens, Amsterdam

Twenty-three matches over four days produces many stories (see www.jeugdbridge.nl for results, photos and hands).

The Round Robin ranking:

1	Netherlands Blue	401
2	Poland U20	400
3	Israel	398
4	Netherlands Red	396

Semi-final

It was Netherlands Blue versus Red and Israel versus Poland U-20 in the semi-finals. At halftime (the matches consisted of two halves of 12 boards) the Israeli juniors had a comfortable lead whilst the difference between the Dutch teams was a mere 4 IMPs. Bob Drijver from Red did very well in a touchy four hearts to win one valuable IMP on the following deal.

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
	Groenenboom		Drijver
—	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	4 ♦	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

At the other table North opened two no trump and ended in four spades which made in comfort.

At Drijver's table, it was a big hand for North after the one-heart response. It was not easy to make only one slam try, and the pass after four hearts was very disciplined. Commentators on BBO predicted that four hearts would become very difficult. Declarer Bob Drijver proved them to be wrong.

Drijver took the lead of of the spade four (second/fourth) with the ace and immediately played the diamond queen. East took the king and played back a second diamond, ruffed in dummy. Declarer crossed to the queen of spades and took a successful finesse for the club king. He followed with the ace of clubs, throwing a spade, and a club ruff, dropping West's king. A second diamond ruff followed.

With a perfect count for the whole distribution, and guided by the lead, declarer deduced spades were divided 3-2 with three in West, who also seemed to have three diamonds and three clubs. That gave West four cards in hearts. So declarer took one round of trumps with the ace, cashed the spade king, ruffed a spade with the queen of hearts, and played a diamond to score the ten of hearts en passant for plus 450.

The semi-finals ended with Israel beating Poland. And how did things proceed with the Dutch teams, Blue versus Red? After 24 boards nothing was decided: it was 55-55! Drijver's IMP in four hearts had meant the match was tied. This required two extra boards (the rules stated that the tiebreaker was two boards, then another two if necessary, and then – nobody likes it – a throw of the dice!).

What would you lead from:

♠ K 8 5 3
♥ 6 5
♦ A Q 8 7
♣ 10 7 6

against the auction one on trump-three no trump? The Dutch Blue Team player led a diamond, allowing three no trump to make, losing the match, whereas a spade would have led to two off and a win.

So it was Netherlands Red versus Israel in the final. In this match the Dutch juniors had built a substantial lead (45-17) with five boards to play. Then the unimaginable happened. Israel came back and after 24 boards it was 52-52. A second tiebreaker was necessary! In a really thrilling atmosphere the players returned to the table for another two boards. It was Israel that prevailed and

lifted the Carrousel Cup. Poland and Netherlands Blue were tired but played each other in the play-off for third place; the Polish U-20 won.

Everybody involved hopes that 2009 will produce another White House Junior Internationals. Big thanks to Stichting Topbridge of the NBB, UMW, Modalfa, van Lanschot Bankiers, Neat, Transfer Solutions, bridge friends Jos Jansen, Hans Grauw, Ruud van Rosmalen, Wouter Dormits and especially Peter Sisselaar, who astonished everybody with his speech at the opening of the tournament - in English, German, French and even in Dutch. Without all these guys and also without the gigantic effort of Roos (who daily took care of over 150 juniors) and Paul (who cooked every day for 150 in the Witte Huis), this wonderful event would not have been possible.

Detroit NABC

Paul Linxwiler, Memphis
Barry Rigal, New York

NA Pairs
Paul Linxwiler

Players often bid two distributional hands to game with a combined 24 high-card points. Occasionally, they might even bid a small slam with that number. But what about a grand slam? Chuck Said and David Siebert did exactly that on this deal and it helped them finish second in the Baldwin North American Pairs.

Dealer East. EW Vul.

♠ 5 3 2
♥ Q J 10 9 7
♦ A 10 9 8 6
♣ —

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

♠ A K
♥ A K 8 4 3 2
♦ 5
♣ Q J 7 2

West	North	East	South
—	Siebert		Said
—	—	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	2 NT ¹	Pass	3 ♦ ²
Pass	4 ♣ ³	Double	4 NT ⁴
Pass	6 ♣ ⁵	Pass	7 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

- Jacoby 2NT
- Diamond shortness
- Cue bid
- RKCB
- One key card plus a club void

Of his six-club bid, Siebert said, "I was light on points," said Siebert, "but I wasn't going to lie now." After that, Said could visualize 13 tricks and bid the grand slam. The play was routine, and scored all the match points.

Three Little Pigs Barry Rigal

East-West have a tough problem here - one that was not solved by too many defenders. Let's look at the Three Little Pigs at work.

Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	1 ♣
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	1 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Little Pig Number One was East, defending against one no trump. On the lead of the four of diamonds to East's king, South carelessly followed with the two, not the six, so Number One knew the layout of the diamonds. What to do? He built a house of straw, playing the ace and another diamond. After West cashed the last diamond, he shifted to the king of clubs, which was allowed to hold. Declarer won the spade shift, gave up a heart and claimed plus 90 – that was 3 match points on a 24 top for Little Pig Number One.

Little Pig Number Two built his house from sticks. He won the diamond king and shifted to the spade queen, which could have been right on some layouts, but this was not his day, and declarer scored the same minus 90 as against Little Pig Number One. Number Two scored 3 of 24 as well.

Little Pig Number Three did rather better: he built his house from bricks. Number Three shifted boldly to the six of clubs, ducked to West's ten. West returned another diamond, and now a second club through South produced plus 100. East West scored 20 out of 24 for that effort.

All well and good, but if declarer had begun life with a different 3=3=3=4 hand, (one with the heart king and the ace-king-queen of clubs, for example), this line of defence would concede the contract when Little Pig

Number Two's spade shift defeats it easily – then their scores would have been reversed.

The Big Bad Wolf showed the way, finally triumphing after centuries of abject failure. He went for a more cooperative defence. At trick two, BBW returned his low diamond to West's queen, and waited for his partner's suit preference from the remaining two diamonds to tell him to which suit to shift. When the eight of diamonds was led back to his ace, the Big Bad Wolf shifted to a club to ensure that his side defeated the contract by at least one trick – this scored 16 out of 24 for the defenders.

Expert(?) Thought Processes Paul Linxwiler

East-West have a real problem after South opens a club preempt - how to get to four hearts. At one table, they were faced with a somewhat different problem, one that they failed to solve successfully. The footnotes (using editorial license) are supposed to represent the players' thoughts.

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	Pass	Pass ¹	1 NT ²
2 ♦ ³	Double ⁴	2 ♥ ⁵	Pass ⁶
Pass	Double ⁷	Pass	3 ♣ ⁸
Pass	3 NT ⁹	Pass	Pass ¹⁰
Pass ¹¹			

1. I used to open these hands two spades, but now I've grown up.
2. I have not grown up. I know the opponents don't play a penalty double of 1NT.
3. I wish I were playing penalty doubles.
4. That's what a penalty double looks like.
5. I hope they double me here.
6. I've probably done enough so far.
7. That's what a penalty double looks like.
8. Maybe I should sit for the double ... hmm, maybe not.
9. Guess we'd better bid game then.
10. Maybe this is our cheapest minus score.
11. Wish we were playing penalty doubles!

The play was equally remarkable. West led the ace of diamonds, then shifted to the heart king. South (who was later heard remarking that he wished he'd had enough nerve to duck) won the heart ace and cashed his nine tricks. Plus 400 was enough to keep South happy for the rest of the evening (maybe the rest of the tournament).

The Other Cohen Barry Rigal

The late Ralph and Joan Cohen had considerable success as players, and their son Billy has done even better. But their son Jordan is no slouch as a player either. Here he is at work in the second round of the Vanderbilt:

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

1. Bart - inquiring about heart support.

Cohen received a heart lead against five clubs. He took East's queen with the ace, ducked a diamond to East, won the heart continuation in dummy with the nine and ruffed a diamond low. A club to dummy for a diamond ruff brought him to the critical moment of the deal. It might have been right to take a spade finesse, but he elected to ruff a diamond, play the ace and ruff a spade, then ruff the fourth diamond and ruff another spade, bringing down the spade king. This was the ending:

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

Jordan cashed the club king and led the heart king. In this position he was 100% to make: either hearts were 3-3 or the player with the doubleton heart would ruff and be forced to give declarer the last trick by leading a spade to the queen.

Welcome to Detroit, Mister! Barry Rigal

Larry Cohen played the he-man here.

Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Cohen	Waletzky	Berkowitz	Becker
—	—	Pass	1 ♣
1 ♦	2 ♦	Double	3 ♣
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	3 NT
Double	Redouble	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Playing against Neil Waletzky and Phil Becker, Cohen first of all overcalled, then found the psychic double of three no trump.

This was not the right moment for this action. The opponents turned the cube and collected 800. Berkowitz and Cohen staggered away from the table, holding their respective foreheads, to hear one opponent mutter to the other, "Next time, don't try and mess with *us*."

Winners of the major championships were:

Vanderbilt KO Teams - Krzysztof Jassem, Krzysztof Martens, Jerzy Skrzypczak, Boguslaw Gierulski, npc Piotr Walczak

Open Pairs - Robert Lebi, Dan Jacob

North American Pairs - Xiaodong Shi, David Yang

IMP Pairs - Doug Doub, Adam Wildavsky

Women's Pairs - Lynn Feldman, Chris Benson

Mixed Pairs - Gail Greenberg, Jeff Hand

Senior Pairs - Sheldon Kirsch, Morrie Kleinplatz

Open Swiss Teams - Perry Johnson, Jeff Meckstroth, Chris Compton, Eric Rodwell

Women's Swiss Teams - Cheri Bjerkan, Sue Weinstein, Lisa Berkowitz, Joann Glasson

NEWS & VIEWS

DUBOIN EARNS SPORTSMANSHIP HONOUR

Giorgio Duboin is the 2008 Sidney H. Lazard Jr. Sportsman of the Year. He is the first person from outside North America to be accorded the title, named for the late son of many-time North American champion Sidney Lazard. "Sportsmanship," said Lazard, "is and should be an international ideal to strive for. Giorgio has been attending our tournaments for years and, in the opinion of the (selection) committee, there is not a better choice."

2008 WORLD WIDE BRIDGE CONTEST

The 2008 World Wide Bridge Contest will be held on Friday 6th and Saturday 7th June and is open to clubs throughout the world. Participants receive the excellent commentary by Eric Kokish and then have the fun of watching the results being uploaded to the servers from all the participating clubs. Their scores will change throughout the next 24 / 48 hours as new sets of results are sent in and the event is re-scored across the whole field each time. Then the final winner is announced.

If you would like a copy of the 2008 commentary in Word format for use in any articles, contact Anna Gudge at anna@ecats.co.uk.

NICKELL, PASSELL ELECTED TO ACBL HALL OF FAME

Nick Nickell and Mike Passell, two of North America's top players, have been elected to the ACBL Bridge Hall of Fame. Induction ceremonies will take place during the 2008 Summer NABC in Las Vegas.

Nickell is president and CEO of Kelso & Co., a New York City firm specializing in private equity investing. He is a three-time winner of the Bermuda Bowl and has 17 North American championships to his credit, including nine wins in the Spingold Knockout Teams. He is an ACBL Grand Life Master and a World Grand Master in World Bridge Federation rankings. Nickell is also a former winner of the Cavendish Invitational Pairs and received

the Sidney Lazard Jr. Sportsmanship Award for 2005.

Passell, who lives in Las Vegas, is a full-time player and Bermuda Bowl champion (1979) with 21 North American championships to his credit. With Paul Soloway's death last year, Passell became the ACBL's top living masterpoint holder, just short of 60,000. He is expected to become the all-time leader in two to three years. Passell won the McKenney trophy in 1976 and has been the leading masterpoint winner at NABCs on three occasions. He is an ACBL Grand Life Master and a WBF World Grand Master.

JERRY MACHLIN NAMED TO ACBL HALL OF FAME

Jerry Machlin, the longtime ACBL tournament director, has been named the recipient of this year's Blackwood Award by the ACBL Hall of Fame Committee. The Blackwood Award is given to individuals who have contributed greatly to the game of bridge without necessarily being world-class players.

Machlin (1913-1997) was a resident of Silver Spring MD and began his directing career in the Forties at the encouragement of his uncle, the legendary tournament director Al Sobel, who is also a member of the Bridge Hall of Fame. Machlin was treasurer and ACBL tournament coordinator for the Mid-Atlantic (Districts 6 and 7) for many years. He penned "The Poor Man's 30 (&60) Days" column in the Washington Bulletin, and wrote a book, *Tournament Bridge: An Uncensored Memoir*.

2009 WORLD BRIDGE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2009 Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup, Seniors Bowl and the World Transnational Open Teams Championship will be held in São Paulo, Brazil from 29th August – 12th September 2009. The headquarters hotel will be: Hotel Transamerica, Av. Nacoes Unidas, 18591, São Paulo – 04795-901 S.P., Brazil. As more information becomes available, it will be published on the WBF Site at www.worldbridge.org and also on www.ecatsbridge.com.

World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
2008			
Apr 7-13	Women's Bridge Festival	BBO	www.worldbridge.org
Apr 8-13	Kitzbüheler Bridgewoche	Kitzbühl, Austria	www.bridgeaustria.at
Apr 9-13	17 th Syrian International Bridge Festival	Damascus, Syria	www.worldbridge.org
Apr 15-20	23 rd Portuguese Grand Prix	Estoril, Portugal	www.fpbridge.pt
Apr 25-May 8	Festival Juan-les-Pins	Juan-les-Pins, France	www.festivalsdusoleil.com
Apr 28-May 10	School Bridge League End of Year Spring Tournament - Online -		schoolbridgeleague@leagueworldwide.org
Apr 30-May 1	Bonn Nations Cup	Bonn, Germany	g.mattsson@t-online.de
Apr 30-May 2	2 nd Balkan Friendship Bridge Festival	Halkidiki, Greece	www.event-consulting.gr
May 1-4	Festival de Bridge 2008	Lacanau, France	www.festibridge.com
May 1-9	South Africa National Congress	Cape Town, South Africa	www.sabf.co.za
May 7-11	Cavendish Invitational	Las Vegas, NV	www.cavendishinvitational.com
May 12-18	XXI Torneo de Bridge Costa Calida	Murcia, Spain	http://bridgeecc.com
May 16-18	13 th Southern Regional	Port of Spain, Trinidad, WI	www.cacbf.com
May 16-25	XX Festival Costa Brava	Lloret de Mar, Spain	www.ffb-competitions.net
May 23-27	20 th Cyprus Festival	Limassol, Cyprus	www.bridge.org.cy/festivals.shtm
May 23-Jun 1	10 th German Bridge Festival	Wyk auf Föhr, Germany	www.bridge-verband.de
Jun 6&7	Worldwide Simultaneous Pairs	Clubs Worldwide	www.worldbridge.org
Jun 4-8	Geologi Cup	Bandung, Indonesia	www.gabsi.or.id
Jun 13-15	21 st OECS Championships	Rodney Bay, St. Lucia	www.cacbf.com
Jun 14-19	Festival de Bridge à Blaye	Blaye, Gironde, France	www.ffb-competitions.net
Jun 14-21	Campeonato Sudamericano	Lima, Peru	admin@bridgeperu.org
Jun 14-28	49 th European Championships	Pau, France	www.eurobridge.org
Jun 17-28	26 th International Bridge Festival	Albena, Bulgaria	www.bridgealbena.org
Jul 1-13	Biarritz International Festival	Biarritz, France	www.biarritz-bridge.com
Jul 3-6	1 st Youth NABC	Atlanta, GA	www.acbl.org
Jul 5-13	Danish Bridge Festival	Vingsted, Denmark	www.bridge.dk
Jul 12-20	2nd Italian Senior Festival	Riccione, Italy	www.eurobridge.org
Jul 15-18	9 th European Youth Pairs Championship	Wroclaw, Poland	www.eurobridge.org
Jul 17-27	ACBL Summer NABC	Las Vegas, NV	www.acbl.org
Jul 25-Aug 3	Chairman's Cup/XIV Festival	Örebro, Sweden	www.svenskbridge.se
Jil 27-Aug	Hong Kong Inter-City	Hong Kong, China	www.hkcba.org
Aug 3-9	Wachauer Bridgewoche	Loiben, Austria	www.bridgeaustria.at
Aug 7-10	Pesta Sukan	Singapore	www.scba.org.sg
Aug 8-17	Summer Congress	Brighton, England	www.ebu.co.uk
Aug 9-16	32 nd International Bridge Festival	Varna, Bulgaria	bcv_varna@hotmail.com
Aug 14-17	HCL International Tournament	Delhi, India	www.cba.org.in
Aug 21-23	KEPRI Governor's Cup	Batam, Indonesia	www.gabsi.or.id
Aug 29-Sep 7	6 th PABF Congress/1st Asian Cup	Surfer's Paradise, Australia	www.qldbridge.com
Sep 2-7	4 th World University Championships	Lodz, Poland	www.unibridge.org
Sep 6-13	47 th International Bridge Festival	Pula, Croatia	www.crobridge.com/pula
Sep 10-14	Festival del Bridge	Venice, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Sep 15-19	2 nd Buffett Cup	Lexington, KY	www.buffettcup.com
Sep 19-28	Geurnsey & Senior Congresses	Geurnsey, Channel Islands	www.ebu.co.uk
Sep 26-28	Vilnius Cup	Vilnius, Lithuania	k.vasauskaite@transp.lt
Sep 27-Oct 5	New Zealand National Congress	Hamilton, NZ	www.nzcba.co.nz
Oct 3-18	13 th World Bridge Games (ex-Olympiad)	Beijing, China	www.worldbridge.org
Oct 3-18	1 st World Mind Sports Games	Beijing, China	www.worldbridge.org
Oct 3-18	12 th World Youth Championships	Beijing, China	www.worldbridge.org
Oct 5-7	Oltania Team Cup	Gura Vaii, Romania	www.ecatsbridge.com
Oct 9-14	Mercian Dubrovnik Congress	Dubrovnik, Croatia	www.ebu.co.uk
Oct 21-25	18 th Sun, Sea & Slams	Barbados	www.cacbf.com
Nov 1-2	62 nd Lederer Memorial Trophy	London, England	www.metrobridge.co.uk
Nov 13-23	14 th Red Sea International Festival	Eilat, Israel	birmant@inter.net.il
Nov 20-23	29 th International Bridge Festival	Brasov, Romania	bridge-club-brasov@as.ro
Nov 20-30	ACBL Fall NABC	Boston, MA	www.acbl.org
Nov 24&26	European Simultaneous Pairs	Clubs in Europe	www.ecatsbridge.com
Nov 28-30	Sicily Open	Cefalù, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Dec 1-7	Festival de Mar del Plata	Mar del Plata, Argentina	www.bridgeargentino.org.ar
Dec 6-8	Città di Milano International Teams	Milan, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Dec 8-12	ASEAN Bridge Club Championships	Bandung, Indonesia	www.gabsi.or.id
Dec 19-21	Junior Channel Trophy	Belgium	www.ebu.co.uk