



## BULLETIN

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## Europe Defeats North America in 2<sup>nd</sup> Buffett Cup



**The European Team** - Back row: Boye Brogeland, Espen Lindqvist, Michel Bessis, Paul Hackett (Captain), Thomas Bessis, Hugh McGann, Tom Hanlon; Front row: Michal Kwiecien, Jacek Pszczola, Marion Michielsen, Sabine Auken, Jan Petter Svendsen, Tor Helness



**The North American Team** - Back row: Dick Freeman, Alan Sontag, Tobi Sokolow, Donna Compton (Captain), Janice Molson, Howie Weinstein, Geoff Hampson; Front row: Bob Hamman, David Berkowitz, Bjorn Fallenius, Roy Welland, Steve Garner, Zia Mahmood

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## 2<sup>nd</sup> BUFFETT CUP

Louisville KY, September 15-18, 2008

**Partick Jourdain, Cardiff**

Winds of 75 miles per hour met some of the players arriving for the second Buffett Cup match between the USA and Europe in Louisville, Kentucky. Most of the European team had flown in on Saturday a few hours before the edge of the hurricane struck Louisville. The unlucky one was Sabine Auken whose flight from Chicago had been cancelled due to mechanical failure, and the replacement was delayed due to the closure of the airport.

By Sunday afternoon the Europeans were all on site, the Galt House Hotel, with a spectacular setting on the edge of the Ohio River. But the American team still had four of its players stranded at airports seeking flights to Louisville. Play was due to start at 10.30 am on Monday morning.

Last to arrive was Zia Mahmood. "He doesn't want to play with me," grumbled partner Bob Hamman with a grin, "he's just using that old excuse, a cancelled flight!" Roy Welland, a member of the organising Committee and also on the USA team, hosted a welcoming party on the Sunday evening. There the draw for the first day was conducted.

Some readers may be confused by the scoring, so here is how it works: the scoring mimics the Ryder Cup of Golf which follows the Buffett Cup match in the same city. Both teams have 12 players and a captain who selects its line-ups. The golf has three formats: four-ball (better-ball), foursomes (alternate shot), and singles. The bridge has Pairs, Teams, and Individual. Each hole played in a golf match has a win, lose or draw result, and each deal in a bridge match has the same. Point-a-board (or board-a-match) scoring makes every board of equal importance, whether it is a lowly part-score or a grand slam. If you have a better score than the table with which you are comparing you have won the board, irrespective of the size of the difference. The six bridge tables were in two rows of three with comparison between matching tables. All matches were on [www.bridgebase.com](http://www.bridgebase.com) with the exception of a few not shown due to technical difficulties.

Have you heard the tip: "If you want a ruff, lead a trump!" Well it held true on this next deal. On Board 4 Sontag found a great lead, combined with accurate defence later, to find the only way to defeat Tor Helness in his two-heart part-score.

### Pairs. Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

<p>♠ A 2 ♥ K Q J 8 4 2 ♦ 9 ♣ K 8 7 6</p> <p>♠ 10 7 4 ♥ A 7 6 5 ♦ K 10 6 4 ♣ 10 4</p> <p>♠ K Q 9 3 ♥ 3 ♦ Q 8 5 3 2 ♣ J 5 3</p>	<p>♠ J 8 6 5 ♥ 10 9 ♦ A J 7 ♣ A Q 9 2</p>
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West	North	East	South
<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Sontag</i>	<i>Svendsen</i>
Pass	1 ♥	Double	Redouble <sup>1</sup>
2 ♦	2 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Sitting East, Sontag led a trump. That doesn't look necessary, but see what happened. Berkowitz won the ace, and switched to a club. Three rounds of the suit gave Berkowitz his first ruff, then a diamond lead to the ace and a fourth club gave Berkowitz another ruff! One down.

Note, if Sontag leads anything other than a trump, the defence cannot get two ruffs!

### Pairs. Board 49. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

Six no trump is on a finesse and, as we shall see, six diamonds is even better. If the diamond finesse is wrong you can even go off in three no trump. So in IMP scoring one should end in six diamonds.

What about point-a-board? That method certainly upgrades six no trumps as a contract (though against this is the fact that East had overcalled). Two of the six tables bid that slam.



East led a top spade. Declarer won, tested the clubs (no luck) and took the diamond finesse. East won and cashed a second spade. At two tables, West unblocked the nine of spades, and even where he didn't, it did not matter (declarer had also cashed hearts, so West was all winners!). As the two tables in six no trump down five were the same match it was a flat board.

Two declarers were in the best contract, six diamonds, and they had a hard luck story to tell.

West	North	East	South
Sontag	Hanlon	Berkowitz	McGann
—	1 NT <sup>1</sup>	2 ♥ <sup>2</sup>	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	3 NT	Pass	4 NT
Pass	6 ♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. 14-16
2. Showing spades

Tom Hanlon was in the best contract of six diamonds as North, and received the lead of the king of spades. As East had bid, the trump finesse was likely to be losing. So Hanlon began by laying down the ace of trumps. No joy.

Next he tried three rounds of clubs. If the suit was 3-3 or either defender had two clubs and Kx in trumps that would also bring home the slam. No luck again. West was able to ruff the third club with a small trump.

There was still another string to declarer's bow. The only trump out was the king. So Hanlon returned to dummy with a heart, ruffed a club to make the fifth club good, and then tried to get back to dummy to ditch his losing spade on the club. Now came the final straw: as East held a singleton heart he was able to ruff the second heart and cash the top spade for one off. How unlucky is that? Actually, not too unlucky, as the board was still a half with the other table going off in three no trump!

Now to the real bad luck story...

West	North	East	South
Brogeland	Sokolow	Lindqvist	Molson
—	1 NT	2 ♦ <sup>1</sup>	Double
Redouble <sup>2</sup>	3 ♦	Pass	6 ♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Single suited in a major
2. Bid your major

Sokolow was also in the excellent six diamonds. On the lead of the spade king she played it in identical fashion to Tom Hanlon for one off. Could it be a flat board, or even a gain against a no trump slam? Well, no, as this was the auction at the other table:

West	North	East	South
Hampson	Helness	Freeman	Svendsen
—	1 NT	2 ♣ <sup>1</sup>	Double
2 ♥	3 ♦	Pass	4 ♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

This auction came to a premature end as Svendsen thought his four-diamond bid was forcing, whereas Helness thought it was invitational. Of course, declarer had no problem in making his part-score, and all was forgiven when the result from the other table was a failing slam. That is the happy side of point-a-board. The missed game meant nothing.

#### Teams. Board 30. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Berkowitz	Pszczola	Sontag	Kwiecien
—	—	1 NT	4 ♠
4 NT <sup>1</sup>	5 ♠	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Two places to play

Point-a-board scoring is favourable for psyches because you are in a 50-50 win-lose position rather than the usual situation where the downside exceeds the upside. (Favourable may be an exaggeration, but certainly more favourable than at IMPs – a psyche at BAM can lose you 5% of your score in a 20-odd-board session, an amount similar to the risk at pairs scoring – a similar loss at IMPs could easily cost 25% or more of your total IMPs for the session. – Ed.)

On this deal at another table, Roy Welland, sitting South, tried an amazing psyche when East opened one no trump. He bid three hearts! The idea was that West might choose three no trump and South could smugly cash eight spades.

In practice West chose five diamonds. Fallenius, North, presumably checked the back of his cards to see if he had a hand from a different board. He could tell his partner had psyched and might deduce he had spades, but should he really risk five spades? (Anyway it is easier for East to find the winning lead than West). Fallenius chose to pass, five diamonds became the final contract, and North led the heart TWO suggesting he thought South was void. Five diamonds made easily, so the psyche, though certainly interesting, had lost the board.

Let's go back to our diagrammed table. Kwiecien's contract of five spades doubled hinged on the lead. When West decided to start with his singleton heart he must have initially been pleased to see partner win the ace. But declarer could ruff a second heart high, draw trumps and dispose of the losing club on a heart. This was plus 750 and a win for Europe on the board whereas a minor-suit lead would have beaten it.

Here was a brilliant co-operative defence by Tom Hanlon and Hugh McGann, certainly a candidate for some award.

**Teams. Board: 36 Dealer: West Vul: Both**

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

West	North	East	South
McGann	Hamman	Hanlon	Zia
Pass	1 ♣	2 ♥	2 ♠
3 ♥	3 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Against Zia's Three Spades, McGann led a low heart, as he would from any three-card holding, so when dummy played small Hanlon had to win with the king.

Let's analyse the contract. Declarer must lose two trumps, a heart and a club, and has to take care of two losing diamonds. But that does not look too difficult. The club suit in dummy could take care of both. Alternatively, if there was one boss trump out, declarer might ruff one diamond and throw the other on a good club.

The first move needed by the defence to spoil this plan was the diamond switch at trick two by Hanlon. Zia won in hand and led the king of trumps. If the defence take that and lead another trump, or play a second diamond, declarer can duck a club and is in control. But McGann, West, let the spade king hold! Suddenly the contract was in trouble.

Declarer could not afford to play another trump or West draws a third one and knocks out the ace of diamonds before declarer has set up the clubs. So Zia decided to play three rounds of clubs next. On the third club East, with another key play, discarded a diamond. West won and removed dummy's ace of diamonds. Zia could still not afford a second trump, so he tried the effect of playing a winning club.

Suppose East ruffs. Declarer over-ruffs. West can also over-ruff and cash a trump but dummy has a trump and winning club to take care of the two diamonds. So East must not ruff. What should he discard? Hanlon knew that West would ruff but would not know East's trump was big enough to beat dummy's eight. So he made the spectacular and informative discard of the ACE of hearts, leaving dummy's queen a winner!

That instruction was clear to West. He ruffed the fourth club and led a third diamond. East made his nine of trumps to beat the contract. Well done indeed.

At the other table the contract was also three spades. The play began the same way but when declarer, Kwiecien, led the king of trumps, West took it and so declarer was in control.

This deal also had interest in both bidding and play. Four different games were feasible!

**Teams. Board 67. Dealer South. EW Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
Berkowitz	Auken	Sontag	Michielsen
—	—	—	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	5 ♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West	North	East	South
T.Bessis	Hamman	M.Bessis	Zia
—	—	—	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 ♦
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	3 NT
Pass	4 ♣	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	5 ♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

The auctions differed but the final contract was the same: five diamonds by North. With East leading the eight of hearts there is plenty of guessing to do.

Both declarers began with two top hearts and then the jack. Berkowitz covered, Auken ruffed with the seven, and Sontag over-ruffed with the nine. A club back at this point probably gives declarer too much to do, but Sontag led a spade. Declarer misguessed again and the game was light.

At the second table Bessis Junior did not cover the heart jack and Hamman ditched his losing spade. That was enough to bring home the contract and the board.

In another match, Svendsen, with the South cards, somewhat anti-normal, opened one heart. This proved a success when the auction continued with two diamonds game-forcing from partner and Svendsen rebid two hearts. Not surprisingly, that led to four hearts which made an overtrick and won the board!

The full unopposed auction was: 1♥-2♦-2♥-2NT-3♦-3♥-4♦-4♥-Pass.

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

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

West	North	East	South
Brogeland	Garner	Auken	Hamman
—	—	—	1 ♥
Double	2 ♥	2 ♠	3 ♥
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

A spade was led to East's ten and a trump came back. Hamman finessed the ten. Brogeland won and exited with the king of hearts. Now Hamman smartly led the queen of diamonds from hand. Brogeland won with the king and had to decide on his exit.

First, imagine he leads a spade. Declarer has two entries to dummy with diamond ruffs and can set up and enjoy two spade tricks for club discards. So that was out. What about a diamond? Declarer can win the ten, and play two more rounds of diamonds, discarding two clubs from dummy! West has to win the fourth diamond and is endplayed again, this time fatally. Declarer either makes a spade or the king of clubs as his extra trick.

Finally Brogeland worked out that the safest exit was ace and another club. Though that gave South the king he only had two trumps in dummy to take care of three losers and the doubled contract had to fail.

Michel Bessis played this hand well:

**Individual. Board 22. Dealer East. EW Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
Sokolow	M.Bessis	Molson	Auken
—	—	Pass	1 ♣
Pass	1 ♦	1 ♥	Double
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Michel began to regret responding on the North cards as his partner forced the auction higher and higher. But when he saw dummy he became much happier. East led a trump. This was won in dummy and a diamond was played to the ten and queen. Bessis won the next trump in his own hand and led the ten of hearts covered by the jack and ace.

West ruffed with his last trump and exited with the queen of clubs. Bessis cashed the second top club and cross-ruffed clubs and diamonds until his trumps had gone. He then exited with a low heart to the seven and nine. As East had only hearts left he was end-played into leading away from the heart queen. Four spades was home.

The scoring summary:

	Europe	North America
<b>Pairs</b>	60.0	60.0
<b>Teams</b>	59.5	66.5
<b>Individual</b>	<u>86.0</u>	<u>46.0</u>
<b>Total</b>	205.5	172.5

# A SINGLE-SUIT SQUEEZE

Jim Gordon, S. Burlington, VT

One of the more interesting deals from the recent Buffett Cup appeared during the team portion of the competition. At Board-a-Match scoring, most of the tables ended in six no trump on the following:

Board 48. Dealer East. EW Vul.

<p>♠ K 5 2 ♥ A 8 ♦ J 2 ♣ A Q J 9 7 2</p> <p>♠ Q J 8 3 ♥ Q 10 3 2 ♦ 8 6 4 3 ♣ 6</p>	<p>♠ 10 9 6 ♥ J 6 5 4 ♦ 10 9 ♣ K 10 4 3</p> <p>♠ A 7 4 ♥ K 9 7 ♦ A K Q 7 5 ♣ 8 5</p>
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A typical auction had North transferring to clubs over South's one no trump opener and South choosing the higher-scoring alternative at the six-level.

West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♠ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	3♣ <sup>2</sup>
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♣	Pass	6NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

After the lead of a spade honour, it seems natural to take the club finesse and, when that fails and the Clubs don't split, to play for a double squeeze. Alan Sontag and David Berkowitz, playing East-West for the USA, showed how to handle that line: Sontag won the king of clubs and returned the spade ten; Berkowitz then discarded his remaining spades on the run of the diamonds to reach this end position:

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

West pitches the spade queen and East a small heart. With East protecting the black suits, there was no squeeze.

The contract was, however, makable! On this layout, East can never pitch a club, lest declarer give up a club and establish a long club as his twelfth trick. Retaining the spade king in dummy as a late entry, declarer runs diamonds after winning the opening lead, pitching two clubs and a spade from dummy. If East pitches two hearts, the play of the heart king and a heart to the ace finishes him off. If East pitches two spades to keep three hearts, the immediate play of a spade to the king turns the screws.

The end position:

<p>♠ K ♥ A 8 ♦ — ♣ A Q J 9</p> <p>♠ Q J 8 ♥ Q 10 3 ♦ — ♣ 6</p>	<p>♠ 10 6 or 10 or — ♥ J or J 6 or J 6 5 ♦ — ♣ K 10 4 3</p>	<p>♠ 7 4 ♥ K 9 7 ♦ — ♣ 8 5</p>
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Declarer will play whichever major suit East has pitched, ending in dummy and retaining a re-entry and the club threat. East still can't afford to pitch a club, but after East is stripped of his major-suit cards, declarer plays a low club honour. At whatever point East takes his King, he's end-played, forced to lead into dummy's remaining tenace.

East-West's only defence is equally rare: lead the six of clubs! This upsets the timing of the hand and leaves declarer only the double squeeze, which doesn't develop.

*Had declarer actually played that way, there would have been a Stewards' Inquiry, especially at Board-a-Match where, if the club finesse is on, 13 tricks are there for the taking. Declarer would surely win the spade lead in hand and take the club finesse. If East ducks, declarer would return to hand to try the finesse again, going down inexorably. — Ed.*

## WORLD UNIVERSITY BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIP 2008

Christer Andersson, Uppsala, Sweden

During the first week of September, FISU (Fédération Internationale du Sport Universitaire) organised the fourth World University Bridge Championship in Lodz, Poland. Winners were the Netherlands A, with Meike Wortel, Marion Michielsen, Bob Drijver, Merijn Groenenboom, Danny Molenaar and Tim Verbeek. The silver medals went to Poland A (K. Kotorowicz, J. Kalita, P. Wiakowski, P. Nawrocki, M. Nowosadzki, J. Sikora) and

the bronze medals to Norway A (SF Simonsen, LA Johansen, E Skjetne, H Bogen, D Ueland).

Twenty-one teams from 15 countries competed. The final rankings at the top were:

1	Netherlands A	406
2	Poland A	379
3	Norway A	376
4	Poland B	355
5	USA A	336
6	Germany B	335
6	Austria	335
8	Chinese Taipei	334
9	China	331
10	Czech Republic	328
10	Norway B	328

In the match between Poland A and Great Britain the Polish pair Jacek Kalita-Krzysztof Kotorowicz showed they had discussed and agreed an odd bidding situation and knew how to handle the dummy:

**Dealer West. Neither Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
Kalita	Maloney	Kotorowicz	Dessain
Pass	Pass	1 ♣ <sup>1</sup>	3 ♥
Pass	Pass	4 ♦	Pass
4 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Polish Club

Thomas Dessain preempted strongly on the Polish Club opening but this did not trouble the Polish pair. When the preempt was passed back to East, Krzysztof Kotorowicz, he showed a strong hand with good diamonds by introducing the suit at the four level. Is everyone clear on the meaning of bids from here? The Polish pair had studied this type of bidding sequence and agreed that the bids four spades and four no trump should be reversed. Four no trump was natural, whereas four spades was an ace-asking bid.

Domenic Maloney led a heart to the ace in dummy. Do you see the winning continuation? Jacek Kalita did. He continued with the ten of diamonds, a Morton fork play. If Maloney takes the king, Kalita can enter his hand to cash the heart winners. If Maloney ducks the diamond, Kalita will end-play North at least one time by continuing

ace and a small diamond. In both cases he makes his contract. An excellent performance that rendered Kalita the Paul Magerman Award.

Paul Magerman was the man responsible for the very idea of bridge as a sport for students, when he organised, in 1993, the first-ever European University Championships, at Antwerpen. In order to honour the memory of Paul, an award has been instituted for the best-played hand at these championships. There will be one category only, but the award can go to a particularly fine auction, declarer play or defence, and can of course be won by a partnership.

Although small in number, one of the best junior contingents in Europe right now is the Czech Republic's. On the penultimate board against Norway B, Milan Macura found a bewitching lead:

**Dealer North. Neither Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
Reistad	Kopecky	Hansen	Macura
—	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2 ♦ <sup>2</sup>	Pass
2 ♠ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	3 ♦ <sup>4</sup>	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	5 ♣ <sup>5</sup>	Pass
5 ♦ <sup>5</sup>	Pass	6 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Natural and game-forcing or three-card limit raise in spades
2. Relay
3. Confirms three-card limit raise
4. Natural, invitational
5. Cue bids

Milan Macura was on lead and put a devilish six of spades on the table. Jonny Hansen covered in dummy and Michal Kopecky played the queen. Hansen won the king and tried a heart. Macura wisely took the ace but then had to give declarer back the initiative. Trying to take advantage of the poor opening lead, Hansen entered the table in diamonds and unsuccessfully finessed in trumps. One down.

*Championship workshop:* During the championship, participants attended a workshop, where they

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# IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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## 453. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

<p>♠ A Q J 9 8 ♥ K Q 2 ♦ 8 7 ♣ 7 5 3</p> <p>♠ K 10 5 3 2 ♥ 8 6 ♦ K J 6 ♣ K 9 8</p>	<p>♠ 7 6 4 ♥ 4 ♦ 10 9 5 3 2 ♣ J 10 6 4</p>
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	♠ -- ♥ A J 10 9 7 5 3 ♦ A Q 4 ♣ A Q 2		
West	North	East	South
—	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	3 NT
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	6 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

As West felt he held most of the defensive strength he led a passive trump. Declarer should play low from dummy and win the trump lead in hand. Next he should cross to dummy with the queen of trumps, drawing the last trump. It would be premature for declarer to cash the ace of spades next because there is no clear indication of what to discard. Instead, declarer should lead the queen of spades. East will follow with a low spade and declarer parts with the two of clubs.

If West wins this with the king of spades, he will be endplayed. After a minor suit return, declarer wins cheaply, and then crosses to dummy with a trump and discards his remaining minor suit losers on the ace-jack of spades. He will make two spades, seven trumps and three minor suit winners. If instead West returns a low spade, declarer calls for the eight to be played from dummy. No matter whether East produces the ten of spades or not, declarer will have three spade tricks. He makes three spades, seven trumps and the minor suit aces.

What if the queen of spades holds? Declarer continues with the ace of spades, throwing the queen of clubs from hand. Next he takes the diamond finesse. Here it loses to West's king but the twelfth trick comes by ruffing a diamond in dummy.

If declarer errs by playing the ace of spades followed by the queen, West should duck smoothly, playing South

for a 0=7=3=3 shape. After that, declarer has to guess that West has both minor suit kings to make twelve tricks. (He runs his trumps and then has to guess to cash the ace of clubs when West correctly discards two clubs and the jack of diamonds!) If instead, declarer takes a minor suit finesse, West wins and returns that suit.

## 454. Dealer South. E-W Vul.

<p>♠ K 8 2 ♥ K 9 7 ♦ 8 5 ♣ A 10 8 7 4</p> <p>♠ 6 5 3 ♥ Q J 10 5 2 ♦ A 10 3 ♣ J 2</p>	<p>♠ 7 ♥ A 8 6 4 ♦ Q J 9 7 2 ♣ Q 9 5</p> <p>♠ A Q J 10 9 4 ♥ 3 ♦ K 6 4 ♣ K 6 3</p>
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West	North	East	South
—	—	1 ♠	
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West has an standout lead of the queen of hearts against four spades. The question was then "How should declarer play the contract?"

Rather than relying on the king of diamonds being well-placed, declarer would prefer to set up dummy's clubs suit. This must be done without allowing East on lead, or he will be able to play a diamond though your king before you can enjoy any established club winners. So, declarer should plan to throw a club from hand on a heart trick that West has to win.

The first step is to play low from dummy on the opening lead. East cannot afford to overtake, since this would set up dummy's king of hearts for a club discard. Let's suppose that West continues with the jack of hearts. Declarer plays low from dummy again and throws a club from hand. He can ruff the next heart, play the ace of trumps and continue with the king and ace of clubs. Next, declarer ruffs a club high, establishing the suit. Finally he draws the remaining trumps with the queen and king and throws two diamonds on the good clubs in dummy.

Suppose instead that West switches to a trump at trick two. Declarer must win this with dummy's eight of trumps and play the heart nine. As East cannot afford to play the ace, declarer discards a club from hand. After winning the trump continuation in hand, declarer plays as before.

If West leads trumps repeatedly then four spades fails because declarer's late entry to the clubs is removed.

**455. Dealer South. Neither Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	2 NT
Pass	6 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

The auction given is that for anyone using simple methods in a two-club system. In general, North should be wary of introducing such a tatty diamond suit at this point for it may result in a doomed six diamonds when six no trump is hardly likely to be inferior to most six diamond contracts. Almost no matter what system is played, South should play in six no trump.

West leads the queen of clubs and declarer should make this contract in a trice. He has ten top tricks and has plentiful chances in both red suits. Declarer's first move should be to play on diamonds, by cashing the ace of diamonds and leading a low diamond towards the jack. If West plays the king of diamonds, declarer claims because he now has three diamond tricks.

Generally, West will play low and the jack of diamonds will win at trick three. Declarer now switches his attention to hearts. He cashes the king of hearts and then runs the nine of hearts to East's jack. Declarer makes four spades, four hearts and four tricks in the minors.

Of course, if it happened that it was East who began with king-ten to four diamonds, then declarer plays dummy's jack of diamonds and later picks up East's ten of diamonds with a finesse. He makes four spades, three hearts, three diamonds and two clubs. The outcome would be the same if the diamonds proved to be 3-2.

**456. Dealer South. Both Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1 ♥
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

How should declarer plan to make ten tricks after West leads the queen of spades?

Declarer should win the spade lead with the ace and then attack trumps. Clearly he should play trumps from hand. If he does so by banging out the ace and queen of trumps, West will refuse to win the second round of trumps and there will then be no way to make the contract. If another trump is played the defenders can win and score three diamond tricks. If instead declarer plays on clubs West will ruff the third round and the defenders will score two trumps and two diamonds.

Instead declarer must aim to lose a trick to West's king of trumps at a moment when he can do no damage. He should lead the queen of trumps at trick two. If West wins with the king, the defenders can score only two diamond tricks because you still have trumps in the dummy.

If West realises this and allows the trump queen to win, declarer continues with the jack of trumps. Again West will be powerless if he takes the king. What if West holds up the trump king again? Declarer will cash the king of spades and ruff a spade. He then comes back to hand with ace of clubs and cashes the ace of hearts before playing two more rounds of clubs (to avoid a trump promotion), throwing a diamond. The defenders will score one trump trick and two diamonds but declarer has ten tricks.

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supported the idea in the near future to organise a first University teams (or possibly pairs) championship on-line. More details will follow during the autumn.

The workshop also discussed future Zonal and World Championships. In addition to the World and European championships (see below), there are plans to arrange the first Asian University Bridge Championship in 2009. China, Taiwan and Singapore showed their interest in such an event. In the USA and Canada, there have been irregular university championships since the 1960s.

*European University Bridge Championship 2009.* Over the last fifteen years, ten University Bridge Championships have been organised in Europe by the European Union Bridge League and European Bridge League. As EUSA (the European University Sports Association) in 2007 recognised bridge as an official sport, FISU has arranged its first European University Bridge Championship October 4-10 in the picturesque town of Opatija, situated at the Northern Adriatic coast of Croatia. Information is available from marko.prahovic@vuka.hr

France has established a university bridge organisation within the national federation and announced they are willing to organise an International University Bridge Championship in the near future.

*World University Bridge Championship 2010.* This championship will be held in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, in 2010. Kaohsiung is the second largest city in Taiwan and is easily reached by speed train directly from the international airport. The city is well known for its harbour and connected entertainment region. The dates for the championship are not yet decided.

Indonesia also announced their interest to host a University Bridge Championship in 2012.

## CZECH BRILLIANCY

Bert Toar Polii, Jakarta

The following Czech brilliancy against our Indonesian team provoked plenty of discussion:

### Board 13. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

Milan Macura as South was declarer in four spades on the lead of the heart six. Milan won the queen over the

jack and played a diamond to the queen to play a low spade. It was too difficult for East to put in the queen to continue hearts. Thus Rury Adhani won with the spade jack and played the jack of clubs (is a switch to the club five possible?). Declarer ducked (!) and won the club ace next. He then played the spade ace, ruffed a club, played all the diamonds, ruffing the fourth, and end-played West with the king of spades. Good play.

In the other room, Mario Mambu won the diamond lead with the ten, and played a low spade. West won and played the club jack. Here, Mario put in the queen, and so East could switch to the lethal heart. Only two other declarers managed this contract successfully, which was (astonishingly) bid at every single one of the 20 tables in the room!

## THE ENGLISH TRIALS

Brian Senior, Nottingham, UK

The English Open Trials for Beijing were played at the Metropole Hotel in Brighton from Monday to Thursday, August 11-14, concurrent with the English Bridge Union's Summer Congress. The first stage of the Trials saw four teams play a round robin of 40-board matches, played in two sets of 20 boards each. The matches were then Victory Pointed and the top two teams played a 100-board final in five sets of 20 boards.

The final table in the round robin was as follows:

		VP
1	TOWNSEND	51
2	SANDQVIST	46
3	WATERLOW	42
4	LIGGINS	41

The final featured TOWNSEND (Tom Townsend, David Gold, Andrew MacIntosh and Gunnar Hallberg) against SANDQVIST (Nick Sandqvist, Artur Malinowski, Justin and Jason Hackett).

This board was instrumental in deciding one of the finalists...

### Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>McIntosh</i>	<i>P. Hackett</i>	<i>Hallberg</i>	<i>Holland</i>
—	—	—	I ♦
I NT	Double	2 ♣	Pass
Pass	Double	Redouble	Pass
2 ♠	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Andrew McIntosh's one no trump overcall was a borderline action and it seemed to have got his side into trouble when the doubling began. Certainly, Gunnar Hallberg cannot have felt too good about things with his balanced nought-count. However, two spades doubled proved to be much better than Hallberg would have imagined.

Paul Hackett kicked off with a top spade, then switched to a low diamond to John Holland's ace. Holland switched to a low club. McIntosh won the queen and played the diamond king then ruffed a diamond and played a club. Holland won the ace, McIntosh unblocking the jack, and returned a club to dummy's ten. McIntosh led a heart to the jack and ace, won the heart return and laid down the queen of spades, pinning the jack; plus 670!

The contract could not be defeated after the diamond switch at trick two. It is dangerous to switch to a diamond, for precisely the reason that we saw on the actual layout, with declarer unable to get to dummy to lead to the diamond king himself then take his ruff.

I like the low spade at trick two. This caters to partner's holding doubleton queen and is a less committal play. Declarer wins the spade queen and may return a spade to put North back in. North will now have the benefit of seeing a signal from partner. Of course, how easy that signal will make the subsequent defence is another matter, but the winning play is to switch to clubs – you don't want to risk giving declarer a heart trick. South must not permit dummy's ten of clubs to become an entry, so best is to switch to the club nine to make the position clear.

Eventually, declarer can be forced to lead diamonds from hand and will be one down – a bit sweaty.

At the other table...

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Waterlow</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Panto</i>	<i>Townsend</i>
—	—	—	I ♦
Double	Redouble	I ♥	I NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Tony Waterlow led the king of clubs, then the queen and a low one as Tom Townsend ducked until the third round. After winning the third club, Townsend led a low diamond towards the queen and Waterlow made the fatal error of ducking. Two more rounds of diamonds put him in to cash the jack of clubs but then he was

end-played. He exited with a low spade but Townsend ran it to his jack and that was the ninth trick; plus 400 and 14 IMPs to TOWNSEND.

West must go in with the king on the first round of diamonds and cash his club winner. Then he can exit passively with a diamond and sit back. As long as East can guard the third round of spades, there is no squeeze and the contract must fail by a trick.

Two tight defences could have netted WATERLOW 6 IMPS instead of the actual 14 away, and that would have seen them into the final.

Nevertheless, the TOWNSEND team lost handily to the other Hacketts, Jason and Justin, and their teammates, Artur Malinowski and Nick Sandqvist in the final. The SANDQVIST foursome added Townsend-Gold with Philip King as captain to complete the team for the Mind Sports Games in Beijing.

## THE 14<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL RED SEA BRIDGE FESTIVAL Nissan Rand, Tel-Aviv

The 14<sup>th</sup> annual International Bridge Festival will take place in Eilat, Israel, from November 13 to 23, 2008, at the luxurious Royal Beach Hotel. For the second year the Festival will extend for 10 days with the following program:

- November 13-14: Mixed Pairs
- November 15: Pairs (one session)
- November 16: National Simultaneous Pairs
- November 17-18: IMP Open Pairs
- November 19-21: Matchpointed Open Pairs
- November 21: Invitational High Ranking Swiss Pairs (night)
- November 22: Open Teams

David Birman, the Festival Chairman, announced that more than 200 international players will join the 1000 Israeli bridge enthusiasts in an international event which is becoming one of the world's best festivals. All the top Israeli players will participate along with the National Teams of Austria, Poland and Belarus, and the Youth National Teams from Italy and Poland. High-quality participants are expected from France, including Paul Chemla and the Croniers (Bénédicte and Philippe). World and European Champions come from the U.K., France, Russia, Belgium, USA, Poland, South Africa and possibly from Egypt.

Inquiries regarding registration at the seven Isrotel Eilat Hotels can be made through...

Email: [birmand@inter.net.il](mailto:birmand@inter.net.il)

Telephone: 972 36058355

Fax: 972 3 5465582

and at the World Mind Sports Games in Beijing with Dr. Nissan Rand at the China National Convention Center.

The following board was played at the Invitational Swiss Pairs (2007) in Eilat at table 1 between the Junior pair from Poland, Piotr Wiankowski and Michal Nowosadzki and the Israel Juniors, Alon Birman and Argalazi Eliran.

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

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

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

West	North	East	South
—	3 NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass	4 ♦ <sup>2</sup>
Pass	4 ♥ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	6 ♣
Pass			

1. Long minor headed by AKQ, maximum of an outside Q
2. Singleton enquiry
3. Heart singleton

West led the heart king and continued hearts. Eliran ruffed and pulled the three top trumps. He played a diamond to his hand and ruffed a heart dropping East's ace. The slam was made bringing many IMPs to the young Israeli pair. The slam was defeated at some tables with a heart lead and a spade return.

## A STAR IS BORN?

### GeO Tislevoll, Trondheim, Norway

Norway has some well-known bridge stars, among them Helness-Helgemo and a few other champions, as the country recently won both the 2007 Bermuda Bowl and the 2008 European Team Championship. Optimistic Norwegians are now hoping for another talent soon to be among the superstars of the bridge world.

**Espen Lindqvist** (24) has just taken the step from Junior Bridge to the Open Class of international bridge. He was a member of the Norwegian Open team in Pau where Norway, for us Norwegians, a little surprisingly won the title. The young player's performance varied, but several times (most of the time) during that championship he played at a level normally reserved for the established superstars. He and his partner Boye

Brogeland contributed well to the win, and the brand new partnership topped the Butler scoring.

This story is about a couple of cute hands played by Espen in a pairs tournaments in Norway this summer (Match Point scoring).

### Dealer South Both Vul.

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

♠ A Q 5 4 3  
♥ A 4  
♦ A K 5 3  
♣ 4 3

Lindqvist found himself in four spades after an unopposed auction. West led the ten of diamonds to declarer's ace. A natural start is to play a club towards dummy, and when Lindqvist did, West took the ace. He shifted promptly to the spade nine. What now?

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

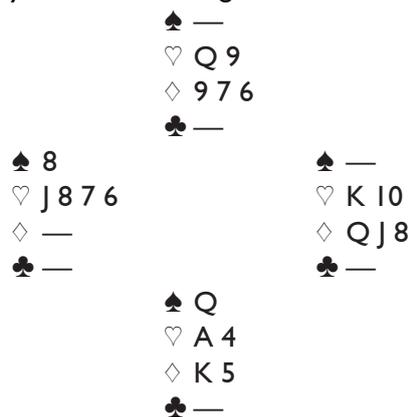
♠ 9 8 7 6                      ♠ K  
♥ J 8 7 6                      ♥ K 10 5 3 2  
♦ 10                              ♦ Q J 8 2  
♣ A 10 5 2                      ♣ J 9 7

♠ A Q 5 4 3  
♥ A 4  
♦ A K 5 3  
♣ 4 3

The first trap is in the spade suit. Declarer should of course not play the ten or the jack from dummy. If he does, he will create a spade loser. Lindqvist played small and won with the ace over the king. Covering the spade nine would have been a major error and can not be good for anything. If East has two or three spades, declarer can always finesse later. After this start, the ten and jack of spades were played. Now it was all about visualizing the East-West cards. Lindqvist decided that West's ten-of-diamonds lead was a singleton, or else he very likely would have continued diamonds after getting in with his club ace. West might have switched to a heart, which would have been fine if East had the ace, and good enough this time too since East held the ten. But if the ten of hearts is with South, a heart switch would have been wrong.

After cashing dummy's two remaining spades the two club tricks were taken. What should South discard on the last one? Normally, getting rid of the heart loser is the best, but then declarer will remain with two diamond losers. As Lindqvist correctly judged West to hold a singleton diamond from the start, he discarded a

diamond on the second club trick. Then he played dummy's last club, ruffing. This was what remained:

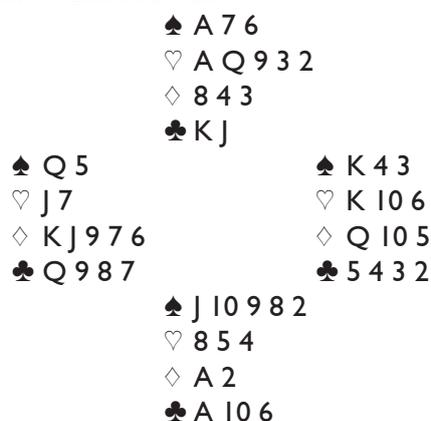


On the spade queen, pulling out West's last trump, East was caught in a squeeze, followed by an endplay. He had to keep two hearts and let a diamond go. Now the diamond king and another diamond threw East in, and he had to play from his heart king, giving declarer the eleventh trick. Not the sharpest defence, and plus 650 was a top where many players went down in their game contracts.

That play in four spades was nice, but maybe not extraordinary, you may think? It is kind of a not so unusual endplay, but did require excellent card reading as well as good technique.

What about this hand, occurring on the very next hand of the tournament.

**Dealer West. NS Vul.**

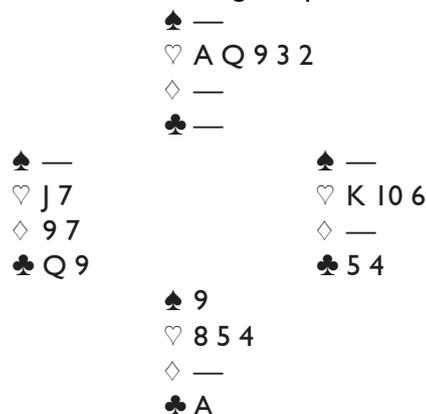


West	North	East	South
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠
Double	Redouble	2 ♣	2 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The redouble showed three-card spade support. West led the club eight (third/fifth), and the jack won the first trick. It may look natural to cash the clubs, but South's third club will give only one diamond discard, so declarer can not earn much by playing the clubs early. The first thing to do is to try visualizing West's hand. It must be something like he actually had. West could have bid one or two no trump instead, to show both minors with a more unbalanced hand. If East has two spade tricks

declarer can do nothing about that, but Lindqvist believed in something like this layout.

He played a diamond to the ace, then the spade jack, covered by the queen and dummy's ace. On the next spade East chose to take the king. Then the defence played two rounds of diamonds, the last one ruffed by South. Now it was time to cash the club king, then play a spade to the ten, leaving this position:



On the spade nine from South, East was caught in a kind of strip-squeeze. He is actually squeezed in hearts and clubs, although he held the four lowest clubs from the start, and the defence normally has no reason to keep clubs at all! But the fourth club was East's exit card, and when he let a club go, Lindqvist cashed the club ace.

With three cards left, Lindqvist played a heart towards dummy, covering West's card as cheaply as possible. East had to concede the last two tricks to dummy's ace-queen of hearts (or ace-nine if west had inserted the jack). If East in the diagrammed position keeps his two clubs Lindqvist will not cash the club ace, but play a heart to the queen. Then he would have taken all the last tricks if the king of hearts was onside, as the hearts would have now been 2-2.

As it was, after keeping two clubs, East can take the trick with the king over the queen and exit with a club to South's ace. But the two last tricks will be taken by ace-nine of hearts. Ten tricks was worth a bunch of matchpoints.

Not the best defence here either, of course. West should have been in on their diamond trick to shoot a heart through. Nonetheless, taking advantage of small defensive errors is a major part of match-point bridge (and all kinds of bridge, actually), and Lindqvist surely found a line of play giving a delicate and winning end position.

# DÉJÀ VU

Bob Jones, Hypoluxo, FL

Recently I was roped in to play play one deal for a missing player at my club. Vulnerable against not, I picked up a 3=3=3=4 hand with four high-card points.

Here was the bidding...

West	North	East	South
—	—	1 $\diamond$	Me
1 NT	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass	Pass	Pass	2 $\clubsuit$

...my hand and the dummy:

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

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

Exercising all my talent, I escaped for two down and minus 200 – the match-point kiss of death. My partner sheepishly apologized for her actions. I tried to reassure her and told her not to worry about it: I was, after all, only due to play the one board; she would keep her minus 200 for the rest of the afternoon.

As the last round was called, my wife, Ora Lowrie received a phone call from her best friend – she had broken her wrist and needed transportation to the hospital. Ora was playing in the same duplicate game and volunteered to take her friend for treatment - she handed me her hand, telling me the auction had been completed. Would I take over for her from here? What could I do but say yes?

Of course, it was the same deal! What was the contract? Two hearts! (Don't ask – you don't want to know the bidding.) Of course, the right action might have been to award an average, but I figured that anyone who bid this badly deserved a bottom. Playing double dummy, I miraculously emerged with six tricks.

Well done, thank you, but when I opened the travelling score slip, I found that I had achieved a tie for bottom – with myself!

## NEWS & VIEWS

### EXPRESS BRIDGE COLUMN MOVES

Paul Hackett informs us that The Express has moved his bridge column on to their website. The address is [www.express.co.uk/competitions](http://www.express.co.uk/competitions)

### MASTER POINT PRESS ON THE WEB

Master Point Press of Toronto, the world's foremost bridge publisher, have announced an increased presence on the World Wide Web. In addition to their main website: [www.masterpointpress.com](http://www.masterpointpress.com) which is for information on MPP titles – reviews, author bios, there are three new ones:

[www.masteringbridge.com](http://www.masteringbridge.com) is designed to help bridge teachers and bridge students who use MPP titles.

[www.bridgeblogging.com](http://www.bridgeblogging.com), their blog site, has been active for about a year, and is essentially a live internet bridge magazine with no fixed publication date.

[www.ebooksbridge.com](http://www.ebooksbridge.com) will go live later in 2008 and will market downloadable e-book versions of MPP titles, especially those which would otherwise be out of print.

### THE LEDERER

The Lederer Memorial will take place as usual in London over the weekend of November 1-2, 2008 at the

Young Chelsea Bridge Club. Eight invited teams will compete for the trophy.

### BRIDGE IN SPANISH

Fernando Lema wants all Spanish-speaking IBPA members to know that the South American website [www.confsubridge.org](http://www.confsubridge.org), (the WBF Zone III official web site), will give them all the bridge they need in Spanish: conventions, quizzes, Master Solvers, articles, bridge stories, humour, etc.

### COURT CARDS AS ART

English artist Gordon Joy has found a new source of inspiration: bridge! As can be seen from the examples reproduced here, his latest canvases are brightly coloured with images of court cards superimposed over them.



Other examples of Joy's art can be found in the October English Bridge Union's magazine ([www.ebu.co.uk](http://www.ebu.co.uk) October 2008 *English Bridge: Beyond the green baize*).

Joy will allow the use of their images free in bridge publications, but asks to be contacted if you do so. He can be reached at: [ghjoyaskern@aol.com](mailto:ghjoyaskern@aol.com) or on Tel. 01302 875208, or at:  
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South Yorkshire, DN5 0EP, UK



## Correspondence...

The Editor reserves the right to abridge and/or edit correspondence

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

John,

A couple of comments:

The second problem hand from the Mind Sports championship in Pakistan leaves a lot to be desired: how can one have a sensible lead problem as West with a partner who doubles three no trump as East (East had no reason whatsoever to expect three no trump to fail on any lead)? I would have said that a diamond lead was automatic without the double. However, with the double, partner must surely (given West's pointed suit holdings) have a club surprise and a heart honour at the very least, probably plus an ace. Does this not suggest that a heart is the indicated lead, to take the maximum?

Secondly, Barnet Shenkin should be well aware of the distinction between infer and imply. Michael Akeroyd did not infer that the play in six clubs was clearer and easier, he implied it.

Richard Fleet, Berkhamsted, UK

Dear John,

(1.) Barnet Shenkin (No 524, p. 16) took issue with my analysis (No 523, pp. 2-3) on the hand following, stating that I "fail to say what declarer should do".

**Contract: Six Clubs by North**

**Lead: Diamond nine**

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

Shenkin infers that six no trump is an easier contract to play because there is only *one* serious line in contention (low to the heart queen), presumably because this play beats ace-other by 7:10 in failure holdings held by East-West. However, he claims that there are *three* reasonable lines for tackling the heart suit in six clubs after eliminating the side suits and their *equivalent status* gives the declarer a *trilemma* to solve, thus more opportunities to go down. These lines are ace-other, low to the queen, and low to the ten.

Shenkin is thinking along classical logic lines: there are only two types of elimination: perfect and imperfect. This heart combination is not perfect: therefore it is imperfect. Because it is classified as imperfect, you play on the heart suit on no trump lines, hoping for extra chances such as West's singleton king being a positive instead of a negative.

What declarer should *do* is recognise, utilising Fuzzy Logic principles, that this hand is an example of a *more or less* perfect elimination deal in contrast to a *not very perfect* elimination deal. If you transpose West's nine with North's eight it becomes a *perfect elimination* and if you transpose West's six with North's eight it becomes a *not very perfect* elimination. Missing king-jack-nine of hearts, declarer should lead low towards North, covering West's low card with the *eight*. Now it is easy to work out that there are only *four* combinations that cause failure: king-jack-six and king-jack-two for West and half of four honour-nine-low combinations for East when declarer guesses wrong.

Shenkin might argue that playing the *ten* in this example is just as effective, and so it is, because it has the power of the *eight* behind it, as well as the seven in dummy. But it is the presence of this apparently insignificant *eight* that wrecks Shenkin's calculations. What are these cited six mysterious unspecified jack holdings in the East hand that reduce the effectiveness of the ten spot elimination

play vis-à-vis taking the two finesses? Jack-six (yes); jack-two (yes); jack-nine-six (yes); jack-nine-two (yes); jack-nine (I beg your pardon?); jack-six-two (I beg your pardon?).

**(2.) Dealer West. NS Vul.**

<p>♠ J 8 3 ♥ Q 3 ♦ 10 7 5 ♣ J 7 6 3 2</p> <p>♠ A 10 7 4 ♥ 6 5 4 2 ♦ K 2 ♣ Q 10 9</p> <p>♠ K Q 6 2 ♥ K J ♦ A J 9 6 3 ♣ 5 4</p>	<p>♠ 9 5 ♥ A 10 9 8 7 ♦ Q 8 4 ♣ A K 8</p>
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West	North	East	South
<i>Zhao</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
Pass	Pass	1 ♥	Double
2 NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Heart raise

Here Richard Fleet queries my statement, “with an obvious minimum double South can be assumed to be unlikely to hold three or four hearts so the chances of a 2-2 trump break rise from 40 to over 50%”.

Fleet wonders, “Is it not the case that an obvious minimum double makes it more likely that the doubler will have a singleton heart rather than a doubleton?”

Not in the modern duplicate game, where experts prefer to overcall one spade with 5=1=4=3 hands and double on 4=2=5=2 hands as Nunes did here in practice.

There are two possible algorithms for adjusting the trump odds on the assumption that South is restricted to a maximum holding of two.

- (1) the odds for a 2-2 break increase from 40/100 to  $40/(100-30) = 57\%$  (referred to by Kelsey and Glauert as the ‘Deletion Principle’ on p. 68)
- (2) the odds for a 2-2 break increase from 40/100 to  $(40 + 30)/100 = 70\%$  (an argument based on the assumption that South has only two ‘Vacant Places’ available for hearts while North has four).

Of course, these numbers will have to be scaled down somewhat because there exists a population of 9-10 point hands that are suitable for a double because they possess 5-4-3-1 or 5-4-4-0 distributions. But most modern experts prefer to overcall one of a major if they can, rather than double, with this shape, and also to double like Nunes here, with a 4-2-5-2 distribution if they think they can handle the subsequent auction.

Michael Akeroyd, Bradford, UK

“I had not seen my dear friend for two and a half years,” the bridge player said after receiving a terrible result from his ‘dear friend’, “and with any luck, I won’t see him for another two and a half years!”

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