



BULLETIN

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Editorial

We wish all members a healthy, happy and prosperous 2009. May all your suits break evenly!

It is time to renew your subscriptions for the new year if you have not already done so. You may do this at our website www.ibpa.com or by contacting Mario Dix, our Membership Secretary – Mario's contact information is on the masthead (on this page). The annual dues for membership for 2009 are unchanged at £26. With your membership, you will receive the online IBPA Bulletin. Should you wish to receive a printed Bulletin each month, an additional £29 must be paid to cover the costs of printing and postage, for a total of £55. In addition to receiving the IBPA Bulletin each month, you'll also receive the IBPA Handbook and invitations to outings and lunches at World and European Championships, as well as access to the Press Rooms at those events. In our (unbiased, of course) view, no better value exists in the bridge world!

We regret to report that IBPA member, administrator and world-class player Nissan Rand of Israel died suddenly on Christmas Day while visiting family in New York. Nissan was a unique character who will be dearly missed by his multitude of friends and colleagues. Patrick Journain has written an obituary which appears in this issue.

Economic realities have forced us to consider producing (and posting) the printed Bulletin elsewhere rather than in the UK, which has been its 'home' for years. Dilip Gidwani has found us a new home for the printed Bulletin in India, and Dilip will henceforth serve as the Production Manager. This change is reflected in the Bulletin masthead. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Jean Butler (Tyson) for her five years of faithful service as Production Manager. It was a pleasure working with Jean, a consummate professional, who was always cheerful and cooperative. We wish Jean continued success in all her endeavours.

Two thousand and nine promises to be an exciting year in bridge. The fourth European Open Bridge Championships will take place in San Remo, Italy in June. If you have never attended one of these championships, this is the time to remedy that. Firstly, Italy takes second place to none when hosting an event such as this – the venue, hotels, restaurants and hospitality will no doubt be first-rate. Secondly, there are events for everyone, with pairs and teams in the mixed, open, women's and senior categories. Thirdly, the relaxed European schedule means that all evenings are free for dinner and socializing, and what better place to do that than Italy?

The 2009 World Championships (Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup, Senior Bowl, Transnational Teams) will take place in São Paulo, Brazil in August. Previous world championships in Brazil have been considered the best-ever and there is every reason to believe that this one will rank alongside them, especially with Ernesto D'Orsi at the helm.

For those not able to attend these and other events, Bridge Base Online will, as usual, provide play-by-play accounts of the action.

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NISSAN RAND



IBPA member Nissan Rand of Israel, who has died suddenly aged 78 in New York, was a multi-faceted bridge personality and twice a world senior bridge champion. Rand won the World Senior Teams in Albuquerque, New Mexico in 1994 and again in Lille, France in 1998. He represented Israel in both the World Team Olympiad (1968) and the European Team Championships (1991) and was a frequent high finisher in many other events.

At the time of his death Rand was Chairman of the Seniors Committee for the World Bridge Federation, a post he had held for eight years. Previously he had chaired the Seniors Committee for the European Bridge League from 1999 until stepping down in 2003. He had been a member of the EBL Executive Committee since 1995.

Rand played a significant role in improving the treatment and recognition of seniors so that they were on a par with the other categories within bridge. He was an Honorary Member of the EBL Executive Committee, Honorary Chairman of the EBL Senior Committee, and had served on Appeals Committees at many major world and European championships.

Rand was born in Czechoslovakia and emigrated to Israel at the age of four. He was a world authority on

poultry nutrition and had been inducted into the International Poultry Hall of Fame. He leaves a wife, Judy, four sons and a daughter. Three of his sons emigrated to the USA and Rand was visiting family at the time of his death on Christmas Day.

Patrick Jourdain, Cardiff

Irving Gordon, who partnered Nissan in many of his senior triumphs, sends us this deal:

One of my favourite hands with Nissan occurred in the Senior Teams at Brighton in 2007. We held (spots approximate):

Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ A 8 7
 ♥ K 9 7 5
 ♦ K 4
 ♣ K 9 3 2

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

West	North Gordon	East	South Rand
—	—	—	1 ♥
2 ♦	3 ♦	5 ♦	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	5 ♥
Pass	6 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

We reached an interesting contract of six hearts via a pass-and-pull auction. As South, how would you play six hearts on the ace of diamonds lead?

Nissan, as usual, played with lightning speed. He ruffed the ace of diamonds, drew trumps in one round and played a small club to dummy's king, which, as expected, held the trick. He then discarded the ten of clubs on the diamond king, played a club to his now bare queen, West winning with the ace, and claimed.

West, with:

♠ Q 9 6
 ♥ 10
 ♦ A J 10 9 8
 ♣ A J 7 6

was end-played for Nissan's twelfth trick. This was a huge swing, as six hearts was not played as well at the other table after the same lead. The hand is an example of Nissan's dynamic approach and great natural 'feel' for the game in both the bidding and play.

BRIDGE DOWN UNDER

Ron Klinger, Northbridge, NSW

(From the Sydney Morning Herald)

GILL TRIP

In the Spring National Open Teams Peter Gill and Helen Horwitz finished eighth on modified datums, ahead of many more-fancied pairs on paper. The HORWITZ team qualified second and had a good win against a strong team in the semi-finals. In the final HORWITZ led until the very last board, all in all a powerful performance.

To my mind this was the best deal of the Open Teams final, even though I was on the receiving end:

Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

At one table Bill Haughie, North, opened one no trump, 15-17, and played it there. He made eight tricks for plus 120. At the other table:

West	North	East	South
Hoffman	Horwitz	Klinger	Gill
—	1 ♣	Pass	1 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Lead: Spade nine

Gill-Horwitz play a 14-16 no trump opening and so the North hand was too strong. Some Norths might raise to two no trump, but Helen Horwitz is made of bolder stuff.

David Hoffman began with the spade nine, attitude, not keen on spades. Gill took the spade ace and led the diamond jack. At that point, I could take the diamond king and return the spade jack. If declarer ducks, the spade queen comes next and we will have two spades and three diamonds.

If declarer takes the spade jack with the ace, West will assume declarer has the spade queen. Now when the next diamond comes, East can duck and West wins with the queen. Assuming spades are pointless, West can shift to a heart to give the defence the extra trick needed.

At the table I ducked the diamond jack and West won with the queen. The spade continuation was ducked

and I won with the jack. At this point I could do a number of things, but what was vital was to lead a club at some point.

I could play the spade queen, win the next diamond, cash the other diamond and lead a club; or, I could take both diamonds and then play a club; or, I could simply lead a club without playing diamonds or the spade queen. The effect of playing clubs would be to cut South off from dummy. Expecting Gill's one no trump response to include at least three clubs, this club play eluded me.

What I did in fact was to cash the diamond ace and king and exit with the spade queen, hoping to lock declarer in dummy. These cards now remained:

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

Peter Gill, South, diagnosed the position perfectly. Figuring I would have switched to hearts if I did not have the king, he cashed the heart ace and led the three of clubs to his king. Then came the diamond nine and six, declarer pitching hearts from the dummy. I was finished. If I let a club go, the club finesse gives declarer all the club tricks. When I pitched the heart king, it was even easier for South. Gill had nine tricks and plus 400 for a well-deserved 7 IMPs.

IN SAFE HANS

One of Australia's most talented players, and young, too, is Sartaj Hans of Sydney. On this deal from the 2008 Australian Selection Trials, an opponent robbed him of a neat declarer play.

Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	Nunn	1 ♥	4 ♣
Pass	5 ♣	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Lead: Heart six

Unless declarer is very lucky in spades, there are two diamond and two spade losers on the hand. The heart lead has been helpful. Playing the king and ruffing East's ace sets up the queen for one discard, but that still leaves you with three possible losers.

With three trump entries to dummy, there is no rush to set up an extra heart trick. Hans played the heart eight from dummy. If East produced a low honour, Hans planned to ruff, draw trumps ending in dummy and then lead the heart king. He would ruff out East's ace, return to dummy in trumps and cash the heart queen. This would produce two heart winners if West had led from jack or ten to three hearts (and there was still time to play for two spade tricks if he had led from three small or jack/ten to four). As you can see, the Hans plan was due to succeed. However, trick one went heart six, eight, ace, ruff, and it was all over.

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

This deal came from the Grand National Open Teams qualifying at the New South Wales Bridge Association. The bidding went:

West	North	East	South
—	Ritter	—	Hans
Pass	Pass	4 ♥	3 ♣
Pass	5 ♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Lead: Heart two

East won the heart lead and switched to the spade king, taken by the ace. Then came the diamond ace, spade ruff, heart ruff, spade ruff, club to the king, spade ruff, leaving this position (see top of next column):

Hans exited with a diamond and East was forced to play a heart. South discarded his last diamond and ruffed

in dummy. He ruffed a diamond, drew the last trump, and had eleven tricks for plus 600.

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

DOUBLE DUMMY

Normally double dummy problems leave me cold, but this one really tickled my fancy.

Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

After a less-than-memorable auction South is in three no trump, the only game than can succeed double dummy. After a heart lead, three no trump is not hard to make, but try three no trump on the ten of clubs lead.

Since the heart suit is blocked, if West leads a heart the defence can take four heart tricks only, declarer and dummy pitching two clubs each. Declarer can win the next trick, say, a diamond exit, with the king, play the spade ace, run the eight and finesse the ten. Then cash the club ace and the rest of the spades and East is squeezed in the minors.

It is a lot trickier after the club ten lead. You cannot afford to duck, else the defence collects the club king and four hearts. So you take the ace and start on the spades: spade ace, run the eight and finesse the ten. East is forced to make two discards and suppose East throws a club and a diamond. On the spade king East sheds another diamond and these cards remain (see next page):

When you play the spade nine, East is squeezed. Unable to afford a club or a diamond, East lets a heart go. Now

you can afford to play a club, because the hearts are still blocked. The key is to play a club at the moment East throws the first heart. Whenever this occurs, you are safe because of the blockage in hearts. This is not a play you are likely to find at the table. Note that you are doomed if East can throw two hearts.

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

VILNIUS CUP 2008

Marek Wojicki, Przemysl, Poland



From September 25th to the 28th in Vilnius, players from five continents competed in the Vilniaus Taure – Vilnius Cup 2008. The hospitality of the main organizers – Vitas and Erikas Vainikonis made the tournament and other events – a trip to the Old Town of Vilnius, a barbecue picnic at Trakai, the old capital of Lithuania, and a night at the Olympic Casino – very impressive for all participants.

RESULTS:

Junior Invitational Teams

Belarus I - Haponava, Klebanovich, Kutsuk, Siarebrany

Invitational Pairs (Cavendish)

V.Vainikonis – W.Olanski (Lithuania/Poland)

Open Pairs:

A.Kowalski – P.Tuszynski (Poland)

Open Teams

Kotorowicz, Brede, Nowosadzki, Wiankowski
(Poland)

The Polish bridge monthly “Brydz” competition for the best deals helped us find some interesting hands. Here are some of them:

Best Played Hand: Apolinary Kowalski (Poland)

The hand was played during the open pairs.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Kowalski</i>			
—	Pass	Pass	2 ♦ ¹
Double	Redouble	Pass	2 ♥
2 NT	Pass	3 ♦ ²	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Polish multi – weak two in either major
2. Asking for four cards in spades

North led the queen of clubs. South took the trick with the ace and returned the suit – Kowalski played the ten, and poor North was again in hand with the jack. As the position was more or less clear, he decided to exit with a diamond. Kowalski cashed three rounds of diamonds, carefully discarding the three high cards from dummy, leaving the deuce. To the third diamond North was forced to discard a club.

It was obvious that South had a doubleton spade (six hearts, three diamonds and two clubs = 11 cards), so declarer now cashed two high spades and finessed the jack. To the ace of spades he discarded the heart seven from his hand. This was the ending:

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

When the last diamond was played, North was in hopeless position – he parted with the heart eight, but Kowalski played a heart and North was forced to lead a club into his tenace – ten tricks and 98% for EW! Notice that this play would also work when the positions of the heart queen and ace were reversed. From the lead declarer could deduce that North had either the queen or the ace of hearts.

Best Bid Hand: Rafal Jagniewski – Michal Kwiecien (Poland)

Board 56 from the Open Pairs:

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

West	East
<i>Jagniewski</i>	<i>Kwecien</i>
—	1 NT
2 NT	3 ♣
3 ♥	3 NT
4 ♣	4 ♦
4 NT	5 ♥
5 ♠	6 ♥
6 ♠	7 ♣

A few comments on the bidding:

- 1 NT = 15-17 HCP, balanced
- 2 NT = Transfer to clubs
- 3 ♣ = Minimum
- 3 ♥ = Shortness, game forcing
- 4 ♣ = Slam try
- 4 ♦ = Cue bid, accepts the try
- 4 NT = RKCB
- 5 ♥ = Two aces without trump queen
- 5 ♠ = Asking for kings
- 6 ♥ = Three kings! – Kwecien evaluated his heart suit as worth a few more tricks
- 6 ♠ = Maybe a grand slam?
- 7 ♣ = You are welcome, partner!

And one more board – from the invitational pairs: On the first round of the invitational tournament, at table one, everybody was familiar with each other... the opponents were: V.Vainikonis – Olanski and E.Vainikonis – Jassem.

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Jassem</i>	<i>V.Vainikonis</i>	<i>E.Vainikonis</i>	<i>Olanski</i>
—	—	1 ♣	1 ♥
Pass	2 ♣ ¹	Pass	4 ♥
4 ♠	5 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

I. Drury-fit

Jassem led the queen of diamonds, ducked in dummy, and he continued the suit with the seven. Erikas took the trick with the ace and played the spade queen.

Olanski came to the conclusion that East must have all missing honours. Otherwise she could not have found an opening bid. So, the finesse against the queen of clubs cannot work. What to do? East had guards in two suits – the first condition for a squeeze. The second is communication. That was the main problem here.

Olanski took the spade king, entered the dummy with the club king and drew trumps with the finesse. Three more trumps were cashed, leaving the following position:

♠ 10 8
 ♥ —
 ♦ —
 ♣ A 10

♠ A
 ♥ 4
 ♦ —
 ♣ J 9

This is a typical criss-cross squeeze position. When the last heart was played and a club was discarded from dummy, East was helpless. Look at the complete deal:

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

In the four-card ending East had two spades and two clubs. But she was forced to discard one of her cards... whatever her choice, declarer could cash the appropriate black ace, then access the black master card with the other black ace. Thus Olanski made eleven tricks.

The 2009 Vilnius Cup will be connected with the European Bridge Games of small National Bridge Organizations. Furthermore, Vilnius will be a 2009 European Capital of Culture, so there will be lots of interesting functions. For information concerning current and future Vilnius tournaments, please write to Erikas Vainikonis: erikas.vainikonis@gmail.com.

A PAIR OF GEMS

FROM GABRIEL CHAGAS

Fernando Lema, Buenos Aires

English Translation by Mike Jackson of Colombia

The hand below was played by the Brazilian Grand Master Gabriel Chagas against Pakistan in the third round of the Round Robin in the World Mind Sport Games in Beijing 2008.

Dealer North. NS Vul.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ A ♥ J 3 ♦ A 8 ♣ A K Q J 9 6 5 2</p> <p>♠ K 10 9 2 ♠ Q J 7 6 5 3 ♥ 10 9 5 ♥ K 6 4 2 ♦ Q 10 6 ♦ K ♣ 10 4 3 ♣ 8 7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 8 4 ♥ A Q 8 7 ♦ J 9 7 5 4 3 2 ♣ —</p>	
--	--

West	Chagas	East	Villas Boas
—	2 ♣	Double ¹	2 ♦
3 ♠	4 ♣	Pass	4 ♦
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	5 ♥
Pass	5 NT ²	Pass	6 ♦ ³
Pass	7 ♣	Pass	7 ♦
Pass	7 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Majors
2. Asking for Key Cards
3. One Key Card

When East led the five of spades, Gabriel won in hand with the ace and ran seven of his eight clubs to arrive at the following position:

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ — ♥ J 3 ♦ A 8 ♣ 2</p> <p>♠ — ♠ Q ♥ 10 9 5 ♥ K 6 4 ♦ Q 10 ♦ K ♣ — ♣ —</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 8 ♥ A Q 8 ♦ J ♣ —</p>	
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On the play of the last club West was finished - a diamond discard would allow declarer to cash the ace and eight before finessing in hearts, while a heart discard

would allow declarer to run the heart jack, and if East covers, to establish the eight on table...great play Gabriel!

FROM MICHELLE BRUNNER

Maureen Hiron, Málaga, Spain

Dealer East. Both Vul.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ J 8 7 4 ♥ A 5 ♦ A J ♣ A Q 10 7 4</p> <p>♠ K 9 5 ♠ 3 2 ♥ J 10 9 4 ♥ K 7 6 2 ♦ 9 5 4 3 ♦ Q 10 8 7 ♣ 8 6 ♣ K 9 3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ A Q 10 6 ♥ Q 8 3 ♦ K 6 2 ♣ J 5 2</p>	
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Michelle Brunner won the 2008 International Bridge Press Association Gidwani Family Trust Defence of the Year Award, for a brilliant play in Shanghai. I believe, though I stand to be corrected, that this is the first time a woman has won this. Nor can I remember the same player winning two years in succession, so I intend submitting this hand as a contender for next year's prize.

Michelle passed as dealer and South opened one no trump (12-14). North bid two clubs, Stayman, then raised South's two-spade reply to the spade game.

John Holland, West, led the jack of hearts. Declarer ducked in dummy and Michelle won with her king. What were her chances of defeating four spades, faced with that dummy? Many players would simply return a trump and hope that declarer, left to his own devices, would adopt a failing line.

But Michelle envisaged a position where her partner held the king to three spades and a doubleton club. (He could not hold more than four high-card points, given South's one no trump opener.) Even that was not enough; she also had to paint a false picture for declarer.

So – she returned the nine of clubs, which, with dummy's assets on view, surely could only have been a singleton. Dummy won, and fearing a club ruff, South continued with ace and another spade. Holland won with his king and returned a club, South playing low from dummy. Michelle Brunner captured with her king, then gave her partner the club ruff that defeated the game.

IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

463. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	Pass
3 ♣	4 ♣ ¹	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	6 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. 5+-5+ in the majors

To make twelve tricks after West leads the ace of clubs, if trumps are 4-0, you will need spades to be 3-2. When both opponents follow to the first round of trumps, the aim should be to make twelve tricks even when West has a small singleton spade.

The way to achieve this is to cash one high spade, cross to your hand with the ace of diamonds and lead a spade towards dummy. West cannot help the defensive cause by ruffing. Suppose West correctly discards a club and you win the second round of spades with dummy's king. Now you lead a third round of spades and ruff it with the queen of trumps. (If you ruff with the nine, West will overruff and lead another round of trumps, removing your last trump and leaving you with a spade loser.)

Next, you ruff a diamond in dummy and lead a fourth round of spades, ruffing it with the nine of trumps. As the cards lie, West can overruff now but it will do him no good. You will win his return, draw the last trump, and enjoy the established spades in dummy. If West had been unable to overruff, you would ruff a club back to dummy, cash the king of trumps and run the spades, losing a trick only if the trumps were 3-1 originally.

If West ruffs the ace of diamonds then you have to fall back on spades being 3-2. You would ruff the club return, cash a second trump honour and play on spades.

464. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	1 NT ¹	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♣	Pass	4 ♦
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	5 ♦
Pass	6 ♣	Pass	6 ♦
Pass	7 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. 15-17

How do you plan to make this grand contract after West leads the queen of clubs? You have twelve winners and the way to make a thirteenth is to reverse the dummy and ruff two diamonds in hand.

You should begin by winning the first trick with the ace of clubs and ruffing a diamond. Next you cash the king of trumps. If all follow, draw the remaining trumps, organise a second diamond ruff and claim. You make five spades, four trumps, two diamond ruffs and two clubs.

When the hearts are 4-0 there is a problem. If you ruffed the first diamond with the four of trumps, you will go down because you will have to use a spade to get to dummy either to draw trumps or take a second diamond ruff. While a singleton club occurs more often than a void in spades, West is highly unlikely to have led a singleton queen against a grand slam. So, when West has four trumps you should plan to use the king of

clubs to get back to dummy to draw the last trump. The play is to ruff the first diamond with the nine of trumps, cash the king-queen of trumps and then lead the four of trumps to finesse dummy's eight. After a second diamond ruff follows, you cross back to dummy with a club and draw the last trump with the ace, throwing the jack of clubs from hand. As the spades are solid you have thirteen tricks.

What would happen if it was East who had four trumps? Then you would have to hope East began with at least two clubs and one spade, for you need the two remaining black suit entries to ruff a second diamond and draw the last trump.

465. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

When North failed to cue bid over three spades, it suggested that the control he promised by raising two hearts to three was in the spade suit. Consequently, you were content with game. How do you plan to make ten tricks after West leads the queen of spades?

After drawing trumps you should play the king of diamonds. If East takes this with the ace and returns a diamond, you play the jack. If West takes this with the queen, the ten of diamonds will be an entry to dummy. The situation is no better for West if he lets the jack of diamonds hold, for then you will continue with a third round of diamonds. West will have to take that and lead a spade or a club and, if the latter, you will make certain of two tricks in clubs by playing low from dummy.

What would happen if West had the ace of diamonds? If he takes the king of diamonds with the ace and exits with a low diamond then either dummy's nine will hold or East take it with the queen. As long as you unblock the jack in the latter case you will have an entry to dummy.

The only other wrinkle happens is when the king of diamonds holds. Then, you will continue diamonds and the defence can do no better than cash its two diamond tricks. We have seen what happens if West wins the defence's second diamond. If East wins the second diamond trick and exits with a low club you will let that run to dummy, making certain of a second club trick. A spade exit gives you the tenth trick immediately and a fourth round of diamonds achieves the same (you will discard a club from hand and ruff in dummy).

The recommended line requires no prior knowledge of how the minor suits lie while other lines do so.

466. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

This was the layout the declarers in a local duplicate game faced. How would you plan to make ten tricks after West leads the queen of hearts?

The majority found a quick way to emerge with only nine tricks. Their plan went along these lines: there are four trump winners whenever the suit breaks 3-2. As there are five top winners on the side, one diamond ruff will be enough to make ten tricks.

Their first move was to cash the ace and king of trumps, only to discover the 4-1 trump break. So they had to lose two trumps, a diamond and a club.

The best player in the game showed how to make ten tricks on this layout. He cashed the ace and king of diamonds and ruffed a diamond. East overruffed and returned the jack of clubs, which was taken in dummy with the ace. Next he cashed the king of trumps and ruffed a heart back to hand to ruff his last diamond in dummy. It did not matter whether East overruffed or not, for all declarer could lose was one club trick and two trump tricks.

That plan also succeeds when East has two or three trumps. In the former case he has no trump left to overruff dummy again, and in the latter case, once East overruffs, there is only one trump left outstanding.

THE GOLDEN JUBILEE INDIAN WINTER NATIONALS

Tribhuvan Pant, New Delhi
John Carruthers, Toronto

The 50th Winter Nationals were contested this year in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, from November 13-21. Kanpur (formerly Cawnpore) is an industrial city of six million people on the Ganges River. It is on National Highway No. 2, the oldest road in India, between Delhi and Kolkata and its railway station is one of the most important in India. Kanpur's major industries are textiles and leather.

ASHOK RUIA GOLD CUP FINAL

TOLANI SHIPPING: RA Agarwal, Arun Bapat, PG Hegde, Sunil Machhar, Arvind Vaidya

v.

FORMIDABLES: Sunit Choksi, Rajesh Dalal, Subhash Gupta, Kiran Nadar, B Satyanarayana, KR Venkatraman

Board 37. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Hegde	Choksi	Bapat	Gupta
—	Pass	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 ♠ ¹	Pass	3 NT ²
Pass	4 ♥ ³	Pass	6 ♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Minor-suit slam try; puppet to 3NT
2. Forced response
3. Short hearts; both minors(!)

Whatever your opinion of North's auction and South's leap to slam with only one ace and wasted heart values, slam at least had a play (and was bid and made at the other table by playing the club king on the first round of the suit).

On the ace and another diamond, what do you think is the best play for your slam? As you follow to the diamonds with the queen and king and the jack appears on your right, it appears that the suit is 5-2. Thinking correctly that club shortness, if there were any, would be with the opening leader, Subhash Gupta won the diamond king and crossed to the spade ace to run the club jack. He was right in a way, since the eight or nine

of clubs singleton is twice as likely as the singleton queen. However, if he had been planning to later finesse for the other high spot card, he'd also lose to doubleton nine-eight, making the losing cases equal.

All this was academic, since if clubs had been 4-1, the entries to dummy were too few to go back to the table, lead a club to the six, cash the ten, then get back to dummy to pull the remaining trump – provided East covers the club jack with the queen.

It was an expensive technical slip and cost Formidables 17 IMPs.



Shri Radhakrishna Temple

The match was close all the way. TOLANI SHIPPING was hanging on to a narrow lead with five boards to go, when this board appeared...

Board 60. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Hegde	Choksi	Bapat	Venkatraman
Pass	1 ♦	1 ♥	Double
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

At the other table, North had also declared three no trump, going one off when the diamond finesse lost and the defence switched to spades in time to take two spade tricks and one in each of the other suits.

Here, Bapat led the heart king, won with dummy's ace. Choksi tried the club jack, ducked by West, and overtook it with the king to lead the queen of diamonds. Hegde ducked this to get more information, but the tempo of

his play told North that the diamond king was offside. Choksi switched horses now, leading a heart. Arun grabbed the king and found the now-essential low spade switch. North won the ace and continued with the queen of clubs to West's ace. A spade to the queen led to this ending...

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

The defence has three tricks in and declarer has four, with four more to come. If East cashes his spade king, that sets up the jack for declarer's ninth trick. So East exited passively with a heart, West discarding a spade.

However, look what happened on the next heart trick from North. Dummy can afford a spade discard, but what about West? A spade allows an endplay in clubs, while any minor-suit discard leads to an additional trick in that suit. Plus 600 and 12 IMPs to Formidables.

In the last four boards, both sides missed an excellent slam, while Formidables missed a touch-and-go game, bid and made by TOLANI. This board decided the championship:

Board 61. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Hegde	Choksi	Bapat	Venkatraman
—	Pass	1 ♣ ¹	Pass
1 NT	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	3 ♦	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	3 NT	Pass
4 ♦	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 ♠	Pass
6 ♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. 16+ HCP

In the open room, playing a strong club, Bapat and Hegde, the East-West pair of TOLANI SHIPPING, reached six diamonds on the diagrammed bidding. South led the spade ace and there was nothing to the play after that.

In the closed room, East-West were Rajesh Dalal & Subhash Gupta of FORMIDABLES. They also reached six diamonds by East. Declarer Rajesh Dalal, however, received a trump lead, giving him options. After taking the trumps out, Dalal discarded both spades from his hand on dummy's high clubs and hoped to give only one heart (on a 3-3 break or the heart queen falling in two rounds). When hearts turned out to be 5-1, there was no way to retrieve the situation and he went one down. TOLANI SHIPPING were the 2008 champions.

A better line of play, costing nothing, would have been two rounds of trumps, club king, then the top hearts. If nothing interesting happened, then a trump to dummy would be used to discard spades on the clubs. Here, something interesting does happen - so hearts are discarded and eventually a spade led to the king.

The other major winners were: **Board-a-Match Teams for the Mohan Sicka Trophy** - INDIAN RAILWAYS - Manas Mukherjee, Rana Roy, Sumit Mukherjee, Amarnath Banerjee, Debrata Majumder and Subir Majumder; **Open Pairs for the Holkar Trophy** - Subhash Gupta, Raju Tolani

JUST A ROUTINE BOARD

Jon Sveindal, Nyborg, Norway

Boye Brogeland is one of the best bridge players and analysts I know. Here is a hand he played in a two-day teams KO during the Fall Nationals in Boston. You may match your skill with that of Boye's, and try to make five diamonds on a spade lead to the ace and the spade eight back. East has all outstanding trumps.

Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	1 ♣	1 ♥
1 ♠ ¹	2 ♥	2 ♠	3 ♦
4 ♠	5 ♦	Pass	Pass

1. Five or more cards in spades

On a low spade lead, a preliminary analysis might induce you to ruff the second spade, take a high diamond to

find that East has the three outstanding ones, and throw two hearts in dummy on high clubs. Then play a heart to the king and East's ace. He returns a heart, and you ruff in dummy, ruff a spade, and cash your other high diamond. And play a heart, only to see that East's diamond jack is promoted to the setting trick.

This might be the line taken if this was not a newspaper hand. Then some would try to find East with the singleton heart ace, just to find themselves down seconds later. But Boye made a 'routine' play at trick three by unblocking the beer card – the diamond seven!

Now the defense was helpless. Say East returns a heart when in on with the heart ace, and dummy ruffs. A small diamond to the six enables declarer to set up the heart suit with a high ruff, and come back to hand with the other big diamond. And if East tries to destroy communications by playing the diamond jack, you just crossruff for the contract!

No intricate squeeze. No tricky endplay. Just a simple unblock. And still so beautiful! The full deal:

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

♠ 7
♥ 10 7 5 3 2
♦ A K 6 2
♣ A K Q

AUSTRIAN OPEN PAIRS 2008

Fritz Babsch, Vienna

This tournament has been in existence since 1966 and usually attracts a very strong field. Sixty pairs competed and about 55% of them had the rank of life master or higher. Three rounds of 30 boards were played. There were some very interesting hands.

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

♠ A K Q 2
♥ 9
♦ A K Q 10 3
♣ A Q 10

The contract of seven spades is quite good and was played by almost 50% of the field. However, the contract of seven no trump is bad since if you are successful, you get 100% instead of 80%, just a small gain; however, if you fail, you get 0% instead of 80%, a big loss.

Dealmaster says that seven no trump can be made, but I found no way to make it after the lead of a heart. On any other lead, the contract can be made (on a spade lead you need a double squeeze). The top seeded pair played seven no trump but the declarer made only twelve tricks.

There was another interesting squeeze situation on the following deal (a squeeze without the count):

Dealer South. EW~Vul.

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

East-West can make six diamonds, and also six no trump, but only five spades (North can ruff a diamond). North-South have a good save in six hearts, but to bid it is risky – opponents may try six no trump.

In that contract declarer has only eleven top tricks on a heart lead and cannot rectify the count, yet the contract makes: South is squeezed if declarer plays off all his diamonds. South must keep the spade ace and three clubs, so he cannot keep a heart. Declarer can then develop a spade trick and makes the contract.

Six diamonds was played by almost 50% of the field. Two pairs played six no trump and made it (one declarer was doubled), two pairs tried six spades and failed. There was, of course, no play for thirteen tricks and two pairs suffered a loss of 200 points when they bid to seven diamonds doubled by South. Some East-West pairs doubled North in six hearts or in five hearts (even +1100 was below average) and some were satisfied with five diamonds.

The following pairs took the medals:

1. Daniel Landau/Jovanka Smederevac 60,5%
2. Doris Fischer/Bernd Saurer 59,9%
3. Torbjörn Jönsson/Arno Lindermann 58,6%

Mr. Jönsson is a Swede who lives in Vienna.

BOARDS FROM BEANTOWN 2008 FALL NABC BOSTON, NOV. 20-30

Brent Manley & Paul Linxwiler, Memphis, TN

BRUCE FERGUSON: GENIUS

Bruce Ferguson found a brilliant defence on this deal from a Regional Knockout Teams. Ferguson was playing with team captain Bob Hollman against MaryAnn Berg's squad. Ferguson picked up (spots approximate):

♠ 3 2
♥ 9 7 5 2
♦ A K Q 8
♣ Q J 4

His right-hand opponent opened one heart. Ferguson overcalled two diamonds on his four-card suit, LHO bid three diamonds (limit-plus), and Hollman passed. Opener bid four hearts, ending the auction. Ferguson led the ace of diamonds and saw this dummy:

♠ K Q 5
♥ K 10 5
♦ 10 7 2
♣ K 10 8 3

♠ 3 2
♥ 9 7 6 3
♦ A K Q 8
♣ Q J 4

Ferguson next cashed the king and queen of diamonds, all following. His partner played diamonds up the line, showing either no preference for a switch or something in clubs. How to continue?

Ferguson reasoned that if partner held neither black ace, the contract could still be defeated if East held as much as the singleton jack or queen of hearts. Besides, if partner held a black ace, it was difficult to see how it could go away. Ferguson continued, therefore, with the thirteenth diamond.

Success! Here's the full deal:

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

On the fourth round of diamonds, declarer tried ruffing with dummy's heart ten, overruffed by Hollman's jack, promoting West's nine into the setting trick.

BRUCE FERGUSON: IDIOT

Forget that nonsense you just read in the "Bruce Ferguson: Genius" article. Here's what really happened on the actual deal.

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

On Ferguson's play of four rounds of diamonds, declarer ruffed high in dummy and shed his singleton club. Not only did the club loser go away, but East was squeezed in the black suits on the run of declarer's winners. Oy! Ferguson had found a way to let through a no-play game!

INTRAMURAL MUSINGS

Barry Rigal, NYC

This is Board 21 from the second qualifying round of the Reisinger BAM Teams:

Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

The East-West field played four hearts here (getting to three no trump was beyond most of us). Some reached slam in either major, which of course hinges on playing hearts for one loser. The expert play is the intra-finesse: low to the eight, then run the jack to pin the ten.

Did any South find the expert play of putting in the heart ten on the first round? If you were South, and held the heart king-ten or queen-ten, would you think to play the ten? And if you were declarer, and South produced the ten on the first round of the suit, how would play the second round?

A LESSON IN SUIT PREFERENCE

Mark Itabashi, Los Angeles

Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

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

After West leads the club six to the king and East's ace, how should the defenders continue?

East should cash the heart ace, and West should play the queen. This unusual play would have to ask for a switch to a low diamond (East is marked with the ace of diamonds on the bidding), so East makes the play and the defenders take five tricks for plus 300 (West wins the king of diamonds and pushes the jack through dummy's queen).

A DEAL IN DETAIL

The team of Lynn Deas, Beth Palmer, Kerri Sanborn, Lynn Baker, Karen McCallum and Irina Levitina won the Women's BAM Teams. In this deal from the second final session of the event, Deas (playing with Palmer) brought home eight tricks in no trump for a win on the board. Although the defence made a non-optimal play, Deas took full advantage, and arrived in an ending where the spot cards in a critical suit allowed an overtrick.

Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

East opened one diamond in second seat, and Deas, South, overcalled one no trump, ending the bidding.

West began with the queen of hearts, ducked all around, and continued with a low heart to the ace. East cleared the suit, with Deas pitching a club from dummy as she won the king in hand. The spade queen was played at trick four, all following low, and declarer then cashed two high clubs, discovering the 4-1 split, when East pitched a spade. A spade to dummy was captured by the ace, and now the defence erred slightly cashing their hearts and exiting a club. (A spade exit will hold declarer to seven tricks, although it looks counter-intuitive to allow declarer to score a trick from the entry-less dummy.)

On the fourth round of hearts, declarer let go a low club. She won the club exit by West (East pitching a spade), and this was the position:

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

Declarer had five tricks at this point. Deas exited with the diamond eight (importantly, not the five) and covered West's nine with the queen. East was fixed: ducking would allow declarer to enjoy the jack of spades, while winning the trick would be equally fatal as no safe exit exists. A low diamond would ride to dummy, and the diamond jack would make declarer's hand good. Deas scored three of the last four tricks for plus 120.

Can declarer legitimately come to eight tricks? Yes, but it takes an unusual play after winning the heart king. After cashing two high clubs, declarer next plays the queen of spades, overtaking with dummy's king. Whether this is ducked or not, the defence can't attack the spade position in dummy, and therefore, can't create a sixth defensive trick as in the actual play.

THE KING COSTS A TRICK!

Jan van Cleeff, Amsterdam

When Jan Jansma gives you a hand, you had better be sharp. Before you know it, he destroys your analysis and teases you. This one, from Sunday's Mitchell Open Board-a-Match Teams qualifying session, is typical (See top of next page.):

West leads the ten of spades, denying the jack. Dummy played low. "What card do you play?" Jansma asked.

♠ Q 3
 ♥ A 8 2
 ♦ K Q 8 6 4
 ♣ 8 4 3

♠ A K 8 2
 ♥ K J 5
 ♦ 10 5 3 2
 ♣ 7 2

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1 ♦
1 ♠	2 ♠ ¹	3 ♦ ²	Pass
3 ♠	4 ♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Invitational with diamonds
2. Invitational with spades

“What’s wrong with the king?” I replied. My answer, of course, was naïve, since Jansma is never looking for the obvious.

He cheerfully continued: “The king? That costs a trick!”

Still, I had no clue what he was aiming at. Should I play low then? Letting declarer win his jack? Jansma showed the full deal (spots approximate):

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

From East’s point of view, natural defence would be to cash two top spades and then switch to clubs. In this case, that would cost a trick because a heart loser would disappear on a high club. A timely heart switch, however, would lead to the all-important extra undertrick. But how could East know?

Louk Verhees, Jansma’s partner, showed the way. He took the first trick with the ace and cashed his king as well. Jansma rightfully understood the message (suit preference for hearts). And then it was his turn to do something intelligent: he contributed the nine. Verhees immediately knew what to do. He tabled a heart.

True, East-West can win 11 tricks in spades, but that is hindsight.

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Upcoming BBO Transmissions

Jan 10-11	Dutch Club Teams, Utrecht
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Jan 17-18	OBS Invitational, Stockholm
Jan 17-18	Australian Women’s/Seniors Championships, Canberra
Jan 17-18	Bergen Grand, Norway
Jan 23-25	Portuguese Teams, Lisbon
Jan 23-26	Australian NOT, Canberra
Jan 23-25	Danish Junior Teams, Copenhagen
Jan 28-1	Icelandair Open, Reykjavik
Jan 30-1	Ahmedabad Cavendish, India
Feb 4-5	NTU Cup, Taipei, Taiwan
Feb 9-14	14th NEC Cup, Yokohama, Japan
Feb 9-14	Norwegian Premier League



Correspondence ...

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

Email: ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca

Dear John:

We are writing in response to your editorial in the December IBPA Bulletin, taking the Beijing Daily Bulletin staff to task for not measuring up to what you consider acceptable quality. Your diatribe would have been more palatable had you focused on what you would prefer to see in the Daily Bulletins rather than instructing the staff on how to do their jobs.

It is easy, of course, to criticize, but it's dangerous when you don't know all the facts about deadlines and working conditions. For the record, regarding the alleged "oft-repeated complaint," we were in the office every day nearly all day – and we are always open to constructive criticism and suggestions. Our office was only a few feet away from the Press Room at the convention center, but not one IBPA member bothered to share concerns on this "issue" with the Daily Bulletin staff.

Regarding the omission of most of the IBPA awards, the admonition that all the editors are members of the IBPA seems completely irrelevant. The chief editor of the Daily Bulletin is a member of the IBPA executive committee and fully appreciates the importance of the awards, but he received the information about who won what rather late in the tournament – not to mention the fact that we were sharing the Daily Bulletin with the Youth section. On some days, we had a fraction of the amount of space we normally have. Choices must be made. We felt the readers of the Daily Bulletin wanted information about what was going on at the tables.

I'm sure the NEC Daily Bulletins are exemplary. Eric Kokish is a fine journalist, as is Barry Rigal, who edited the most recent NEC bulletins. Ignoring your apples-to-oranges comparison, we consider our Daily Bulletins to be equally good – entertaining as well as informative.

The 1st World Minds Sports Games was a landmark achievement. It's regrettable that your editorial focused on one aspect of the event.

We encourage you or any other IBPA member to offer suggestions – perhaps one on one next time – but please leave the lectures for some other venue.

Jean-Paul Meyer, Coordinator, Beijing Daily Bulletin
Brent Manley, Chief Editor
Mark Horton, Editor

Dear John,

Congratulations on your excellent Dember editorial concerning daily bulletins. You were right on with your comments about IBPA award coverage. I realize that the world championship daily bulletins are the province of the World Bridge Federation, but in my opinion the awards are world news in bridge.

The comment about naming the people in the pictures published is especially apropos. Most people want to know who the people are that they are looking at in a photo. Seeing a photo of six persons with no identification leaves an empty feeling in the viewer.

Your other comments hit the mark as well. Here's hoping that the editors take your suggestions to heart and put them into effect immediately.

Henry Francis, Memphis, TN

John:

Further to your Editorial in Bulletin 527, I find it irritating when the same deal features in more than one article. Whilst appreciating the time pressures involved in putting together the Bulletin, is not the job of the Editor to edit rather than merely to compile?

Richard Fleet, Berkhamsted UK

Dear John,

Tim Bourke's hand 458 (December IBPA Bulletin) might have a better solution.

Trick 2 - Heart to the ace. If both opponents follow
Trick 3 - Heart queen. If West shows out.

Trick 4 and subsequent - ruff club, ace, king and ruff spade, ruff club and play last spade, throwing in West (discarding a diamond).

This line works when West holds the long spades - which is slightly over 50% when West has only one heart. And, of course also works if the queen of spades is short, with the diamond finesse always there as the last resort.

If West has the second heart, overtake the queen of hearts and continue with a spade to the nine, as recommended by Bourke.

A final thought - a clincher? My 'improvement also works when West has the singleton ten of spades.

Bill Pencharz, London