



## BULLETIN

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## THE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PRESS ASSOCIATION

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*This Bulletin is published monthly and circulated to around 400 members of the International Bridge Press Association comprising the world's leading journalists, authors and editors of news, books and articles about contract bridge, with an estimated readership of some 200 million people who enjoy the most widely played of all card games.*

No. 530

Year 2009

Date March 10

## THE CASE FOR A NEW IMP SCALE

Kaj G Backas, Helsinki

### How it started

Compiling data from the Quarterfinal, Semifinal and Final of the Teams events from World Mind Sport Games in Beijing gives a lot of information, thanks to Tim Bourke's efforts. Unfortunately, all results are not included - only 34% from the quarterfinals and 85% from the semifinals. From the final, all information is available. Still, there are 384 results from the quarterfinals, 350 from the semifinals and 288 from the final.

In this instance, by results I mean the difference of the scores for one deal between the open and closed room. Out of curiosity, I was looking for the highest IMP difference, and just to be sure I put all data, that is score difference, and IMP values, into an Excel table.

The next thing was to sort differences according to ascending values and plot them as a curve. There seemed to be peaks and valleys and the same also happened for IMP values. Cross correlation between data from the quarterfinal, semifinal and final matches was 0.98, and thus I assumed that the sum of the competitions could be used.

Because absolute values are used in calculating IMP values, one could assume that the frequency should behave like a (half) Gauss curve or some other probability function, where the slope of the curve diminishes, with a greater difference further from zero. This was definitely not the result that I had got. The reason for this is twofold. First, the calculation of bridge scores is not perfect and second, the limits for IMP values are not correct. You could assume that the limits should grow in a geometric fashion, that is: 0, 10...20, 30...60, 70...140, 150...300. These are the amounts when scores double for every increase in IMP. Multiplying by two is not necessarily correct.

What I did next was to change the limits of the present IMP scale to get a smoother curve.

### More data

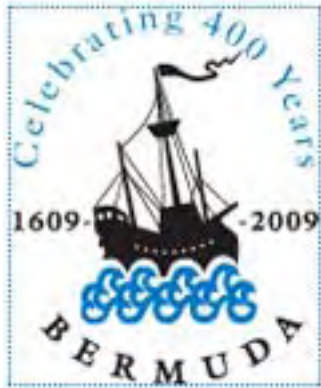
Then I got results from the English Premiere League matches. Again I manually copied the data to Excel. This confirmed my earlier findings, but still there was not enough data to check anything over 15 IMPs. John Carruthers suggested that I should look at BBO to get more data. I took me a day to write a program that first found all team competitions for a certain time and then download the results. The results are embedded in HTML code, but decoding that is no real

*continued on page 14...*

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# BERMUDA REGIONAL 2009

John Carruthers, Toronto



This year marked the 50<sup>th</sup> annual tournament held in Bermuda and the organisers put in an extra effort to please the attendees. Besides the usual gala banquet and dance, panel shows, cocktail parties, seminars and dress-up nights, there were many special events such as a golf tournament, a garden tour, Bermuda Market Day, and four draws for free travel and hotel for the 2010 tournament. As always, the Bermuda Regional was the friendliest, most-civilised tournament on the ACBL calendar.

Two thousand and nine also marks the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bermuda's accidental colonisation when the Sea Venture, bound for Virginia with settlers, was blown off course by a storm and foundered on Bermuda's treacherous shoals. All passengers made it safely to the islands and Bermuda has been continuously habited since.

## A Lead Problem

Try your hand at this lead problem from the Knockout Teams. The solution is at the end of the article.

**Dealer West. NS Vul.**

**You (West) hold:**

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	1 NT	Pass	3 ♦
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	6 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

## A Swiss Slam

How would you play six spades on the following hand - the seven of trumps is led? East will follow with the jack. If you can guess who has the ace of hearts, you can lead a heart through that hand: he could beat the air with the ace of hearts, giving you two tricks in the suit, or duck and have you discard dummy's second heart on the ace-king of diamonds.

**Dealer South. Both Vul.**

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

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

1. Roman Key Card Blackwood
2. 1 or 4 key cards
3. I have no idea what I'm doing, partner, I hope you do!
4. I have no idea either!
5. Okay, maybe you have a void since we appear to be off two aces.

Suppose you play the spade ten at trick one, East plays the jack and you win the queen. You play a heart to the king, which unfortunately loses to the ace, and the six of spades is returned, South discarding a heart. Now what?

Although there is no longer a complete cross-ruff available, you still have numerous options available:

1. diamonds could be 4-3
2. the club ace might ruff out
3. multiple squeeze possibilities.

You can ruff two clubs before trying the ruffing finesse, then try diamonds. So you win the spade in dummy and ruff a club, then play ace, king and a third diamond, ruffing. East shows out on the third diamond, pitching a heart.

This is the position:

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

Had it been West who'd shown out in diamonds, you'd have had the choice of a double squeeze if he had the club ace (East in diamonds, West in clubs, both in hearts), but no such squeeze is possible now. So you lead the king of clubs for a ruffing finesse and make your slam

when East has that card. Well done. Plus 1430. The full deal:

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

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

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

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

When you go back to compare scores, you proudly announce “plus 1430.”

“Lose one,” your teammate responds, “we led a diamond away from the queen to the stiff jack in dummy.”

### At Last

We had been after Allan Graves to give us a deal for the Daily Bulletin every day for a week. Every day Allan said, “I’ll get you a Bulletin hand today,” and every day, no hand. Until last night, when we sat down to watch a round of the Open Pairs. Allan was playing with Jean Johnson against Gill Gray and Patricia Siddle. Notice that we had to kibitz Allan to get a deal.

**Dealer West. Both Vul.**

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

♠ A 6 5  
 ♥ A 10 2  
 ♦ 10 9 6 4 2  
 ♣ 5 3

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

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

West	North	East	South
Johnson	Gray	Graves	Siddle
Pass	1 ♣	2 ♥	Double
3 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

On the board in question, Graves tried a bid which would make the purists shudder, but one which is often a winner at pairs. He bought the contract for three hearts.

South led a high diamond and shifted to the jack of spades. Declarer ducked this to North’s king and North took two high clubs then played her remaining diamond. East ruffed this, ruffed a club in dummy, came to the spade queen, then ruffed his last club with the heart ten. This was the position:

♠ 4  
 ♥ Q 8 5 4  
 ♦ —  
 ♣ —

♠ A  
 ♥ A  
 ♦ 10 9 6  
 ♣ —

♠ 3  
 ♥ K J 9 7  
 ♦ —  
 ♣ —

♠ 10 9  
 ♥ 3  
 ♦ K Q  
 ♣ —

At this point, Graves very carefully cashed the ace of spades (necessary), extracting North’s last non-trump. Then, equally as carefully, he ruffed a diamond before touching trumps. South had to follow and poor North had to ‘discard’(!) a trump. Then a heart to the ace and at trick twelve, Graves was in dummy to lead a diamond through North’s queen-eight of trumps while he had the king-jack remaining. Plus 140.

### Restaurant Cutlery

This deal arose in one of the pairs games.

**Dealer South. EW Vul.**

♠ A K Q 10 2  
 ♥ A Q  
 ♦ 5 2  
 ♣ Q 10 5 3

♠ 8 6  
 ♥ J 8 7  
 ♦ Q 10 6 3  
 ♣ K 8 6 4

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

♠ 7 4  
 ♥ K 10 4 3  
 ♦ A K 9 8 7  
 ♣ A 7

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1 ♦
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	1 NT
Pass	4 NT	Pass	6 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

You are West and lead what you hope is a passive spade against six no trump. Declarer wins the ace in dummy, comes to the ace of diamonds and leads a low club toward the queen. What should you do?

Suppose first you win with the king. You exit a spade and declarer wins, crosses to the club ace, then takes all his winners in dummy, discarding diamonds from hand. He comes back to hand with a diamond and luckily for him, the jack of hearts falls under the king. Making six – three spade tricks, four hearts, two diamonds and three clubs.

Okay, let’s go back and try ducking the club. Declarer wins the queen, and plays three rounds of spades to

East's jack. Now declarer takes four spades, four hearts, two diamonds and two clubs. Two declarers found this play – both Barbara Murray-Mary Lovrics and Angela Huang-Francis Lombardo made plus 990.

Why the title of this piece? The low club toward the queen play is called a Morton's Fork Coup. It is a manoeuvre giving a defender two options, both of which are doomed to failure. The declarer presents a defender with a choice of taking a trick cheaply, or ducking to preserve an honour, either decision costing the defence a trick.

The name of this coup is derived from an episode in English history. Cardinal Morton, Chancellor of the Exchequer under King Henry VII, habitually extracted extra taxes from wealthy London merchants for the royal treasury. His approach was that if the merchants lived ostentatiously, they obviously had sufficient income to spare for the king. Alternatively, if they lived frugally, they must have substantial savings and could therefore afford to contribute to the king's coffers. In either case they were impaled on "Morton's Fork".

### Dragnet

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

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

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

Those of us of a certain age remember an old television programme called "Dragnet", in which the voiceover at the beginning of the show said, "The story you are about to see is true. Only the names have been changed to protect the innocent." The show went through syndication and a number of remakes, so some of you younger readers may also be familiar with it.

You may ask what that has to do with a bridge article. Well, in this case, "Only the names have been changed to protect the guilty."

After a very enterprising auction from North, North-South arrived in a decent slam. Two diamonds was waiting, three hearts was a transfer to spades and four no trump was quantitative. West led the club jack. How should declarer play?

You have ten top tricks, and the heart queen or a heart ruff will provide the eleventh. You could try setting up a long spade, but that would require trumps 3-2 and the entry position to the South hand for that line is precarious. A good alternative is to play the ace and another heart. If West has the king, the queen of hearts will provide a parking place for the third club in your hand. Then, provided clubs are no worse than 4-2 and trumps no worse than 4-1 (even some 5-0 diamond breaks are okay, provided you time the hand properly), you can ruff a club high.

If the heart king is behind the queen, you'll need to bring in clubs for four tricks. So, you win the club king and play one high trump from your hand (the short hand remember!) to check out the break, and all follow. Now ace and another heart, and West wins his king and continues clubs. You win the ace and East follows suit with the nine. You can probably finesse West out of his ten now, but there's no need. You play another high diamond, this time from dummy, and everyone follows, then the heart queen, discarding your club. Again, everyone follows. Almost home now. A club ruff with the ten of diamonds, a spade to the ace, draw the last trump, and your hand is high.

Did our South play it that way? Unfortunately not. That's why, "The names have been changed to protect the guilty." Our South won the club king, starting accurately, then played a club to the eight at trick two. Now when East won the club nine and exited with a heart, declarer ducked. West won the king and gave East a club ruff. Two down!

#### Solution to the lead problem:

All four suits are possible, but...

<p>♠ 7 6 5 4 ♥ K 6 2 ♦ 3 ♣ Q J 9 8 7</p>	<p>♠ A 9 2 ♥ J 7 3 ♦ 7 6 ♣ A K 10 3 2</p> <p>♠ 3 ♥ A 10 9 4 ♦ 9 8 5 4 2 ♣ 6 5 4</p> <p>♠ K Q J 10 8 ♥ Q 8 5 ♦ A K Q J 10 ♣ —</p>
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...as you can see, only a heart lead beats six spades.

# THE 2009 NEC CUP

Barry Rigal, NYC & Richard Colker,  
Wheaton, MD

As in previous years, the event venue was the modern and spacious Pacifico Yokohama Convention Centre and the combatants were housed in the magnificent Yokohama Grand Intercontinental Hotel. Both the venue and the hotel are first-class. This year, 12 x 14-board Swiss matches would determine eight knockout qualifiers.

## Round 4

### Board 25. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fruewirth</i>	<i>Miure</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Koike</i>
—	1 ♥	Pass	1 NT <sup>1</sup>
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Spades

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Harada</i>	<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Akama</i>	<i>Mullamphy</i>
—	1 ♥	2 ♦	Double
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Do you or don't you overcall as East here? I'm assuming that no-one would bid three diamonds here (alright, no-one we care to know) but how about a two-diamond bid? I'm strongly opposed at unfavorable vulnerability – and this deal suggests why. If you play four spades as South on a low diamond lead, you will surely duck if you have received an unopposed auction, but if East has bid might you work out how to play the hand? Win the diamond ace, play three rounds of hearts, then draw two rounds of trumps via the finesse of the nine and ruff another heart before going to dummy with the spade king to cash the fifth heart.

Klinger played four spades as North on a revealing auction, and the top diamond lead made things easy. Even if the defenders had led a club, he might well have

known enough to follow the winning route home. By contrast Koike stood no chance after Del'Monte's silence in the auction (contrast some later 'overcalls')

Four spades by North made four times and by South it actually made eight times – and one of those times was when Liu Jing of China Evertrust played the game from South. He had received a double of an artificial diamond bid by Bakkeren so he hopped up with the diamond ace, took the ace of spades, then three rounds of hearts, and came to the critical moment of the deal. If East has eight red cards and West five, the odds favour the finesse of the spade nine to generate the extra entry – albeit that East's failure to overcall makes the more balanced hand-type rather more likely.

The Editors differ as to how much the odds shift from the failure to overcall; Liu guessed right to finesse – and thus achieved every schoolboy's dream of getting his name in the paper with an editorial Gold Star attached.

## Round 5

### Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Li</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Hou</i>	<i>Liu</i>
—	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 ♥ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	4 ♣
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Doubleton heart

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dong</i>	<i>Lin</i>	<i>Yan</i>	<i>Jiang</i>
—	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Three no trump was an unhappy spot as the cards lay; the nine of diamonds lead left declarer needing to take five heart tricks for his contract. You or I would lead the heart jack from hand, wouldn't we? Not Jiang. The normal play of low to the ace left him down three when the defenders established both their spades and diamonds.

Liu also selected the two no trump rebid, but in her case it was a relay. Wang could raise hearts, apparently to suggest this approximate pattern - with three trumps she would have bid higher than three no trump. The fate of four hearts (cold at double-dummy) changed hands three times on the second trick. It was cold when East led the nine of hearts, down when South covered, and cold again when West played the queen.

To make now, declarer needs to reduce trumps as many times as possible while ruffing a diamond in dummy. After, e.g., spade ace, spade ruff, club ace-king, diamond ace, diamond ruff, club ruff, declarer exits in the four-card ending with the losing diamond. She has king-eight-five of hearts left and West has ten-seven-three, and declarer is assured of two more tricks however trumps lie. But Liu simply ruffed the diamond without reducing her trumps and now the four-one split was too much for her. Still, 5 Imps to the Women.

Tom Hanlon played four hearts on an uncontested auction. He won the club lead in hand to lead a diamond to the ten and jack. Back came the heart nine. He won the ace, played ace of spades, ruffed a spade, unblocked clubs, played the diamond ace, ruffed a diamond, then ruffed a club. He had reduced himself down to his losing diamond and the king-jack-eight of hearts, and the diamond exit assured him of two of the last three trump tricks.

### Round 6

#### Board 18. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Demirev</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Campanile</i>	<i>Takayama</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Levin</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Campanile's diamond lead gave nothing away. Declarer finessed, played two rounds of trumps ducked by West and led an impassive low club from his hand. Fooled by Teramoto's bland countenance Campanile ducked and declarer had his contract with an overtrick. Even had Campanile taken her club queen, declarer can ruff a heart in hand and the trump spots are just too good.

It was a little unfortunate for Barel to run into the one lie of the major-suits that meant he could be defeated at once on a heart lead if he elected to win the trick...but maybe he should have ducked. If the lead was from ace-jack to five hearts, the ace of spades was a favourite to be with West given East's initial pass?

There was some excellent cut and thrust in the match between China Open and JUICE. In three no trump, Babu Koneru led a heart and Li did indeed duck. The defenders cleared hearts (East signaling for spades) but declarer had no option but to knock out the spade ace. Back came a spade so declarer ran the suit to reduce to this position.

<p>♠ — ♥ — ♦ 10 9 6 ♣ 9 5 4</p>	<p>♠ — ♥ 2 ♦ Q 8 ♣ Q 10 7</p> <p>♠ — ♥ — ♦ K J 3 ♣ J 3 2</p>
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Koneru had let go two diamonds without any discomfort; Li now cashed the ace and king of clubs and ace of diamonds, and had a real guess now. Should he try to endplay West with the club queen to lead diamonds into the tenace, or should he play for the actual lie of the cards? He got it right – well done!

#### Board 22. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Demirev	Teramoto	Campanile	Takayama
—	—	1 NT	Pass
3 ♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	3 ♦	Pass
3 ♠ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Puppet Stayman
2. Hearts

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Chen	Barel	Furuta	Levin
—	—	1 NT	Pass
2 NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Puppet Stayman

Both tables led a diamond, Takayama a small one and Levin his jack. Both declarers won in dummy; Campanile guessed to lead a heart to the ace and a heart back, covering the jack. That was a swift two down.

By contrast, Furuta led a spade to the ace at trick two. Levin sat deciding whether to unblock for a long time, but eventually decided not to unblock. He won his king next and shifted to the heart jack, covered all round. Declarer was up to seven top tricks now but still was a long way from home. He played back a sneaky eight of hearts; Levin paused for some more thought but eventually won and played back the suit. Furuta finally settled for the club finesse, his best chance in abstract, and that was two down the hard way. No swing.

We've already seen one fine piece of declarer play from the Chinese Open team this match. Time for a second, this time it was Liu Jing demonstrating that he can keep pace with his teammate Li Jie. In three no trump, he won the lead of the diamond six with the queen and led a club to the nine. Now a low spade from his hand saw Carruthers win and exit with a spade.

Declarer's next move was a low diamond from his hand to cut communications. Carruthers won and led the jack of hearts now. Liu won in hand, cashed the black aces, crossed to the spade queen and exited with a low heart. Silver, North, was in with the heart king and could cash a spade but then had to lead clubs into dummy's tenace. Declarer took four clubs, one diamond, and two tricks in each major.

The Swiss ended with the following leaderboard:

1. **The Netherlands** – Huub Bertens, Ton Bakkeren, Ricco van Prooijen, Louk Verhees 240 VP
2. **Oz Players** – Ron Klinger, Matt Mullamphy, Rob Freuwirth, Ishmael Del'Monte 235 VP
3. **China LongZhu National Women** – Sun Ming, Wang Wenfei, Wang Hongli, Liu Yiqian, Yan Ru, Dong Yongling 219 VP

4. **Japan Open** – Kazuo Furuta, Chen Daiwei, Masayuki Ino, Tadeshi Imakura, Tadashi Teramoto, Masaaki Takayama 201 VP
5. **China Evertrust Holdings** – Lin Rongqiang, Jiang Tong, Shi Zhengjun, Li Jie, Hou Xu, Liu Jing 199 VP
6. **JUICE** – Larry Mori, Venkatrao Koneru, Joe Silver, John Carruthers 197 VP
7. **Japan Seniors** – Kyoko Ohno, Akihiko Yamada, Yoshiyuki Nakamura, Makoto Hirata 196 VP
8. **Japan SARA** – Kumiko Sasahira, Fu Zhong, Liu Zheng, Takeshi Niekawa, Shugo Tanaka, Hiroki Yokoi 196 VP

No less than four teams tied for ninth, 1 VP behind the magic eighth spot.

As is now *de rigueur* in world championships, the team finishing first in the round robin or Swiss qualifying portion of the event chooses its opponent for the knockout phase, placing a high premium on winning that portion of the event, and greatly reducing the chance of 'sportsmanlike dumping' to almost nil. Uniquely in the NEC, and very reasonably, the team finishing higher in the Swiss qualifying received a 0.5 IMP carryover to the knockout portion, eliminating the possibility of ties. Thus the lineups and results for the 32-board quarterfinal matches were:

- Netherlands 99 – SARA 95
- Oz Players 74 – Japan Seniors 77
- China LongZhu Women 43 – JUICE 36
- Japan Open 123 – China Evertrust Holding 81

In the semifinals (also 32 boards) Japan Open defeated The Netherlands 59-38 and China LongZhu Women won 91-58 over Oz Players.

### A Three-Pipe Problem

In the daily bulletin, we reported on an interesting deal in the semi-final match between The Netherlands and Japan Open. Boy, did we (editorial we meaning BJR) underestimate the difficulty of the position. This was the situation:

#### Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

Continued on page 10...

# IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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## 463. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

West led the six of trumps. East took this with the ace and returned the three of trumps, West following. Assuming that East has the king of spades, what is your plan to make ten tricks?

If you still have the five of trumps in your hand, and you should, after trick two, you have five trumps, two diamonds and presumably two spades. As the seven of hearts is an entry to dummy, then if you can set up a club trick in dummy, that trick and the spade finesse will be enough for the contract. As East probably has the ace of clubs for his double, it seems the contract may require West to hold the ten of clubs.

However, there is an extra chance! You should cash the ace-king of diamonds before leading the jack of clubs. East will take the jack of clubs with the queen but he has no good return. A diamond return is hopeless because the suit is 3-3; you would ruff high and then cross to the seven of trumps to take two discards on dummy's diamond winners. If East plays a spade instead, you will finesse the queen, cash the ace and ruff your spade loser in dummy. The only remaining suit is clubs, but ace and another club from East will give the lead to dummy's king.

A final point about the given layout – if you followed with the five of trumps at trick one or two, then all

legitimate chances of making four hearts had expired by the time you came to lead at trick three.

## 464. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

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

West led the king of clubs against the heart slam and after dummy is displayed it appears that the contract is a tad ambitious. Given that West would have led a diamond if he had one, can you see any way of making twelve tricks?

You can always make twelve tricks provided East has no more than two clubs. After winning the ace of clubs, you should cash the ace of trumps and then lead a low trump to dummy's ten. Next you ruff a club back to hand and play two more rounds of trumps. When East did begin with one or two clubs, this ending will come about:

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



When you play the jack of trumps, throwing a club from the table, East is in trouble. You know he began with seven diamonds, a trump and, hopefully two clubs. If East reduces to three diamonds, you will play the ace, king and another diamond. East wins the trick and has to return a spade, allowing you to take the last three tricks with the ace-king of spades and the nine of diamonds. Whenever East keeps four diamonds, and so only two spades, you will counter by cashing the ace-king of spades, reducing East to the queen-jack-eight-seven of diamonds. This allows you to make three of the last four trick by leading the two of diamonds to dummy's ten. When East takes the ten of diamonds with the jack or queen, he will be forced to lead a diamond, allowing your nine of diamonds to take a trick, and you will take the last three tricks.

You should see that it was vital to ruff a club on the above layout, for otherwise East would defeat you by coming down to two spades, three diamonds and a club on the last trump. After winning his diamond, he would be able to play a club to his partner.

**465. Dealer South. EW Vul.**

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

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

1. 5-5 in the majors

West leads the king of spades against your slam. What is your plan to make twelve tricks?

You expect to make five clubs, five trumps, the ace of spades and a spade ruff. The only worry is a 4-0 trump break in East (as West cannot have four diamonds). Since you expect West to hold the ace of hearts and entries to your hand are few, a little care is needed.

After taking the king of spades with the ace, you should ruff a spade with the eight of trumps. Then, after cashing the ace of trumps, you must continue

with the ten of trumps. Presumably, East will cover this with the jack. You will take this with the queen of trumps, cross back to dummy with a club and pick up East's remaining trumps by leading the five of trumps and covering East's card. Then, after drawing the last trump, you will have the twelve tricks outlined above.

**466. Dealer North. EW Vul.**

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

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

Very reasonably, South decided that there was no point in introducing his club suit opposite a passed hand. West led the two of clubs to East's seven and the ace. Can you see any likely traps when the queen of trumps is taken by East's ace?

When this deal was originally played, after winning the ace of trumps, East continued with the jack of clubs. Unluckily, the original declarer was not one of the game's thinkers. He just wanted to ENJOY his bridge but this was not a plausible excuse for playing the king of clubs. West ruffed and there was no way of avoiding two subsequent losers in the club suit and any enjoyment of the game was dissipated quicker than a dodgy election promise.

I hope you saw far enough ahead to sidestep this little trap. All that declarer needed to do was count his tricks – he could afford to lose two clubs but not three. He should have played the four of clubs under the jack. East would then have the queen-nine left and if he continued with the nine, declarer could play low from his hand, and West would be ruffing a loser. Declarer would then lose just two trumps and one club. Suppose instead that East continued with the queen of clubs. You would cover it with the king and West would then be welcome to ruff as dummy's ten of clubs would then be good.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Takayama	v.Prooijen	Teramoto	Verhees
Pass	1 NT	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bertens	Furuta	Bakkeren	Chen
Pass	1 NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

After a diamond lead into the tenace, the play went in an almost identical fashion at both tables. The declarers ducked a spade, covered the heart nine return with the ten, and took the jack with dummy's king. They then unblocked diamonds and set up the spades, producing this ending as the fourth (losing) spade was led.

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

The contract will fail if East now throws a diamond, but the Dutch declarer saw East throw a club, giving declarer a chance. Do you see why? Declarer must pitch the heart seven - not the four - from dummy. Why would that matter? Well, if the heart seven is left in dummy, when West leads a low heart and declarer ducks, as he must, East can compliment his partner's defence by letting the H7 hold!

Beautiful, isn't it? If declarer cashes the diamond king earlier, he sets up the ten for East; if he plays a low club East takes the queen with the ace and locks the lead in dummy; and if declarer plays the club king from the board he never scores the diamond king.

Ton Bakkeren did better as East; he threw a diamond on the critical trick. What is dummy to discard now? If a heart, the defenders play a heart and East takes his ace and plays back a diamond; the defence get two clubs at the death. If a club, West wins the spade and plays back a club to the jack and king. If dummy cashes the diamond winners the North hand is squeezed, if not, declarer must lose two clubs at the end when he is thrown in with hearts.

But let's go back still further in the hand, to the point where declarer wins dummy's heart king and cashes

the spade ace-king to find the bad news. He does have a winning line – though I can't imagine how anyone would ever find it at the table.

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

At this moment we thought declarer could get home by cashing a spade, pitching a club from dummy, then crossing to the club king on which East must follow small. Declarer takes the club king, finesses in hearts, and East is in; what is he to do? If he exits with a diamond or a heart declarer wins and cashes his other red-suit winner then endplays East with a club. That player has two club winners to take but then must revive dummy with a diamond play to take the last two tricks.

Can you see the defensive riposte? East cashes the club ace!! (My editor colleague does not like exclamation marks but this play is worthy of at least one screamer.)

I've seen a play like this before – in fact, I wrote a series of articles with Stefan Ralescu discussing this sort of play, which commits North to a premature unblock, but I've never seen a real life position of this sort on defence. What is North to do on the club ace? The unblock achieves nothing, because East cashes the second club and plays a heart. When North does not unblock in clubs the heart exit from East leaves declarer in hand with a blocked diamond suit; West has a winning spade and heart, or if declarer overtakes his diamond jack, East takes the last two diamonds.

In the ending shown above, declarer succeeds by pitching a heart - let's say the seven for clarity. Then a club to the king follows. (For completeness, let's point out that if East plays the club jack on the first round, declarer wins and leads a club to the nine. East wins and tries to cut communications by exiting with a diamond. Declarer returns the favour by winning the diamond jack, the club queen, and getting out with a spade. The defenders must lead hearts, and when declarer finesses successfully either dummy or his hand is high).

After the club king holds, a heart to the six prevents East from exiting with the ace of clubs and another club or heart – dummy has an extra club winner now. If East cashes the club ace and plays a diamond, then declarer wins in hand and concedes a spade and his hand is high. If East plays anything but the club ace, North wins his heart queen and diamond jack and gets out in

clubs to let East take the club winners, but then he must concede the diamonds to dummy.

### The Final

The Japanese National Open Team met the Chinese National Women's Team in the 64-board final. Japan had beaten the Chinese men and the pre-tournament favourites, The Netherlands, whilst the Chinese women had defeated JUICE and Australia. There was every indication it would be an exciting match.

#### Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Sun</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Hongli</i>
—	1 ♣ <sup>1</sup>	1 ♠ <sup>2</sup>	Double
4 ♣ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Strong, artificial, forcing
2. Majors or minors
3. Pass or correct

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dong</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Yan</i>	<i>Imakura</i>
—	2 NT	Pass	3 ♥
Double	Pass	Pass	4 ♣
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	6 ♠
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	6NT	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Four hearts had play, but after a club to the jack and two rounds of diamonds declarer could do little but cross-ruff spades and clubs. The fall of the club ace in three produced an ending where he could claim if trumps split. So he cashed the heart king and when the bad split came to light he went to the ace of hearts and ran the clubs, losing a trump and a diamond at the end. Down one was a potentially terrible result for North-South given that six diamonds would make would make (and even seven diamonds by South). It did not work out that way...

The auction shown here features some poor judgement by both North and South (the four-club bid maybe keeping them out of diamonds where they belonged). But if South were going to drive to slam a five no trump call (pick a slam) would have got them to diamonds, perhaps. North did well to remove the double of six spades – and yes I do have some sympathy with East whatever the final result - to six no trump.

East led the heart two, playing fourth highest leads, on which dummy pitched a diamond. West shifted to a diamond and declarer cashed five diamonds and two spades. On the diamonds, East pitched, in order, the spade four, the heart five, the heart six, and then the spade five – maybe this left West under a mistaken impression about her partner's heart length.

When declarer cashed the third spade winner, East played the ten, not the jack. Yan had thus missed many opportunities to signal loudly for hearts.

At this point Dong tanked for upwards of five minutes – she retained the jack-nine of hearts and king-ten-seven of clubs with a discard to come. Did declarer remain with king-ten-eight of hearts and ace-low in clubs or his actual hand? In any case, Dong eventually emerged from the tank and pitched a club, letting declarer finesse the club jack and run the suit. That was 16 IMPs to Japan instead of 12 IMPs to China.

You can decide for yourself who was most to blame; I'm not inclined to intrude on private grief and come down one way or the other – but I suppose East's double will be an easy target for those who don't like to double one slam when they cannot beat any other slam in their own hand.

The final score was 130-122 in favour of the Chinese LongZhu Women's team. Their Venice Cup opponents had better be sharp – the Chinese women are ready to capture a world gold medal.

### Netherlands Wins Yeh Bros. Cup

Huub Bertens-Ton Bakkeren and Bas Drijver-Sjoert Brink have won the Yeh Bros. Cup in Broadbeach, Australia over Sweden (Peter Fredin-Björn Fallenius and Peter Bertheau-Fredrik Nyström).

Alfredo Versace and Lorenzo Lauria won the Yeh Pairs.

Many teams and pairs competing in the Yeh Bros. Cup stayed on for the Gold Coast Teams, one of Australia's premier events.

Full report next month.

# THE 2009 AHMEDABAD CAVENDISH

Raman Jayaram, Baroda, India

Ahmedabad is the largest city in the state of Gujarat and one of the largest urban agglomerations in India, with a population of approximately 52 lakhs (5.2 million). Located on the banks of the River Sabarmati, the city is the administrative centre of Ahmedabad district and was the capital of Gujarat from 1960 to 1970. In colloquial Gujarati, it is commonly called Amdavad.

Sunit Chokshi, the international who was a key member of the Indian team that lost to the ultimate winners, Italy, in the quarterfinals of the Estoril Bermuda Bowl in 2005 and who created history by winning the Wernher Pairs (with K.R. Venkataraman) during the Summer NABC in Las Vegas last year, is passionate about promoting bridge in the city in which he lives, Ahmedabad.

With the help of four of his industrialist friends from the Ahmedabad Bridge Association, Chokshi made a beginning by staging the Indian version of the Cavendish Invitational about five years back, and this year it became a mega event, the Dr K.M. Shah Cavendish Invitational. Thirty-two top Indian pairs accepted the invitation and battled out an all-play-all IMP Pairs event, three boards per round for a total of 93 boards, played over two days on the 28<sup>th</sup> of February and 1<sup>st</sup> of March in an almost-heavenly resort *Aantarkshitij*, about 15 km away from the city.

Superbly organized, the event was inaugurated by Geet Sethi, eight times World Billiards Champion and all the 31 rounds were webcast live over Bridge Base Online.

Most fancied pairs bit the dust from the word go. From the sixth round onwards, the event became almost a two-horse race. Anand Samant and Milind Athavale, a Mumbai pair, hit the front and chasing them, almost throughout, were Vinay Mohan Lal and Raju Bhiwandkar, also from Mumbai.

At the close of play on Day One, after 18 rounds, Samant-Athavale were on 107 IMPs whereas Lal-Bhiwandkar were on 84; by the end of Round 22, Samant-Athavale had increased their lead to 54 IMPs, 132-78. While the leaders started losing points from then on, Lal-Bhiwandkar picked up speed and at the end of Round 28, were just one IMP behind, 116-117.

The leaders lost 4 IMPs in Round 29 against the Wernher winners, whereas Lal-Bhiwandkar went into the lead for the first time as they lost only one IMP in that round. Lal and Bhiwandkar 115, Samant and Athavale 113 with just two rounds to go. But the lead was shortlived as Lal-Bhiwandkar lost 11 IMPs in those two rounds, whereas Samant-Athavale lost only 5 IMPs to emerge

victorious, 108-104. R.Sreekrishnan and R. Krishnan from Chennai came in third with 82 IMPs and Jaggy Shivdasani-Rajesh Dalal were fourth on 80 IMPs.

An analysis of the final score sheet reconfirmed to me what I have always believed in. Most bridge matches seem to be lost rather than won. The winners came down from 132 to 108 and still won. The second placed pair was in front with two rounds to go, but lost more points in those rounds to lose the title. Two deals caught my attention and both seem to have posed bidding problems to most of the pairs.

## Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

Surprisingly, the datum on the above deal was plus 800, indicating that many pairs missed out on the laydown six clubs. At the table that I watched this deal, after a pass by West, North opened with a Precision one club, three clubs (constructive, minimum six-carder, 4-7 HCP) by South and the opener chose to close the bidding with five clubs. Which partner is at fault? North felt that South should have upgraded the hand and bid two clubs, not three, and South asked what was the hurry to leap to five. To be successful partners, we must *first bid in the same language*.

## Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	Pass
1 ♥	1 ♠	2 ♠(!)	3 ♥(!!)
4 ♥	4 ♠	5 ♥(!!!)	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

I watched the above deal being bid at three tables and all six pairs were good players. At the first table, the bidding went (unbelievably) as diagrammed on the previous page. Plus 500 North-South. At another table, the bidding went:

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

Down two, minus 200 North-South. At yet another table, the bidding was:

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

Also down two, minus 200.

Competitive bidding is not “If you bid my partner’s suit, I will bid your partner’s suit.” The only makeable contracts here are two hearts and two spades; still, six of the better known pairs bid ‘competitively’ up to the game level, *voluntarily*. To my mind, the ways the above deal was bid in the three tables are three classic examples of knowingly bidding to lose.

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## SAYONARA

Mark Horton, Bath, England

It’s one of the oldest stories in bridge – declarer says goodbye to the contract at trick one. That usually happens as a result of a careless piece of play, but occasionally it is brought about by a stroke of genius on the part of a defender.

Here is a remarkable example of the latter, from this year’s NEC Cup in Yokohama.

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Fruewirth	Miura	Del'Monte	Koike
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	3 ♣	Double	4 ♣
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	5 ♣	Pass
5 ♠	Pass	6 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

It was clear from the bidding that East held a tremendous hand with a first round control in clubs, so Hiroaki Miura looked elsewhere for his opening lead. When his fingers settled on the seven of spades it was entirely understandable that declarer went up with the ace, drew trumps, and reading North for a 1-1-4-7 pattern, ran the ten of diamonds, saying goodbye to the contract.



The magnificent Pacifico Yokohama, including the Yokohama Grand Intercontinental Hotel

# TO FORCE OR NOT TO FORCE...

Bob Pitts, Leeswood, Flintshire, UK

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

Sometimes you may select your line of defence according to your judgement of the skill of the declarer. However, be careful as even good players can miss the correct line, especially if playing a long teams match on a Friday evening after hard week at work. At both tables the bidding was straightforward: one heart by South, one spade by North, two diamonds, four hearts, and each West had an easy start with the top two clubs.

At the first table, West, knowing that his partner had no hearts and expecting the very competent player in the South seat to play the trump suit accurately, shifted to a diamond. He hoped to find declarer with something like:

♠ Q J
♥ K J 10 7 2
♦ A J 10 2
♣ 5 3

when the switch would be essential. South won the diamond in hand, played a trump to the ace and continued the suit. When West won his queen, declarer had no further problems. Not only was South's diamond holding a disappointment, but on enquiry South admitted that he would have played the heart suit the same way even if West had continued with clubs at trick three.

When the board was replayed, West had a lower opinion of the alertness of the Grandmaster sitting South in his room and he did continue with a third round of clubs. South won with the queen, discarding a small diamond and played the heart ace. When a second round of hearts was played, West accurately ducked, and the contract was now doomed as the defence could always promote a second trump trick via a force in clubs.

The correct play in hearts is to start with the eight from dummy and run it unless East plays the queen. If this is allowed to win, then the nine is played next. West cannot take his queen on either of the first two rounds and force declarer, and South can then just cash the heart ace, enter his hand, cash the trump king and play winners until the defence take their trump trick. So which member of the side that lost 10 IMPs on the deal do you think was the most disappointed – West or South?

## A PROPOSED NEW IMP SCALE

(continued from page 1)

problem as long as the format does not change. There are about 800 team games a day and from each you will get about 8 results.

Now, with over 350,000 results, I could be really sure that the present IMP scale needs adjustment. In fact, the bridge scoring system should also be revised, but this is of course not possible, because scoring rules must be simple to allow calculations in one's head without calculators or programs. This amount of information is huge: in the Shanghai World championships there were 2300 results from the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup and Senior Bowl. The competition lasted 15 days. To get 350,000 results, those competitions would have to be played consecutively for six years.

In the proposal (Figure 1), there are changes throughout the IMP scale. The proposed one is not perfect, but this article's intention is to start a discussion.

The present IMP scale has been changed earlier too. It was invented in Austria (as EMP) and first used at the international level in the 1938 European Championships. At that time the IMP range was 0...12, in 1948 this was changed to 0...15 and again in 1961 to 0...25. A year later it was changed to 0...24 and this is still in use. At that time there were certainly not enough data and computer resources available to investigate the scale. Now when we do have both, and it has been found that the scale is not good enough, there is no excuse not to make further improvements.

Figure 2 (Count of IMP Results) shows that in the present scale, values 5, 6, 10, 11, 12 and 13 are too frequent and 3, 8 and 9 too infrequent. The proposal is not perfect, but it's a lot better. For IMPs greater than 15, 17 IMPs is too frequent. Figure 3 (Count of Score Dif-

ferences) illustrates the frequency of gross score differentials. This shows that the bridge scoring is not perfect. Differences 100, 200, 250, 300, 400, 450, 500, 600, 700 and 750 are too frequent. 600 is perhaps the worst, it occurs 5 times more often than the values between 560 and 690. Figure 4 shows the curve of the existing vs. the proposed scale.

This shows that the real problem is not in the IMP-table, but in the bridge scoring itself. As already stated I do assume that this cannot be changed, but some improvement can be done by adjusting the IMP-scale. This adjustment relies on available data and not on paperwork that I think was the foundation for the present table.

**The present and proposed scale (Figure 1)**

IMP	Current	Proposed
0	0-10	0
1	20-40	10-30
2	50-80	40-80
3	90-120	90-150

4	130-160	160-210
5	170-210	220-250
6	220-260	260-310
7	270-310	320-410
8	320-360	420-470
9	370-420	480-500
10	430-490	510-580
11	500-590	590-700
12	600-740	710-760
13	750-890	770-900
14	900-1090	910-1090
15	1100-1290	1100-1260
16	1300-1490	1270-1490
17	1500-1740	1500-1590
18	1750-1990	1600-1840
19	2000-2240	1850-2240
20	2250-2490	2250-2490
21	2500-2990	2500-2990
22	3000-3490	3000-3490
23	3500-3990	3500-3990
24	4000 and up	4000-10580

Author Backas' contention is that the IMP Scale should reveal a smoother distribution of results than it does and that the scale should be dependent on numbers of results falling within each IMP rather than the current method of spacing the scores out in a semi-geometric progression. Do you agree with the author's premise? Let us know. - Ed.

