



## 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.*

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For the first time in its short history, the IBPA Master Point Press Book of the Year award has joint winners. "Right through the Pack Again" by Ron Klinger and "North of the Master Solvers' Club" by Frank Vine each collected the same number of votes and marks for the award. In Solomonic fashion, there is no tie-breaking procedure.

The joint winners beat out four other short-listed contenders: *Wielding the Axe - The Vanishing Art of the Penalty Double* by Augie Boehm, *The Setting Trick - Practical Problems in Bridge Defense* by Ian McCance, *The Devil's Tickets* by Gary M. Pomerantz and *Frank Stewart's World of Bridge* by Frank Stewart.



Paraphrasing the description of *Right through the Pack Again* from the website, [www.ronklingrbridge.com](http://www.ronklingrbridge.com): *Right Through The Pack (A Bridge Fantasy)* by Robert Darvas and

*Continued on page 2, column 1...*



Frank Vine's trenchant commentaries on the game, often thinly disguised as fiction, appeared regularly in *The Bridge World* and other magazines in the 1970s and 1980s. A small

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## ...Klinger

Norman deV. Hart was published in 1948 and the idea of each card in the pack telling its own story was an instant hit. It is on virtually every bridge magazine's and bridge player's list of the top ten bridge books of all time and has become a bridge classic.

This new book follows the original but also continues the story of the Old Master, a character featured in a series of articles Klinger wrote for *The Bridge World* magazine. The Old Master managed to snatch victory from impossible-seeming situations but in the final article, *Last Hurrah*, he collapsed and died... or did he?

In *Right Through The Pack Again* the cards strive to keep the Old Master alive. Each card tells its own tale and how it was the key feature in a particular hand. Not only will you be entertained by the deals, but you will also learn more about why the Old Master has lost the zest for life. Will the cards be able to restore his desire to live? Here is the tale of the eight of diamonds.

### Trumpled to Death

Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

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

North's three hearts showed club support and a singleton or void in hearts. The Old Master toyed with the idea of bidding three no trump, but the poor clubs combined with the singleton diamond deterred him.

West began with the diamond ace and promptly switched to the club ten when East signalled with the diamond queen and the king dropped from South. Declare won in dummy and played the heart. It would do no good for East to rise with the heart king. - he did not have a second trump to lead and to play the heart king would also expose West to a ruffing finesse in hearts. East played low and the heart queen lost to the ace.

What was West to do? If he did not play a second trump,

## ...Vine

collection of his work was published previously by *The Bridge World*, but has long been out of print. Readers who are familiar with Vine's writings will be delighted to see them once more available, this time in a much more comprehensive collection. Those who haven't discovered Frank Vine's work before are in for a rare treat.

Vine was the master of parody, writing articles under such titles as *The Man from La Mancha*, *Wednesday the Rabbi Played Bridge* and *How I Challenged the Champs and Made Them Cry*. His article *Rashomon*, based on the Japanese film of 1950 in which each of four witnesses gives his or her version of events, rates as many players all-time favourite bridge article.

Vine liked to take potshots at the authorities, and in the 1970s and 80s there was no larger authority on the game than Edgar Kaplan, publisher of *The Bridge World*, Chairman of the ACBL Laws Commission and, with Norman Kay, one of the world's top partnerships. Here, in *The Coldbottom Chronicles*, Vine chides Kaplan for the views of sportsmanship and ethics espoused by *The Bridge World*.

And so we arrived at the Nationals. What a thrill to meet the storied giants of the game, whom none of us had ever seen. I made sure to point out those I recognized to Coldbottom to ensure he would be suitably apprehensive.

Our first important encounter came on the third round. Our opponents were certainly somebodies, for the table was engulfed by kibitzers. One smoked a meerschaum and the other was called Norman. It was all affability until the second board.

Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

The bidding was unexceptional. South (meerschaum) opened a weak no trump and North (Norman) put him in seven. I led the jack of hearts. The declarer let this come to his hand, puffed three times on his pipe, and pushed out the jack of spades. Whoa, I said to myself, I've got a problem.

I could play the deuce and give count. I could ignore

### ...Klinger

declarer would be able to cross-ruff the rest of the hand for eleven tricks. West therefore played the nine of clubs, but that was just as fatal.

The Old Master won with dummy's king of clubs, but East had no good discard. If he threw a spade, ace, king and a third spade ruffed would set up dummy's fourth spade. If East ditched a heart, a spade to the ace, heart three ruffed, diamond ruff and heart five ruffed would drop East's king, and South's heart jack would be high. Finally, East discarded the nine of diamonds. The Old Master ruffed the diamond three, ruffed a heart, and ruffed the four of diamonds. That made me into a winner, said the diamond eight. Had I been the seven of diamonds or lower, the contract would have failed.

### ...Vine

count and play a deceptive three, or I could pop the nine and try to muddle the communications. I took out one card, put it back, pulled out another, put it back, and so on for about four minutes. Finally, I played the three. The pipesmoker studied this, studied me, and finally finessed.

The director was polite but inquisitive. Why had I hesitated? I advised him it was not hesitation, it was thought. Thinking and huddling, I explained, though very different, often appear similar to an opponent. Luckily I was able to cite chapter and verse, namely the June *Bridge World*, page 26, where an identical situation had been carefully reviewed. I quoted the author: "If we had been hesitating over which card to play (whether to falsecard, whether to give count), we would say nothing. If declarer then misguessed, misreading our problem, we would be charmed."

As I left the table, I thought it appropriate to comfort my opponents. "When you decided to finesse," I said, "I was charmed. Really charmed."

## THE DC SUMMER NATIONALS

Barry Rigal, NYC

### A BRIDGE TOO FAR

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

At the table, we defended three clubs doubled for plus 800, so we were not tested to play three no trump. When Michael Rosenberg told me that the play was "interesting," we sat down, expecting hard work, and we were right. Play three no trump on a club lead to the jack and queen.

Let's look at simple lines. If you play the ace and a second diamond, East will win and play a low club back – and you are dead. If you duck a diamond at trick two, West wins and again a club is ducked. Your best bet is to unblock spades and lead a third club. East cashes out the clubs and exits with a heart. Whichever hand you win in, you have no timing for a squeeze.

The winning line is to return a club at trick two. The defence must duck (winning and shifting to a heart exposes West to a throw-in with the fourth spade to give you a third heart trick. Declarer crosses to the ace of spades and plays a third club. East wins and cashes a fourth club to reach this position:

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

If East cashes a fifth club, West will eventually be thrown in with hearts to lead spades. If West keep his two of hearts to keep from being thrown in, declarer can cash his spades and throw West in with a spade to concede the ninth trick in hearts. The play is actually far more complex, but this is the gist of the salient details.

### THE ULTIMATE INDIGNITY

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

Bobby Levin was full of admiration for the defence of Peter Bertheau and Jan Lagerman on this deal (Board 25) from the first final of the Life Master Pairs.

R. J. Becker, South, played the best contract, one no trump, after the auction one spade-double-one no trump-all pass. The opening club lead went to the jack and ace. A spade to the king held, then a club to the nine, ten and queen set up the winners in dummy.

West exited with the six of diamonds to the nine and king. Bertheau, East, made a just-fine play for the defenders by returning a low diamond to South's queen. Declarer cashed the clubs, East pitching hearts. South now played ace and a heart to Bertheau's king to reach this ending:

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

After winning the king of hearts, Bertheau played a thoughtful spade jack (in case the ten and six were switched) and Lagermore, West, ducked! Declarer had to win and exit with a spade, which subjected him to the ultimate indignity of a suicide squeeze. Going minus 90 for defending one no trump scored well for East-West since two spades made 110 at most tables. Minus 120, though, would have been a very poor result.

### ONLY THE SHADOW KNOWS

As all American readers will know, this title refers to Lamont Cranston: "Who knows what evils lurk in the hearts of men?" Kit Woolsey picked up:

♠ Q 5 ♥ 7 ♦ A Q 8 4 3 ♣ A K Q 7 5.

Playing a strong club system, he opened one club in third seat. Partner surprised and delighted him by responding two diamonds to show eight or more high-card points and five or more diamonds. How should you explore for the best game or slam?

Woolsey explained for my benefit (and perhaps for the benefit of some of our readers) that a splinter in hearts or spades(!) might not do the trick. The defenders might go passive or active and select a spade lead.

What he needed to do was to persuade the opponents that he did not have a source of tricks. Accordingly, he made a splinter bid of four clubs. Partner bid four diamonds, and now a key card inquiry revealed that their side was off two aces, so Woolsey signed off in five diamonds.

The player on lead had both majors under control, so he thoughtfully led a trump – and now the spade losers

went away on the clubs. The defenders had three winners in the majors to cash – but you really cannot blame them for falling for Kit's ruse . . . this time.

### A LOSING CAUSE

Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

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

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

Philippe Cronier showed me this deal from his losing Spingold Knockout Teams match. How would you play four hearts on the lead of the seven of spades (third- and fifth-best)? I think it is right to put up the jack, planning, if it holds, to lead a heart to the jack in hand and thus get to the table to take all the finesses.

At the table, you play the spade nine, which is covered by the ten. You win the ace and lead a diamond to the jack, which loses to the queen. Boy, things are really going well. East now emerges with the heart three! Plan the play.

Clearly the club finesse is right – else East would have shifted to one. And either the spades are 6-1 or East has the queen, explaining why that suit wasn't continued. Does that help?

Note that if the jack of hearts is covered by the queen, you have used your only entry to dummy and you are almost dead. At the table, declarer, Kyle Larsen, decided to play for the ace of diamonds to be onside and nothing too hostile in trumps. So he rose with the king and led a diamond up, there was good news and bad. This was the full deal:

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

As you can see, after the play of the king of hearts, there was no chance for declarer to succeed. Credit Cronier with a very effective trump shift. Without that, declarer would surely have succeeded. I just sat there.

### FOLLOWING SUIT

Gunnar Hallberg showed me this deal from his Spingold Knockout Teams match – Ao versus Schwartz.

Normally, to execute a squeeze requires technique. As Gunnar described it, he simply followed suit and all of a sudden a squeeze materialized.

**Dealer North. Neither Vul.**

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

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

Hallberg could read from the tempo that East had an off-centre pattern for his overcall. On the lead of the eight of clubs, East had to decide if his partner had a singleton or doubleton club. If the former, he needed to win and shift to a spade. If the latter, he needed to duck the first trick. East guessed wrong, winning the club king and shifting to the king of spades. Hallberg won and led a diamond from dummy - and East pitched a club! Things looked bad, but West erred by winning the diamond jack with his ace and returning a spade. East cashed the spade queen and the club ace, then played a third spade. This was the position:

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

Hallberg won the ten of spades, pitching the ace of hearts, then cashed the queen of clubs, pitching the heart

king. On the run of the top three hearts, West was squeezed in spades and diamonds. Contract made!

### BUTCHER THIS HAND WITH ME

As a player and a writer, I know I'm no Terence Reese, author of the classic, "Play These Hands with Me." In my case, the accurate analysis tends to come in the post mortem.

**Dealer East. Neither Vul.**

♠ A J 4  
♥ K 7 5 3  
♦ A  
♣ K J 10 7 2

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	1 ♦
2 ♠	Double	3 ♠	4 ♥
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 ♠
Pass	6 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

My four-heart overbid got me to a very playable slam on the lead of the spade king. I won it (it may look tempting to duck, but a diamond shift would have tangled my entries) and East suggested an even number of spades.

Is it right to draw trumps now? I can't say, but I did. East had four, West pitched a spade. How should I play the clubs now? I assumed that East would have the queen – when I found them 4-2 on my left I had no chance to recover. But perhaps East's raise to three spades on a doubleton argues that he has a ruffing value, and it must be in clubs.

This was the full deal:

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

Let's say you guess to play the ace of clubs and finesse. From the top: ace of spades, two rounds of hearts, club ace, club finesse. You now ruff a club to hand (East does best to discard a spade). If you now make the 'natural'

play of the ten of spades from hand, West ducks. East ruffs and fires back his last trump. Down one.

Instead, after ruffing the low club, play West for a doubleton diamond. Diamond to the ace, club king, ruffed and overruffed, diamond ruff, heart king to draw the trump, club seven cashed and a spade to the ten forces West to concede trick 13 to dummy's jack of spades.

## SYNCHRONICITY?

### A LEADING VIEW

**Richard Colker, Wheaton, MD**

In one semifinal of the Grand National Teams, Championship Flight, the Meltzer and Meyers teams traded blows in the first two quarters, so that at half-time the match was in a virtual deadlock, with Meltzer ahead 59-55. The match was blown open in the third quarter, thanks in part to a brilliant opening lead by Kit Woolsey, who was South on the following deal, playing with his wife, Sally.

**Dealer East. EW Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
	<i>S. Woolsey</i>		<i>K. Woolsey</i>
—	—	1 ♠	Pass
1 NT	Pass	3 NT	Pass
4 ♣	Pass	4 ♦	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	6 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

East's three-no-trump bid normally showed a hand of about 18-19 high-card points with a good six-card suit. Assuming the slam was not off two aces, it was clear to Woolsey that the king of hearts had to be on his left and that declarer might not hold a high honour in the suit.

Woolsey backed his judgment by leading a low heart, striking gold when the full deal turned out to be as diagrammed. Declarer, not Sally, held the heart jack, presenting him with a losing option. Did Woolsey really underlead an ace against a slam?

When declarer ducked, Sally won the trick with the queen and returned a heart to Kit's ace for a 13-IMP

gain (East-West at the other table were in game, scoring 11 tricks when declarer misguessed the heart suit). Meltzer won the third quarter 63-21 and never looked back, winning 172-102 to get to the final, where they won the event with a victory over a team from New York.

## UNDERLEAD THE ACE?

**Brent Manley, Memphis, TN**

Chip Martel, a member of the winning team in the Grand National Teams Championship Flight, was presented with the tempting opportunity to underlead an ace against a slam in the final match. Not only did he know that the king was in dummy, his partner, wife Jan Martel, had doubled for the lead! All the ingredients seemed right for the defensive stratagem, and the lure to try the play was magnified by teammate Kit Woolsey's decision to successfully underlead an ace in the semifinal round to scuttle an enemy slam. See if you would succumb to temptation:

**Dealer South. Both Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
<i>C. Martel</i>		<i>J. Martel</i>	
—	—	—	1 ♠
Double	2 NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	5 ♣
Pass	5 ♦	Double	6 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Limit raise or better

The five-diamond control-showing bid strongly suggested the diamond king from Chip's point of view. Jan's double? The queen.

Martel ultimately decided against the underlead, however, preferring instead to simply cash the ace of diamonds. The defence eventually collected the king of clubs to boot, to beat the slam one trick. This picked up 13 IMPs for the Martels when their teammates stopped in the spade game.

Notice what happens, however, if a low diamond is led. Declarer has a bit of a guess, but if he trusts his vulnerable opponent's takeout double, he may conclude that the ace of diamonds is on his left. If he successfully guesses to play the king, he may then draw trumps, cash

the heart ace and king (pitching a diamond from dummy) and ruff a heart, dropping East's queen and jack. The established ten of hearts will allow another diamond pitch from dummy, and declarer will lose only a club trick to make the slam. Had this happened, Martel's team would have lost the match.

## 4333 AGAIN

**Jim Gordon, N. Burlington, VT**

In the closing stages of a knock-out match, the leading team is quite content to see a series of hands with flat distribution and little to the bidding or play. The trailing team, on the other hand, hopes for hands offering more latitude.

In the semi-final of this year's Spingold, the match between the defending Lynch team and the Meltzer crew had been desperately close throughout. Meltzer took a 12-IMP lead into the fourth quarter and had extended it to 18 IMPs, when opportunity came knocking for Lynch:

### Board 54. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

In the Closed Room, the first-time partnership of Tor Helness-Alan Sontag had to attack this particular beast with natural methods.

West	North	East	South
—	<i>Sontag</i>		<i>Helness</i>
Pass	—	Pass	1 ♦
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

After a start of one diamond-one heart-two spades, it was virtually impossible to find the makable slam in clubs. Sontag felt he'd run out of viable options when Helness bid and so he passed!

After a trump lead, Helness took his eleven top tricks. This felt like a loss, since it seemed the Precision auction at the other table might be able to handle the auction with more success.

West	North	East	South
—	<i>Gromov</i>		<i>Dubin</i>
Pass	—	Pass	1 ♣ <sup>1</sup>
Pass	1 ♥ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	3 ♦
Pass	5 ♦	Pass	6 ♦
Pass	7 ♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Precision: strong, artificial, forcing
2. Positive: 8+ HCP = 5+ hearts

Indeed, Dubinin-Gromov seemed well on their way after their first five bids. At this point, Gromov felt that the only further information he needed was the number of controls Dubinin held outside the diamond suit. He explained his five-diamond call as Exclusion Key Card, but the intended meaning was far from clear to Dubinin.

When Dubinin's next call was six diamonds, the partnership had climbed too high (at least on this layout). Gromov 'corrected' to seven clubs, but that was a 21-IMP swing to Meltzer (plus 11 instead of minus 10). Given the final margin of 12 IMPs, this hand essentially decided the match.

Note that on a spade or diamond lead, the actual layout requires somewhat careful play to take 12 tricks in clubs. Declarer must read the distribution and cash the available tricks in the majors before ruffing a heart in the South hand. After that, the spots in the trump suit suffice to guarantee the contract.

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# IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

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

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

This deal came from a matchpoint session and only one declarer managed to take thirteen tricks. West led the ten of spades at all tables and after winning the queen of spades, the successful declarer found the key play at trick two – leading the nine of clubs to dummy’s ace. After a successful diamond finesse, he continued with the jack of clubs. As East had followed with the eight of clubs on the first round of the suit, when West produced a second club it was safe to overtake this with the king of clubs (as you shall see).

A second diamond finesse brought the good news that the diamond finesse was actually working and the bad news that the suit had divided 4-1. No matter, declarer now led the four of clubs and covered West’s six with the seven, enabling him to take a third diamond finesse with the queen of clubs still available for the successful heart finesse.

All but one of the other declarers tackled clubs by cashing the jack first, reducing their entries to three, which they used to take diamond finesses. The remaining South began the clubs by leading the four of clubs to dummy’s ace and was unlucky enough to find a player who followed to the five of clubs with the ten, reducing the club entries back to three.

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

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

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

As South’s opening bid promised at least five spades, North had an easy simple raise over West’s takeout double. South had an equally painless decision to go on to game.

West began with the king of clubs and, after seeing declarer’s queen of clubs, he shifted to a trump. To the lone kibitzer it seemed that declarer either needed the diamond finesse or he had to guess how the hearts lay. However, after winning the trump shift with dummy’s ace and following from hand with the nine, declarer ruffed the five of clubs with his king of trumps. Next he played the jack of trumps to dummy’s queen and ruffed dummy’s last club high.

Next, declarer played the ace and nine of hearts. West played low and East found himself winning the trick with the queen, and now had no winning option. If he exited with a heart, declarer would throw the three of diamonds from hand. West would win the king of hearts and dummy’s jack of hearts would be the tenth trick, thanks to declarer having kept the three of trumps which made the four of trumps an entry to cash that winning card.

It would do no good for East to shift to diamonds. If a diamond honour, dummy’s nine-eight come into play; declarer covers it with the queen and West wins the king only to find that he can give declarer his tenth trick by leading either red suit or by conceding a ruff-and-discard. A low diamond shift is no better, for then



declarer plays the three and this forces West's king. Of course West would fare no better even if he won with the jack or ten for then he would be endplayed as on a heart back.

Of course, if West had taken the nine of hearts with an honour he would have found himself endplayed immediately. It would not matter which suit West played, for declarer would either make a third trick in one of the red suits (provided he ruffed any heart honour high) or get his tenth trick from a ruff-and-discard.

**489. Dealer South. Both Vul.**

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

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

After South showed five spades with his response to North's enquiry of three clubs, North made a slam try which was duly accepted by South.

After taking the queen of hearts lead with dummy's king, declarer played off the two top trumps. When West showed out on the second round, a rescue mission was needed. Declarer saw that he needed to throw East on lead with a trump when he only had minor suit cards remaining, forcing him to concede a ruff-and-discard for the twelfth trick.

Declarer began by playing the ace and king of diamonds then taking a diamond ruff in hand. Now he had to decide whether East had one or two hearts. If the former, he should play on clubs before throwing East in with a trump. However, a doubleton heart was around three times as likely a singleton. So, declarer went with the odds by playing a heart to the king. Then came the three top clubs and a trump. East won the trump and folded his hand, conceding the contract.

**490. (See top of next column)**

West led the queen of hearts and declarer ducked the first two tricks, hoping that East had a doubleton ace. Instead, East took the third round of hearts with the ace and shifted to a club. Declarer took the club return in dummy and ran the nine of trumps. He was quite pleased when this won the trick but not so happy when

West discarded on a second round of trumps to the ten.

**Dealer North. E-W Vul.**

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

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

Declarer was now in a perilous position but he found the best chance to make his contract; his plan was to reduce his trumps by two and hopefully, to then trump coup East.

So, he began by playing the king of diamonds and overtaking it with dummy's ace. A club was then ruffed and dummy's ten of diamonds finessed for a second club ruff, reducing declarer to just the ace-queen of trumps and the nine of diamonds. When the ace of diamonds held the next trick declarer was home, for a club from dummy would guarantee two more tricks for ten in all.

## COMMONWEALTH NATIONS BRIDGE

The Commonwealth Nations Cup will take place in New Delhi, India starting on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> October. There will be four days of Round Robin play followed by a day off when an excursion to the Taj Mahal is planned. Teams eliminated are invited to join the HCL tournament which will start on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> with a teams tournament to which all Commonwealth official teams are invited. For those who wish to stay another couple of days the HCL will be holding a pairs tournament. The prize fund in the HCL is expected to exceed \$25,000.

Any country which has not received their official invitation by the end of September is requested to contact Subhash Gupta on:  
[sgupta07@rediffmail.com](mailto:sgupta07@rediffmail.com).

# QUID PRODEST?

(What's the good of it?)

**Coriolan Neamtzu, Bucharest**

Here is a miraculous hand from the 2009 Spingold final bid by a very famous pair - 1528 kibitzers on BBO were witness to a bidding sequence that could cause people to give up bridge!

## Board 4. Dealer West. EW

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Granovetter</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Ekeblad</i>	<i>Cohen</i>
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	3 S	Pass
3 NT	Pass	4 ♣	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	5 ♥	Pass
6 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

As you see, East-West were forced (needed?) to make 15 bids, all artificial and tortuous (30 minutes of torturing) - to reach the normal six notrump contract. I appreciated very much Larry Cohen's weary remark: "Please finish guys, I have no more pass cards".

I wish to congratulate the two experts for the excellent memory work demonstrated by them both.

I remember the wonderful Robert Darvas story from "Right through the Pack" with a young candidate for admission to a bridge club, who gives up because...bridge is too easy. Conversely, in real life, the difference is that many people renounce learning bridge because it is too difficult.

These days, when interest in bridge, and the number of players, is decreasing, does this sort of bidding represent the future? Are we on the way to developing two varieties of bridge, one for the masses, and another esoteric one only for initiated? Luckily, I remembered the advice of a French writer, Destouchez (about 1750): "Chassez le naturel, il revient au galop".

Saying good-bye, I climb the barricade of the bidding revolution and wave the flag; like Gavroche, I cry, "Vive la différence!"



# TRIALS & TRIBULATIONS II

**Suzi Subeck, Chicago**

Here are some more of the interesting deals from the US Trials, held in White Plains, NY, in June.

## Beatty v. Gerard (from Jeff Miller)

### Board 53 .Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Sanborn</i>	<i>Beatty</i>	<i>Rosner</i>	<i>Gerard</i>
—	1 ♦	4 ♣	Double
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Rosner led his singleton spade and Beatty stepped up with the ace in dummy to win the trick. He played a heart to the king, catching the ten, and a heart back to the queen. Sanborn ducked, creating some real pressure. If Beatty carries on with trumps, he is a trick short. He needs to develop a spade trick first, so he led a spade from dummy. Now he has ten tricks if the defenders play trumps.

Instead, Sanborn played two rounds of clubs, playing a forcing game. Once again, Beatty cannot lead trumps or Sanborn will win and continue clubs, forcing declarer's last trump. Instead, he pitched his last spade, ruffing in dummy, planning to use dummy's spades as 'substitute trumps'. But first there was one other little problem. Beatty could not let Sanborn pitch diamonds on the spades. Having a complete count on the hand, he accurately played exactly two diamonds before leading spades from the dummy.

This was good play by all, and a nice illustration of handling bad trump splits as well as card reading. It avoided a big loss, since 620 was also scored in the other room. Amazingly, the eight-card club suit was never mentioned (!) in that room and North/South managed to make four spades.

**Jacobs v .Ozdil**

**Board 34. Dealer East. NS Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
Lair	Grue	Ozdil	Cheek
—	—	2 ♥	Pass
4 ♠(!)	Pass	Pass	Pass

Mark Lair, sitting West, was pleasantly surprised when his partner opened a weak two in his six-card suit. Things got even better when his RHO passed. Mark knew the opponents had to be cold for game or even slam in one of the other three suits. He decided to take his chances and see if he could really PRE-EMPT them out of game. He bid four spades!! This was passed out. With the advantage of the opening lead, North/South were able to make slam ...down NINE(!) for a gain of 5 IMPs to Ozdil and a LOT of shtick value!

**Meltzer v. Nussbaum (from Jeff Miller)**

**Board 54. Dealer East. EW Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
Heitzman	Sontag	Prahn	Bates
—	—	Pass	1 ♣ <sup>1</sup>
2 ♦	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Strong, artificial, forcing

Matches sometimes turn on finesses and suit breaks. Sometimes the hands are well-suited to one team's methods or style. Long matches help to even out the breaks, putting the emphasis back on skill.

The Meltzer team needed a big rally in the final quarter, and needed a few breaks. The players knew the score,

and luck was with them on a crucial hand or two. The Nussbaum team was quite impressive. Here is a hand where the crucial finesse was not a winner – a chance for Sontag to show his technique. He did.

The opening lead was the diamond nine. There was a spade loser, a club loser, and two possible heart losers. Losing the first trump lead to East, Sontag got the return of the heart jack. Some might think that this play was revealing, but that is a superficial view. At this level, the lead might be from anything. Moreover, the correct technique is the same.

Sontag won with the heart ace. If the king were onside, it would still be there later. He next stripped the diamonds, drew trumps, and lost the club trick to West. Hearts could not be attacked from that side. Two rounds of clubs later, he was in his hand, ready to lead toward the heart queen, knowing that West had only one heart and the rest diamonds.

The finesse no longer mattered. If West had the king, he would deliver a ruff-sluff on the return. Who needs finesses?

At the other table, the declarer did not have a diamond bid, but perhaps had similar inferences from the carding. At this table an early heart finesse doomed the contract. This was one of many hands that marked the difference in the match.

**Rogoff v. Robinson**

**Board 35. Dealer South. EW Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
Parker	Stewart	Rogoff	Woolsey
Boyd	Simson	Robinson	Johnson
—	—	—	3 ♠
Double	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

At both tables, a high club was led and continued with partner giving upside count. Parker didn't envision stiff king of diamonds with South and shifted to a small heart. Unfortunately for him, declarer won this in hand, pulled trumps in two rounds and played his high diamonds to pitch his losers... making five!

Boyd cashed his three high clubs. On the third club, Robinson threw the jack of hearts. Boyd struck gold

when he played a fourth club. Johnson was helpless. No matter what he did, Robinson would score his queen of trumps. 11 IMPs to Robinson.

### Nickell v. Fleisher

#### Board 109. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

♠ A
♥ 6 4
♦ A K 7 6 5 4
♣ K 10 5 3

West	North	East	South
<i>Granovetter</i>	<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Rubin</i>	<i>Zia</i>
—	Pass	1 ♥ <sup>1</sup>	2 ♦
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Could be canapé

West	North	East	South
<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Ekeblad</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Rubin</i>
—	Pass	1 ♠	2 ♦
Pass	3 NT	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Meckstroth led the ace of hearts and switched to a spade. Dummy won the ace and played a club to the jack. Meckstroth won this and returned the suit. Ekeblad can make three notrump by cashing the minor-suit winners ending with the queen of diamonds in hand. This will set up an intricate squeeze position on Meckstroth's hand, as follows:

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

On a diamond to the queen, Meckstroth must either bare the heart king or come down to doubletons in both majors, whereupon he could be end-played in either one.

Ekeblad, however, made the fatal move of playing the queen of diamonds first and ultimately was forced to concede down one. He realised that he could only pick up 4-0 diamonds in Meckstroth's hand, thus catered to

that possibility, rather than the one which actually existed.

At the other table, the opening lead was a spade and Hamman immediately played a club to the queen and ace. No return by East can succeed in defeating the contract. East actually returned a spade to Hamman's jack, making nine tricks easy: three spades, three clubs and three diamonds, and denying Hamman the same opportunity Ekeblad had.

### Welland v. Nickell

#### Board 61. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

In the Closed Room on this deal, Hamman and Zia had found three notrump from the West seat. Willenken had no trouble finding the diamond lead and the contract was down two before it started.

However, in the Open Room, Weinstein/Garner bid to four hearts, a much better contract. Nickell did well to find the defence to beat four hearts. He cashed the ace and king of diamonds and played a third diamond. The ruff-sluff was useless for declarer - Weinstein ruffed in dummy, discarding a club from hand. He cashed the ace of clubs, king of spades, queen of spades, and then led the king of clubs which he ruffed in hand.

Weinstein next cashed the ace of spades and led the nine of spades. Nickell pitched his fourth diamond and Weinstein ruffed in dummy with the queen of hearts. With only clubs left in the dummy, when Weinstein exited, Nickell's nine of hearts could not be shut out. Nickell had held the loss to 3 IMPs instead of losing 13!

## Online Transmissions

30/08-12/09	World Championships	BBO
30/08-12/09	Running Scores from Brazil	Swan
09-10/09	Pula Festival, Croatia	BBO

# LOIBEN 2009

Fritz Babsch, Vienna

The Wachauer Bridgewoche in Loiben was a success although we lost 10% from last year's participation. The main tournaments were dominated by players from our neighbours; only the Mixed was won by an Austrian pair.

**Mixed** (154): Astrid Kerbl/Robert Franzel (Austria)

**Teams** (80) Kopecky, Kurka, Vozabal, Slemr (Praha) - A very young team that won 10 matches out of 11!

**Pairs** (172): I. Cappeller/Stahl (Germany)

**Miss Loiben:** Susanne Bohnsack (Germany)

**Mister Loiben:** Henning Bohnsack (Germany).

There were many very interesting hands in Loiben this year. This, for instance, was the best grand slam in all the tournaments (except, perhaps, the Teams):

West (D)	East
♠ A K Q 8 3 2	♠ J 9
♥ Q 9 8 4 3	♥ A K 10 7
♦ J 4	♦ A K 7 6 5
♣ —	♣ K 10

The grand slam in hearts is almost unbreakable but was bid only seven times at 60 tables! If the partnership settled in six no trump (nine times) declarer had only a good score if he made an overtrick but most South players led a club from queen-sixth against six no trump. Plus 990 was almost a zero, but plus 1010 was a lot below average. The deal is from the Mixed Pairs.

This hand from the last round of the Swiss Teams produced swings at four tables (the last two rounds of the tournament were played in three groups, the highest had six tables):

West	East (D)
♠ A K Q J 6 4	♠ 10 7 3
♥ A K 7 6	♥ 10 8 5
♦ —	♦ A J 10 4 3
♣ A Q 4	♣ 8 2

At table 1 a pair from Prague bid and made six spades (South had the king of clubs) but the German pair at the other table went down in some contract, losing 14 IMPs. At tables 2 and 6 there was no swing, but on tables 3, 4 and 5 the swing was always 11 IMPs; in each match, only one table had bid the slam.

On this deal from the pairs the wrong player pre-empted – which led to a zero. (See top of next column.)

Miss Hansen ruffed the opening lead of the nine of clubs, entered her hand with the king of hearts and played a heart to the jack – plus 1430! That was worth more than 98%. The slam was bid nine times at 80 tables but only three declarers made the contract.

Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bieder	A Babsch	Persy	Hansen
Pass!	1 ♦	3 ♣	3 ♥
3 ♠	4 ♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	4 ♠ <sup>2</sup>
Pass	6 ♥	Pass	Pass

1. Ace-asking
2. Two aces, no heart queen

## 2009 IBPA AWARDS

(Announced September 7, 2009;  
details next month)

### IBPA Personality of the Year

Rose Meltzer

### Alan Truscott Memorial Award

Gary M. Pomerantz for "The Devil's Tickets"

### Precision Best Bid Hand of the Year

Winner: Stuart & Gerald Tredinnick  
(England)

Journalist: Heather Dhondy (England)  
Bulletin 531, page 10

### RoseCliff Declarer Play of the Year

Winner: Steve Weinstein (USA)

Journalist: Phillip Alder (USA)  
Bulletin 533, page 5

### Gidwani Family Trust Defence of the Year

Winner: Michelle Brunner (England)

Journalist: Maureen Hiron (Spain)  
Bulletin 528, page 7

### Brazilian Junior Deal of the Year

Winner: Thomas Bessis (France)

Journalist: Brian Senior (England)  
European Junior Championships,  
Romania, Daily Bulletin



## Correspondence ...

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

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

Dear Mr John Carruthers,

Kindly refer to page 7 of the July 2009 IBPA Bulletin under the heading "Smith on Play". Declarer ducks the heart queen at trick three. Does he not go down now? LHO (let's say) shifts to the spade queen and if ducked, a spade is continued. Declarer can't recover to make three no trump from here. But if the heart queen is taken by the ace, the contract makes. (There is virtually no defence after a heart lead). Just simply run clubs with dummy keeping jack to five spades and a diamond. Declarer keeps the spade ace, two hearts and the ace-queen-nine of diamonds. LHO has to keep three cards to the king in diamonds (otherwise declarer ducks one round of diamonds and makes the queen a winner), both hearts (else declarer comes to hand in diamonds and gives a heart trick to make one heart a winner), thus a singleton spade. Now declarer cashes the spade ace (extracting LHO's last spade) and throws him in hearts for two tricks in diamonds to make three no trump.

Please see whether I am right on the above line; if so, declarer has not taken the correct path of play. On my line, on the fifth club, LHO is under pressure and is cut to the shape and size of declarer.

This I write to you drawing your personal attention because the hand is interesting. I have no intention of undermining anyone's action ... rather, declarer's play was good no doubt, but possibly not that good enough to claim title for play of the year. Thanks.

Sudhir Kumar Ganguly, Kolkata, India

Dear John,

I think Sweden should be a candidate for having the best-run tournaments. Take the festival in Örebro as an example: 348 pairs, no pre-registration, starting time 10 a.m. Late arrivals cannot play, possibly only filling a half table. Play starts exactly at 10.00; preduplicated boards, 24 boards, results after 12 and 24 boards. Prize giving about 5 minutes after end of play. Barometer scoring with at most 40 pairs per section.

The same thing about three or four times every day. In all 6,989 pairs for the whole week. Do you want more details? Patrick Jourdain can certainly confirm these facts. (You may well be right, but as I had only played in bridge clubs in Sweden and never in a tournament, I did not feel

qualified to comment on the efficiency of their organisation. -Ed.)

Yours etc., Hans-Olof Hallén, Malmö, Sweden

Dear John,

The latest edition of the IBPA Bulletin has a few uncharacteristic errors that escaped our usually flawless editor. (It is the editor's proofreaders, Katie Thorpe and PO Sundelin, who share this credit. I thank you on their behalf. - Ed.)

On p. 3, it says the Indian senior team scored an average of 22+ VPs per match, for an impressive 88%. However, one sentence earlier, it says that team lost to Pakistan by 2 IMPs for a 15-15 VP score. So there are 30 VPs per match; 22/30 is 73.3%, not 88%. (It is really a 25 VP scale, so although one can win 25-5, one can also win 25-0, not 30-0, so 20 VP per match is 80%, not 67%, and 22 VP per match is indeed 88%. - Ed.)

I have some doubts about the author's analysis of the first deal shown on pp. 3-4 - he says percentage play is something other than H9x(x)(x) on the right in hearts when LHO has preempted in another suit. But he goes on to say that RHO would be hard pressed not to split from any holding of KQ(x)(x), so when the successful declarer led low from dummy and it went low, the king-queen holdings were mostly eliminated, leaving 3-3 and 4-2 splits, in all of which RHO needs the nine for declarer to have a chance (theoretically, declarer could have led the heart jack from dummy when LHO has honour-nine doubleton, but if RHO covered, there would be the risk of an adverse ruff). So I thought the criticism of a declarer who made the hand against the actual distribution was both wrong and unwarranted. The gratuitous slight against RHO ("not Meckstroth") might also have been better edited out of the piece - even Meckie can't see through the cards every time at trick two. (I hardly think it's a slight to say a player is not Meckstroth - not many would feel slighted. - Ed.)

At the end the author says Gupta would have engaged Kiran "in a long discussion on the virtues of percentage plays" - but what does the author think was the percentage play? When RHO rates to have length, I think low to the nine is right - it's the only winning play when RHO has Hxx and it's at least 4-2 when RHO has four (or more).

Separately, I was a bit disappointed in the volume of prose not connected to specific deals - the BFAME article had only five hands for four full pages of the Bulletin - it was less than engrossing to read about the shifting VP totals in each event with no hands linked to the action. The next two pages had five hands, the column service had the usual four hands in two pages, and again there are five hands in the next two pages. Then there is only one hand in Priday's nearly full page obit on Michael Wolach (BTW, Priday has Wolach escaping Siberia and going through Israel on his way to Egypt to rejoin the Polish army - but Israel did not come into existence until some years later, in 1948). (*Mea culpa when it comes to the relative volume of prose versus bridge deals.* - Ed.)

The letters to the editor misguidedly took you to task for promoting bidding system restrictions designed to allow spectators to follow the action without encyclopaedic notes. Almost every sport has such restrictions - in American football, for instance, a certain number of offensive players must start the play from the line of scrimmage; in basketball, zone defences are restricted, there is a three second rule for being under the basket; there are similar rules in hockey (blue lines, slots, rules to protect the goalie), table tennis (one must release the ball from hand before serving), baseball (spitball prohibition, balk rule, infield fly rule), golf (limits on the number of clubs, golf ball design), etc. These rules not only make each game more interesting and the contest more equal (or more skill-determinative), but make it easier for spectators to follow the action (and often correlatively, create more action).

There's no reason bridge should not consider whether its future would not be better served by system restraints that cater to kibitzers. You should be applauded for broaching the subject (it has been raised before, but usually by lesser players than our esteemed IBPA editor and then for personal advantage - muckymucks just hate losing to HUMs, so they try to regulate them away rather than first seeing if there is a way to expose their weaknesses so that no one wants to play them, which is what I think relegated the New Zealanders "fert" system to the dustbin of history).

Regards, Allan Falk, Okemos, MI

## Corresponding with the IBPA President

IBPA Members, please use  
president.ibpa@gmail.com when  
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on IBPA matters.

# NEWS & VIEWS

## RONA ELECTED WBF PRESIDENT

Gianarrigo Rona, president of the European Bridge League and first vice president of the World Bridge Federation, has been elected president of the WBF. He will succeed José Damiani, WBF president for a decade and a half, at the end of 2010. "I am honoured," Rona said. "It is not an easy task to follow the four giants before me," he added, referring to Damiani, WBF President Emeritus Jaime Ortiz-Patiño, Ernesto d'Orsi and Bobby Wolff, both former presidents.

Rona is a retired attorney who lives in Milan, Italy. He has a long record of service in bridge administration, starting with his election to the board of the Italian Bridge Federation in 1978. He was president of the IBF from 1986 until earlier this year. He has been EBL president since 1999.

## TBW IS 80

*The Bridge World*, the highly-respected bridge magazine, celebrates its eightieth anniversary this month. Its special October issue recognizes the diversity of bridge by presenting awards in many categories.

## SCORES FROM BRAZIL ON SWAN GAMES

**Running scores from Sao Paolo, Brazil**, updated every minute - Live scores from the **Bermuda Bowl**, **Venice Cup**, **Ernesto d'Orsi Seniors Bowl**, and the **World Transnational Teams** will be available on SWAN's website:

<http://www.swangames.com/magic>

The running scores pages contain all the information produced by the local scoring system, ranks, matches, brackets, line-ups, rosters, bidding and play, time schedule, butler and more.

## I<sup>ST</sup> EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES CHAMPIONSHIP

The I<sup>st</sup> European Universities Championship is to be held in Opatija, a maritime resort in Croatia, October 4-10, 2009. It will be organized by EUSA (European University Sports Association) which recognized bridge as a sport in 2007.

The championship is open to teams representing European universities. Each university may participate with any number of teams. Entries can only be made through EUSA (not via NBOs). See [www.eurobridge.org](http://www.eurobridge.org) for details.

# 2009 World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
<b>2009</b>			
Aug 29-Sep 12	29 <sup>th</sup> World Team Championships	São Paulo, Brazil	<a href="http://www.worldbridge.org">www.worldbridge.org</a>
Sep 4-6	1 <sup>st</sup> Festival Nazionale del Bridge	Sanremo, Italy	Assoc. Bridge +39.0184.261639
Sep 5-16	48 <sup>th</sup> International Bridge Festival	Pula, Croatia	<a href="http://www.crobridge.com/pula">www.crobridge.com/pula</a>
Sep 7-12	Senior Games 2009	Zeeland, Netherlands	<a href="http://www.seniorgames2009.co">www.seniorgames2009.co</a>
Sep 10-13	43 <sup>rd</sup> Isle of Man Congress	Douglas, Isle of Man	<a href="http://www.ebu.co.uk">www.ebu.co.uk</a>
Sep 18-27	Guernsey Congress	Guernsey, Channel Is.	<a href="http://www.ebu.co.uk">www.ebu.co.uk</a>
Sep 26-Oct 4	New Zealand National Congress	Hamilton, NZ	<a href="http://www.nzbridgecongress.co.nz">www.nzbridgecongress.co.nz</a>
Sep 28-30	2 <sup>nd</sup> European Small Federations Champ.	Vilnius, Lithuania	<a href="http://sf2009.sportbridge.lt/">http://sf2009.sportbridge.lt/</a>
Oct 1-4	36 <sup>th</sup> Vilnius Cup	Vilnius, Lithuania	<a href="http://sf2009.sportbridge.lt/">http://sf2009.sportbridge.lt/</a>
Oct 2-5	Tolani Grand Prix	Mumbai, India	<a href="http://www.cba.org.in">www.cba.org.in</a>
Oct 4-10	1 <sup>st</sup> EUSA Bridge Championship	Opatija, Croatia	<a href="http://www.eurobridge.org">www.eurobridge.org</a>
Oct 6-11	Women's Jamboree	Rome, Italy	<a href="http://www.worldbridge.org">www.worldbridge.org</a>
Oct 8-13	EBU Overseas Congress	Andalucía, Spain	<a href="http://www.ebu.co.uk">www.ebu.co.uk</a>
Oct 9-11	International Team Tournament	Monte Carlo, Monaco	<a href="http://www.federation-bridge.mc">www.federation-bridge.mc</a>
Oct 15-18	8 <sup>th</sup> European Champions Cup	Paris, France	<a href="http://www.worldbridge.org">www.worldbridge.org</a>
Oct 16-18	International Teams Tournament	Caserta, Italy	<a href="http://www.federbridge.it">www.federbridge.it</a>
Oct 17-18	63 <sup>rd</sup> Lederer Memorial	London, England	<a href="http://www.metrobridge.co.uk">www.metrobridge.co.uk</a>
Oct 20-24	Sun, Sea & Slams	Christ Church, Barbados, WI	<a href="http://www.cacbf.com">www.cacbf.com</a>
Oct 21-29	Australian Spring Nationals	Sydney, Australia	<a href="http://www.abf.com.au">www.abf.com.au</a>
Nov 5-15	15 <sup>th</sup> Red Sea International Festival	Eilat, Israel	<a href="http://www.israbridge.com/ibf/Redsea">www.israbridge.com/ibf/Redsea</a>
Nov 8-14	1 <sup>st</sup> Asian University Championships	Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia	<a href="http://www.gabsi.or.id">www.gabsi.or.id</a>
Nov 14-21	9 <sup>th</sup> Cuba International Festival	Havana/Varadero, Cuba	<a href="http://www.cubabridge2005.com">www.cubabridge2005.com</a>
Nov 26-Dec 6	ACBL Fall NABC	San Diego, CA	<a href="http://www.acbl.org">www.acbl.org</a>
Nov 27-Dec 5	Festival Mar del Plata	Mar del Plata, Argentina	<a href="http://www.bridgeargentino.org.ar">www.bridgeargentino.org.ar</a>
Dec 5-6	UBS Teams	Uppsala, Sweden	<a href="mailto:eva.bjarnab@bredband.net">eva.bjarnab@bredband.net</a>
Dec 5-9	31 <sup>st</sup> ASEAN Bridge Club Championships	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	<a href="http://www.mcba.org.my">www.mcba.org.my</a>
Dec 6-8	Città di Milano	Milan, Italy	<a href="http://www.federbridge.it">www.federbridge.it</a>
Dec 6-13	1 <sup>st</sup> Regional-on-a-Cruise	Miami, FL (Embark)	<a href="http://www.acbl.org">www.acbl.org</a>
Dec 11-13	Geologi Cup	Bandung, Indonesia	<a href="http://www.gabsi.or.id">www.gabsi.or.id</a>
Dec 18-20	Junior Channel Trophy	Belgium	<a href="http://www.ebu.co.uk">www.ebu.co.uk</a>
Dec 27-30	EBU Yearend Congress	Blackpool, England	<a href="http://www.ebu.co.uk">www.ebu.co.uk</a>
<b>2010</b>			
Jan 11-25	Summer Festival of Bridge	Canberra, Australia	<a href="http://www.abf.com.au">www.abf.com.au</a>
Jan 23-29	51 <sup>st</sup> Bermuda Regional	Southampton, Bermuda	<a href="http://www.bermudaregional.com">www.bermudaregional.com</a>
Feb 9-14	EBU Overseas Congress	Madeira, Portugal	<a href="http://www.ebu.co.uk">www.ebu.co.uk</a>
Feb 27-Mar 6	Gold Coast Congress	Broadbeach, Australia	<a href="http://www.abf.com.au">www.abf.com.au</a>
Mar 2-7	Mexican Nationals	Ixtapan del Sal, Mexico	<a href="http://www.acbl.org">www.acbl.org</a>
Mar 11-21	ACBL Spring NABC	Reno, NV	<a href="http://www.acbl.org">www.acbl.org</a>
Mar 19-23	12 <sup>eme</sup> Festival de Palavas	Palavas, France	<a href="http://www.ffbridge.asso.fr">www.ffbridge.asso.fr</a>
Mar 21-26	White House Junior International Teams	Amsterdam, Netherlands	<a href="mailto:keestammens@email.com">keestammens@email.com</a>
Mar 30-Apr 4	115 <sup>th</sup> Canadian Nationals	Toronto, ON	<a href="http://www.unit166.ca">www.unit166.ca</a>
Apr 2-5	Easter Festival	London, England	<a href="http://www.ebu.co.uk">www.ebu.co.uk</a>
Apr 24-May 2	Lambourne Jersey Festival	St. Helier, Channel Is.	<a href="http://www.ebu.co.uk">www.ebu.co.uk</a>
Apr 28-May 2	International Berlin Championship	Berlin-Spandau, Germany	<a href="mailto:bridgelvberlin@aol.com">bridgelvberlin@aol.com</a>
May 12-13	25 <sup>th</sup> Bonn Nations Cup	Bad Godesburg, Germany	<a href="http://www.bridge-verband.de">www.bridge-verband.de</a>
May 21-29	PABF Championships	Hamilton, New Zealand	<a href="http://www.gabsi.or.id">www.gabsi.or.id</a>
May 30-Jun 6	12 <sup>th</sup> German Festival	Wyk auf Föhr, Germany	<a href="http://www.bridge-verband.de">www.bridge-verband.de</a>
Jun 3-6	50 <sup>th</sup> Poznan Bridge Congress	Poznan, Poland	<a href="http://www.kongres.brydz.wlkp.pl">www.kongres.brydz.wlkp.pl</a>
Jun 18-Jul 2	50 <sup>th</sup> European Team Championships	Ostend, Belgium	<a href="http://www.eurobridge.org">www.eurobridge.org</a>
Jul 1-3	European Transnational Pairs	Ostend, Belgium	<a href="http://www.eurobridge.org">www.eurobridge.org</a>
Jul 12-19	5 <sup>th</sup> World University Championships	Kaoshiung, Taiwan	<a href="http://www.worldbridge.org">www.worldbridge.org</a>
Jul 22-Aug 1	ACBL Summer NABC	New Orleans, LA	<a href="http://www.acbl.org">www.acbl.org</a>
Aug 6-12	Summer Congress	Brighton, England	<a href="http://www.ebu.co.uk">www.ebu.co.uk</a>
Aug 6-15	20 <sup>th</sup> Solidarity Festival	Slupsk, Poland	<a href="http://www.polbridge.pl">www.polbridge.pl</a>
Oct 1-16	2010 World Bridge Series	Philadelphia, PA	<a href="http://www.worldbridge.org">www.worldbridge.org</a>
Oct 24-31	3 <sup>rd</sup> Commonwealth Nations Cup	New Delhi, India	<a href="mailto:sgupta07@rediffmail.com">sgupta07@rediffmail.com</a>
Nov 25-Dec 5	ACBL Fall NABC	Orlando, FL	<a href="http://www.acbl.org">www.acbl.org</a>