



BULLETIN

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Editorial



Thirteen world titles will be contested in Philadelphia this fall. They are:

EVENT	START	END
World Mixed Pairs	Sat 2 Oct	Mon 4 Oct
World Open Knockout Teams (Rosenblum Cup)	Tue 5 Oct	Wed 13 Oct
World Women's Knockout Teams (McConnell Cup)	Tue 5 Oct	Tue 12 Oct
World Senior Knockout Teams (Rand Cup)	Fri 8 Oct	Mon 11 Oct
GENERALI World Open Pairs	Sat 9 Oct	Sat 16 Oct
GENERALI World Women's Pairs	Sat 9 Oct	Sat 16 Oct
World Senior Pairs (Hiron Trophy)	Tue 12 Oct	Fri 15 Oct
World IMP Pairs	Tue 12 Oct	Sat 16 Oct
World Mixed Swiss Teams	Thu 14 Oct	Sat 16 Oct
World Junior Teams (Ortiz-Patiño Trophy)	Sun 10 Oct	Sat 16 Oct
World Youngsters' Teams (José Damiani Cup)	Sun 10 Oct	Sat 16 Oct
World Girls' Teams (Gianarrigo Rona Cup)	Sun 10 Oct	Sat 16 Oct
World Youth Individual	Thu 14 Oct	Sat 16 Oct

All but the youth titles are open to transnational pairs and teams. The first three youth titles are comprised of WBF Zone team qualifiers; the Individual title is open to anyone 26 years of age or younger. Most championships will also have consolation events for non-qualifiers. See www.worldbridge.org for details.

In addition to these World Championships under the auspices of the World Bridge Federation, the American Contract Bridge League will host a concurrent Regional tournament in Philadelphia from Friday Oct 1 until Saturday October 16. See www.acbl.org for details.

You will notice that there is some overlap in the Open Teams/Open Pairs, in the Women's Teams/Women's Pairs and in the Youth Championships/Youth Individual. Following the scheme begun in New Orleans in 1978, and continued since, late knockouts in the team events will be allowed entry into their respective pair or individual event. The senior events are not concurrent, so no such consideration applies to them.

The organisers aim to make this the biggest and best World Championship ever. As it will be José Damiani's swan song as President of the World Bridge Federation, this goal is supported by the WBF and may well be within reach.

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Raman Jayaram, Baroda, India
Arun Annaji, Bangalore, India

The Garden City of India was founded by the legendary Kempe Gowda in 1537 with the support of the then-king Achutaraya. Today, Bangalore has become a city of unlimited fun, with night clubs, restaurants, cinemas and many other modes of entertainment. It is a thriving modern commercial nerve center and the IT capital of India. Bangalore is considered India's friendliest and most liberal city. It is well-connected by road, rail and air to all major Indian cities.

The 51st edition of the Indian Winter Bridge National Championships was played in Bangalore during the period 15–24th December 2009, in which nearly 1000 players from all over India, including a handful of foreign players, took part. The President of the Bridge Federation of Asia and the Middle East (BFAME), Ghassan Ghanem, had flown in from Amman along with his wife Nuha Hattar Ghanem, mainly to attend the official release of his book, 'The Romance of Bridge', in co-authorship with Raman Jayaram, during the inaugural function on 14th December.

One hundred and fifty teams entered the fray for the Ashok Ruia Trophy for teams of four. Divided into two groups, the teams went through 15 rounds of 10-board Swiss league matches and 16 from each group qualified for the next stage, the Round of 32 'Mini-Swiss' league of eight 12-board matches. From these, eight teams qualified for knockout play. The quarterfinals were played over 30 boards, the semifinals were decided over 36 boards, and the final on 20th December, was a pulsating 64-board affair.

During the early Swiss league matches, **Hansa Narasimhan's** team and several-times winner, **Indian Railways 'A'**, went on a rampage, topping Groups A and B respectively with over 77% scores. While Hansa's team (Hansa Narasimhan, Anal Shah, S. Dutta, Amod Rele, Jagdish Biswas and P. Mukherjee) fizzled out in the round of 32 Mini-Swiss league, the Railways team continued relentlessly till the very end.

Several times India's representative team, twice quarterfinalists in the Bermuda Bowl, in 2001 and 2005, Kiran Nadar's **Formidables** fell short of the last eight by 7 Victory Points while Narasimhan missed by 3 VP.

The Railwaymen had an easy passage into the final, winning their quarterfinal and semifinal matches by margins of over 30 IMPs. Not so their opponents in the finals, Ashok Goel's **Dhampur Sugar Mills**, who just prevailed over **Arun Jain** of Kolkata in the quarterfinals, by 5 IMPs, and over **Cabal of Mumbai** by 8 IMPs in the semifinals.

The stage was set for a dramatic 64-board final, on several counts. The Railways were captained by Manas Mukherjee, five-times winner of the Ruia Trophy, and included Rana Roy, who has won the trophy six times. In the Dhampur Sugar Mills team was the veteran of all Indian veterans, Kamal Mukherjee, semifinalist in the 1988 Teams Olympiad in Venice. Also in the Dhampur team was Pritish Kushari, who has been in the Railways team in the past, having been a key player in helping that team win the Ruia Trophy five times. Pritish, like Rana, has won the trophy six times and it was to be seen who will forge ahead of whom. However, neither had a chance to equal Anand Mehta's record of eight Ruia Trophy wins, this time at least.

The finals began sedately enough. The Railways team took a lead of 5 IMPs over Dhampur in the first segment of 16 boards, 30-25. On Board 24, Pritish Kushari made a classic defensive play.

Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
S Mukherjee	Kushari	Debabrata	Saha
Pass	Pass	1 ♣	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

You and I (as indeed did veterans Ashok Goel and Kamal Mukherjee in the other table) would settle for five clubs on the above East-West hands, and make it. Not so today's youngsters like Sumit Mukherjee and Debabrata Majumder for the Railways team, both in their early thirties. Debrabrata (East) played in three no trumps and got the lead of the nine of diamonds. North put in the king, won by the stiff ace. Declarer played a spade to dummy's ace and pulled a club from dummy, on which the king appeared. Winning this, declarer played a cunning two of clubs won by South.

Pritish Kushai, North, known as Guruji in Kolkata, and who has taught Bridge to both his opponents for a number of years, taught them another at-the-table lesson, by discarding the jack of diamonds. Talk about not keeping partner in the dark! Bhabesh Saha (South) cashed his diamond winners, for down two. The board enabled the Dhampur team to go into the lead for the first time in the match, 51-46. But the Railways came back strongly in three of the last four boards to gain 19 precious IMPs to lead at the halfway stage, 77-57.

Dhampur hit back effectively in the third segment, winning it 43-19, on the table that is, going into the lead 100-96. But Board 41 changed all that (and the outcome of the match itself).

Dealer North. EW Vul.

♠ 5 4 2
 ♥ K J 8 5
 ♦ A K 10 3
 ♣ 6 3

♠ Q 6 3
 ♥ Q
 ♦ Q J 9 4
 ♣ A K 9 4 2

♠ J 9 8 7
 ♥ 7 4 3
 ♦ 7 6 2
 ♣ J 8 5

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

West	North	East	South
Roy	K Mukherjee	Majumdar	Goel
—	Pass	Pass	1 ♥
Double	2 NT	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Kamal Mukherjee's two no trumps indicated a maximum passed hand with an excellent fit in the heart suit. The bidding tray took quite some time from the South-West side of the screen to be passed on to the North-East side. There was some 'pause' and who exactly was the cause was certainly not known to East, Subir Majumdar of the Railways, who called for the Director to protect his rights.

The Director ruled play to continue and the table result was four hearts made five. The Railways team appealed

against the Director's ruling. The Tournament Appeals Committee, however, revised the table result to read as 'three hearts made five.' As a result, Railways gained 6 IMPs and the tally at the end of the third segment was revised to Railways 102, Dhampur 100, instead of the earlier Railways 96, Dhampur 100. The latter were able to recover just one more IMP in the last segment and lost the match and the Ruia Trophy by just one IMP, 123-124.

In the Mohan Sicka Trophy for the board-a-match event, Dhampur Sugar Mills had sweet revenge, winning in the 21-team, 60-board final. Formidables were locked in a ding-dong battle with Dhampur at the end of the second session, but both teams had poor scores in the final segment, but still Dhampur managed to prevail just managing to beat Shree Cement of Kolkata who came with a burst of finishing speed to finish second, just behind the winners.

Vinay Mohan Lal and Raju Bhiwandkar of Shree Cement were twice unlucky in these Nationals. Going into the finals of the Holkar Trophy with a token carryover they just failed to catch up with continuous leaders Manas Mukherjee and Rana Roy, earning the pair a coveted double in these championships.

Over the years, I have asked many top Indian players who they thought was currently the best Indian player. The overwhelming favourite seems to be Anil Padhye of Mumbai, whom many of us refer to as the teddy bear of Indian bridge, as every one seems to like Anil as a player and as a human being. Rana Roy, seven times national champion, for instance, rates Anil very high up the ladder. Here is a deal played by Anil in one of the Swiss league matches against top-class opposition, in which he seized the one opportunity given to him by the defence to arrive at a classic end position.

Dealer East. NS Vul.

♠ Q 10 8 7 2
 ♥ A Q 9
 ♦ K 5
 ♣ K 6 3

♠ A
 ♥ 7 4
 ♦ Q J 8 7 3
 ♣ J 8 7 5 2

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

♠ K J 9 4 3
 ♥ 6 3
 ♦ 9 2
 ♣ A Q 10 4

As dealer, East opened a weak two hearts and after two passes, Anil Padhye (North) came in with two spades, promptly raised to four by South. Winning the club lead on the table, Anil pulled a spade. Winning this perforce, West had a choice of plays, and there was none that was obvious. All three remaining suits were possible.

Not unreasonably, he played his partner's bid suit and Anil put in the nine. After winning, East was now forced to return a spade; Anil won, cashed his clubs and ruffed the fourth round of that suit. He then ran his trumps, arriving at this position with dummy's last spade to be played:

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

On dummy's king of spades, Anil bared his king of diamonds and East was cooked. East tried jettisoning his ace of diamonds (his *only* hope), but Anil had the king and he was home.

As usual, the boards provoking most discussion were the freaks, like this one, Board 18 from the Swiss league Round 14 encounter between Railways B and Formidables:

Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Choksi	Roy	Gupta	Bose
—	—	Pass	1 ♥
1 ♠	Double	3 ♠	4 ♥
4 NT	Double	Pass	5 ♦
5 ♠	6 ♦	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Seven diamonds by South is unbeatable. At the table, declarer won the club lead with the dummy's ace, pitching a heart from hand. After removing trumps he played the heart ace and unnecessarily gave up a heart trick to East, but still made his contract. In the other room Formidables played in seven diamonds doubled making seven for a 13-IMP gain.



The High Court in Bangalore

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Krishnan		Moorthy	
—	1 ♠	3 ♠ ¹	4 ♠
5 ♦	5 ♠	Double ²	Pass
6 ♣	Pass	6 ♦	6 ♠
Pass ³	Pass	Pass	

1. Solid minor: requests 3NT with a spade stop
2. Extra values
3. Intended as forcing

Interesting bidding sequences seem to follow the Sri Lankan players wherever they go, even when they are only watching! This deal was brought to our notice by Mr. Anton of the Barras Team, who kibitzed it during an early round of the Rya Trophy qualifying.

West's pass on the third round of the bidding was intended as forcing, showing first-round control in both majors and suggesting the grand slam in diamonds. However, East did not see it that way and passed. As can be seen, six spades was laydown for North-South.

Had it been bid, seven diamonds, by virtue of being rightsided, would have been cold. At the other table, East played in six diamonds doubled, making. Seven diamonds by East has no chance because North can ruff the first round of clubs. The Anatarra team lost 21 IMPs on this deal for a net swing of 33 IMPs (they would

have gained 12 IMPs for bidding and making seven diamonds)!

The winners of the three major events were:

ASHOK RUIA TROPHY (Teams of Four): Indian Railways 'A' (Manas Mukherjee, Rana Roy, Amar Nath Banerjee, Sumit Mukherjee, Subir Majumdar and Debabrat Majumder)

MOHAN SICKATROPHY (Board-a-Match Teams): Dhampur Sugar Mills (Ashok Goel, Kamal Mukherjee, Pritish Kushari, Souren Dutta, Bhabesh Saha and Uttam Gupta)

HOLKARTROPHY (Open Pairs): Manas Mukherjee and Rana Roy

OZ BRIDGE

Ron Klinger,
Northbridge, NSW
(From the Sydney Morning Herald)



Try these problems:

I. Seduced by the Deuce

Dealer South. EW Vul.

♠ K Q 10 8 7 6
♥ J 9 6
♦ 8 6 4
♣ 10

♠ 4
♥ 10 8 2
♦ Q 10 9 2
♣ A K Q 4 3

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

You lead the club ace: ten, two, six. What do you play at trick two?

If you read East's play as a suit-preference signal because dummy has a singleton and a club continuation is pointless, East's club two, the lowest card, asks for the lower non-trump suit. So you shift to the diamond two, showing an honour there. The layout you expect might be something like this (See top of next column):

As you see, five clubs is making and South did well to sacrifice. As you cannot make six clubs, you take what you can from five hearts doubled. After the club ace, at the behest of East's club deuce, you shift to a diamond. The defence collects three diamond tricks for plus 300.

♠ K Q 10 8 7 6
♥ J 9 6
♦ 8 6 4
♣ 10

♠ 4
♥ 10 8 2
♦ Q 10 9 2
♣ A K Q 4 3

♠ 9 5 3 2
♥ 7
♦ A K 5
♣ J 8 7 5 2

♠ A J
♥ A K Q 5 4 3
♦ J 7 3
♣ 9 6

If you shifted to a diamond at trick two, well done, at least in theory. The actual deal was Board 18 in Round 5 of the Dick Cummings Open Pairs (where the numbers, 74 pairs this year, were well up from the 52 in 2008) and looked like this:

♠ K Q 10 8 7 6
♥ J 9 6
♦ 8 6 4
♣ 10

♠ 4
♥ 10 8 2
♦ Q 10 9 2
♣ A K Q 4 3

♠ A 9 5
♥ 7
♦ A 7 5 3
♣ J 8 7 5 2

♠ J 3 2
♥ A K Q 5 4 3
♦ K J
♣ 9 6

After the auction at the start of the column, West led the ace of clubs and, taken in by the two, switched to the two of diamonds. East took the ace and returned a diamond. South escaped for one down.

The defence should collect 500 via the club ace, and a spade switch to the ace, a spade return ruffed, a diamond to the ace and another spade ruff. To achieve this East should play the club jack at trick one as a suit-preference signal for spades.

How does East know West has a singleton spade? East cannot tell, of course, but West can. After the club jack, telegraphing the spade ace, West will switch to a spade only with a singleton, and then the defence proceeds as above. With two or three spades, West will switch to a diamond despite the signal. Trusting partner to do the right thing is an integral part of successful defence.

2. Pray, Consider the Possibilities

♠ A J 7 6 4
♥ K 6 3
♦ A Q 2
♣ A K

♠ K Q 9 8
♥ A Q 5 4
♦ 6 5 3
♣ Q 6

North leads the club ten against your six spades after the following auction. Plan the play. Trumps are 2-2.

West	North	East	South
2 NT	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
3 ♠ ¹	Pass	4 ♥ ²	Pass
5 ♣ ³	Pass	5 ♥ ³	Pass
6 ♣ ³	Pass	6 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. 5 spades
2. Slam try in spades without reference to hearts
3. Cue bids

In six spades, West won the club lead and drew trumps. 'Please let the hearts be 3-3,' he prayed as he cashed the heart king, ace and queen. When the hearts were 4-2, North holding four, declarer said a second prayer, 'Please let the diamond king be with South', as he played a diamond to the queen. North took the king and as West could not avoid a second diamond loser the slam was one down. This was the deal:

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

After drawing trumps West might as well cash the other club winner and then tackle the hearts. Although the hearts were 4-2, they did break in a friendly way. When it turned out that North had the thirteenth heart, West should play the fourth heart from dummy and discard the two of diamonds. North wins, but has no safe exit. A club gives declarer a ruff-and-discard (ruff in dummy and pitch the diamond queen), while a diamond return goes into the ace-queen tenace. Either way the slam is home.

If it turns out that South began with four or more hearts, you can ruff the fourth heart, return to dummy with a spade and then lead a diamond. If West plays low, play low also and hope North has to win the trick. If so, North is endplayed. If South wins the first diamond and plays another diamond, then you can finesse the queen.

3. Who Has the Tens?

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

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

1. Transfer to spades
2. Denies three or more spades

This deal arose in a national match-point event,

Your partner West leads the jack of diamonds against three spades. Declarer wins the ace in dummy and plays a high spade. You win the spade ace and lead the heart four, nine, queen, three. Partner continues with the diamond nine and declarer plays the two from dummy. How do you defend?

The actual East played the diamond three, thinking his partner had started with the jack-ten-nine and declarer a singleton. This was the full deal:

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

Declarer happily won the ten of diamonds, crossed to the queen of spades, noting the fall of West's ten with interest. A ruffing finesse for the king of diamonds followed, establishing two diamonds winners in the dummy. Declarer drew East's last trump and discarded a heart and a club on the established diamonds, for 11 tricks and plus 200! West wryly commented, "For some reason, this was not a good board for us."

East was at fault here. Had West begun with the jack-ten-nine of diamonds originally, his correct continuation is the ten, not the nine. He would only continue the nine from a doubleton jack-nine in this layout.

Look at the hand from declarer's point of view if East correctly rises with the diamond king, cashes the heart king and lead another diamond. South has a choice of two plays: (i.) ruff with the spade nine, playing East for the ten, or (ii.) ruff with the spade jack and hope the ten falls on the second round of the suit. Option (i.) is the higher-percentage play and if chosen by declarer, it would result in a score of plus 50 to East-West and a much better result than the 3% score they received for minus 200.

4. Gryners Are Winners

Dealer North. Both Vul.

South holds: ♠ 10 9 6
♥ 6 5 4 2
♦ A 7 6 3
♣ K 7

West	North	East	South
Rapaport	Malaczynski	Barany	Grynberg
—	1 ♦	Pass	?

What would you bid with Dora Grynberg's hand?

Because the hearts are so weak, some would respond one no trump with the South cards and some would bid two diamonds, but the recommended answer is one heart. The trouble with one no trump and two diamonds is that they deny a four-card major. If there is a 4-4 fit in hearts, that is likely to be the best spot for the partnership. If partner does not have support for hearts, then bidding one heart can have two good side-effects. It might dissuade an opponent from leading hearts and if partner has one heart or none, the opponents are most unlikely to find their heart fit after South has bid the suit first.

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

♠ 10 9 6
♥ 6 5 4 2
♦ A 7 6 3
♣ K 7

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

It takes the singleton heart lead to legitimately defeat four hearts, but West made the natural lead of the king of spades. No doubt East was feeling very happy when dummy appeared and he saw that his heart honours were perfectly poised over dummy's hearts. Any feeling of elation quickly turned to frustration, as Dora Grynberg made short work of the play.

After the spade ace, South played the diamond queen, king, ace, followed by a spade ruff, club to the king, spade ruff, club ace, club ruff and a diamond to the jack.

Declarer continued with the club jack, queen, ruffed. That gave South the first nine tricks and when she led a diamond, she claimed the heart king as her tenth trick. The opponents were spontaneous in their congratulations. They were particularly impressed with

the ease and confidence with which South had played the hand, a line of play which would satisfy a world champion.

Do you know what makes this deal especially noteworthy? South is 96 years old!

2009 IBPA Handbook

The 2009 Handbook that Tjolpe Flodqvist has kindly composed can be accessed and downloaded from the IBPA (web) Archive on the IBPA website. The password for the Handbooks is "ihccaT". Go to www.ibpa.com and click on "Archive".

David Bird's 100th!

No, we don't mean David Bird is 100 years old – he's way younger than that. However, in his attempt to emulate Isaac Asimov (over 500 books published) David will publish his 100th book in March 2010. Congratulations from all IBPA members. To our knowledge, no other bridge writer can match this output.

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504. Dealer North. E-W Vul.

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

West led the three of clubs. East took his ace-king of clubs and shifted to the king of hearts. Declarer took this with dummy's ace and drew three rounds of trumps with the king, queen and ace. Then he played rather carelessly by cashing his ace of diamonds and leading a low diamond to dummy's jack. The good news was that the finesse succeeded but the bad news was that the contract could no longer be made; there was no re-entry to his hand to repeat the successful diamond finesse and he now had to lose two heart tricks for one down.

Of course, declarer should have led a low card to dummy's jack on the first round of the suit. While that might lose to a singleton queen with East but it will allow the contract to be made when East holds a singleton pip (which is four times more likely than a singleton queen). Here the finesse succeeds and declarer can return to the ace of diamonds and take another diamond finesse. He makes five diamond tricks and an overtrick.

505. Dealer West. Both Vul. (See top of next column.)

After North shows a sound raise to three spades, declarer pressed on to game. West began the defence by playing three top hearts. East discarded a diamond on the third round, and declarer ruffed. As there was a certain loser in clubs, the fate of the contract rested on managing the diamonds without losing a trick. As

West had revealed nine cards in the major suits, the contract was odds-against making.

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

West	North	East	South
1 ♥	Pass	Pass	1 ♠
2 ♥	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Still, as there was no rush to play on diamonds, declarer led the queen of clubs. East took this with the ace and exited in clubs. After winning this with the ten of clubs, declarer cashed the king of clubs. This revealed that West had at most one diamond. So declarer continued by cashing the ace of diamonds, hoping that West had a singleton ten or queen in the suit. When West actually followed with the ten of diamonds, declarer led the seven of diamonds to the nine, finessing against East's queen to make his contract.

506. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

It seemed to West that there was little likelihood of declarer making ten tricks and so he doubled the final contract. West began the defence by leading the king of spades and had a small tinge of anxiety when declarer ruffed.

Reading the double as a warning of a bad trump break, declarer set out to make as many non-trump winners as possible. So, at trick two, he finessed the queen of diamonds successfully. A trump to the ace revealed the 5-0 trump actual break and declarer led another diamond, West playing the king. Declarer took this with dummy's ace and played the jack of diamonds, and was not surprised when West produced a third diamond. Next, declarer played a club to the king followed by a club towards dummy's ace.

West could do no better than ruff and return a spade. Declarer ruffed the spade with his eight of trumps and led a third round of clubs. Again West ruffed and exited with a spade. Declarer ruffed this with jack of trumps and then cashed the king of trumps, reducing everyone to two cards. West had the queen of trumps and a spade remaining while dummy the seven of trumps and a spade. When declarer led the fourth round of clubs from hand, West had no answer. It would not matter whether he ruffed or discarded, dummy's seven of trumps would be declarer's the tenth trick.

Do you think East was unkind when he asked 'Why did you double?'

507. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

♠ 6 4
 ♥ Q 9 8 5
 ♦ K Q J 9 6
 ♣ J 3

♠ 9 7 5 3 2
 ♥ 2
 ♦ 8 3
 ♣ Q 10 8 6 4

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

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

West led the obvious king of diamonds after this powerful auction. Declarer took this with dummy's ace and played two top spades, discarding the two small diamonds left in his hand. Next he played a low trump to the king followed by a low trump towards dummy. When West followed with the eight of trumps, declarer

saw that the contract could be all but guaranteed by finessing dummy's ten.

When East discarded on the second round of trumps, declarer could not afford to cash the ace of trumps just yet; if he did West would ruff the third round of spades and declarer would have two club losers. Instead declarer played on spades immediately, leaving the ace of trumps as a late entry to dummy's remaining spade winners. No matter when West ruffs, declarer wins the return, draws the last trump with the ace and uses any spade winners in dummy winners to dispose of his remaining club losers.

You should note that if the finesse of the ten of trumps had lost to East's queen, trumps would then be 3-2. As a result, on most layouts, declarer will win the return (in particular, ruffing a spade exit with his jack), draw the last trump with dummy's ace and cash three spades winners to take care of his losing clubs.

508. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ 6 5
 ♥ A 3 2
 ♦ K 6
 ♣ A Q 10 9 4 2

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

♠ 4 3 2
 ♥ Q J 10
 ♦ J 8 7
 ♣ J 8 7 6

♠ K Q 7
 ♥ K 8 6 4
 ♦ A 9 4 2
 ♣ K 3

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

When dummy comes down after the jack of spades lead, South counts eight top tricks and a further three if clubs are 3-2. The only danger is that West has five spades headed by the ace and East has four or five clubs to the jack.

After winning the first trick with spade queen, declarer crosses to dummy with the king of diamonds and leads the club ten; he does not mind if West wins this trick with the jack as he cannot attack spades profitably and declarer will still make at least ten tricks. In practice, East will play low and so will South. When West follows low to the first club, declarer plays a low club to the king, crosses back to dummy with the ace of hearts and runs the clubs to make eleven tricks: a spade, two hearts, two diamonds and six clubs.

You will note that if declarer is careless enough to play clubs from the top, East will eventually gain the lead and put a spade through to give the defence at least five tricks.

CATALUÑA COUP

Fernando Lema, Buenos Aires

Dealer South, Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
PuigDoria	M. Almirall	Llopard	N. Almirall
—	—	—	1 ♣
1 ♥	Double	3 ♥	Pass
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

This board was played during the second session of the Cataluña Open Tournament, 18 January, 2010. South was the wonderful Spanish Master Nuria Almirall, who displayed her extraordinary cardplay skills in this interesting deal.

West led the king of hearts, which took the trick, and continued with the diamond nine, taken by East's king. East went back to hearts, playing the six to the queen, ace and trumped in dummy with the five of spades. South took her spade ace, all following, and then led a trump to the jack in hand, which took the trick. West discarded the two of hearts.

Far from being discouraged by the unfriendly trump distribution, Almirall played as follows: she took her king of clubs and followed with the queen, trumped by East with the seven of spades. The trump coup was getting close. East returned a heart and South's jack took the trick. Dummy discarded a club and the following ending was reached:

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

South now played a diamond to the jack, then played the ace. When both opponents followed suit, she continued with the diamond three, which left East powerless.

THE YOUNG CHELSEA CHAMPIONSHIP PAIRS

Heather Dhondy, London

The Championship Pairs is an annual ladder competition at the Young Chelsea. With one game per month, all pairs' top four scores of the year are added together to produce a winner. The final game of the year rewarded us with the following entertaining hand:

Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
INT ¹	Callaghan	Pass	Dhondy
Pass	2 ♣ ²	Pass	4 ♥

1. 12-14 (not everyone's cup of tea on this hand, including mine!)
2. Landy: both majors

West began with the heart ace, and then attempted to cash the diamond ace. Cashing spades and cross-ruffing seemed like a decent plan. I ruffed a club, crossed to the ace of spades, ruffed a club, and cashed two more spades. Now a diamond ruff, club ruff, diamond ruff, and a club ruff, at which point East started thinking.

♠ — ♥ — ♦ 10 8 ♣ —	♠ 8 ♥ — ♦ Q ♣ — ♠ — ♥ Q ♦ — ♣ J
-----------------------------	--

It seemed to me that I had no hope of winning the last two tricks, but as it turns out, I had to, as East was caught in a backwash squeeze. He was squeezed in three suits, one of them trumps. Eventually he released the spade jack, and now my spade winner from dummy forced him to ruff, which I over-ruffed and then cashed my master club.

Feeling rather proud of myself (although in truth I had just walked into it) I asked David Burn whether he knew the name of the squeeze. He confirmed it to be a backwash, but added that this was the simplest form of backwash squeeze, bringing me down to earth a little. Ah well, I feel it is more than likely that I'll go to my grave before mastering the complex versions!

THE LIGHT OF DAY
Phillip Alder, Hobe Sound, FL
(From the NYTimes)

Dealer South. NS Vul.

♠ 7 2
 ♥ K Q 10 9 5
 ♦ A 4
 ♣ A 6 5 2

♠ A K Q 9 4 3
 ♥ A 2
 ♦ 7 2
 ♣ 10 8

West	North <i>Mittelman</i>	East	South <i>Eyrhorsdottir</i>
—	—	—	1 ♠
2 ♦	2 ♥	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♦	Double	4 ♥
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 ♣ ¹
Pass	5 ♦ ²	Pass	6 ♠ ³
Pass	7 ♠	Pass	Pass

1. 0 or 3 key cards
2. Trump queen ask
3. Spade queen, no outside king

As we look forward to 2010, the diagrammed deal features arguably the best piece of card-reading that has not seen the light of day. It occurred during a two-day Swiss teams at the 2007 Summer Nationals in Nashville.

You are South, in seven spades. With little thought, West leads the club king. What would be your plan?

Sitting North and South were George Mittelman of Toronto and Hjördis Eyrhorsdottir (Disa) of Huntsville, Alabama. Declarer could see only 11 winners: six spades, three hearts, one diamond and one club. She needed

five heart tricks to get home. The normal play is to cash the three top tricks, hoping the jack will drop. But declarer knew that West had longer diamonds than East and seemed to have some length in clubs too. So East had to be longer in hearts than West and more likely to hold the heart jack.

Backing her judgment, South ran dummy's heart ten at trick two. This was the full deal:

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

That was the only way to make the contract. When the heart ten held, declarer drew trumps, cashed her heart ace, crossed to the diamond ace and ran the hearts for plus 2210.

At the other table North and South were 'happy' with four spades, made with two overtricks. So Eyrhorsdottir's team gained 17 IMPs instead of losing 13.

Each year the International Bridge Press Association gives awards for excellence. This deal would have been a clear candidate for the 2007 declarer-play prize.

2009 ITALIAN MEN'S CUP
Doron Limor, Tel-Aviv

Board 17. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West <i>Versace</i>	North <i>Lanzarotti</i>	East <i>Lauria</i>	South <i>Manno</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	Pass	Double	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

This hand was played on December 12th, 2009 in the Italian Men's Cup Semifinals between the team of ANGELINI-Bove / Nunes-Fantoni / Versace-Lauria and the team of VAL MAGRA-Patane / Pataccini-Caiti / Manno-Lanzarotti. In both rooms the final contract was four spades.

In the open room the defence started with the ace of clubs (East played the four) and switched to the heart jack. East won with the ace and continued with a club. Declarer (Nunes) had no difficulty allocating the king of hearts to East and making ten tricks (seven spades, two diamonds and one heart). He used his one entry to dummy to play a heart towards his queen.

In the closed room, Versace also led the ace of clubs and Lauria signaled with the queen. At this point a diamond switch, trump continuation or even the ace of clubs would have defeated the contract. However, Versace continued with the 'natural' play of a small club, and now declarer can make the contract on a very rare compound squeeze.

The return of a small club set the club ten as a menace against West. Declarer ruffed and cashed five trumps. This was the position as South cashed the fifth spade:

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

At trick seven, tricks West is tripled squeezed. He must keep the king of clubs and he cannot let a heart go (if he does, Declarer will keep three hearts in dummy, cross to dummy, play a heart towards the queen, will ruff the club continuation and make the nine of hearts as his tenth trick after pinning the jack-ten of hearts in West's hand (when winning the second heart East has no more clubs!).

Versace thus discarded a diamond, and now East is squeezed in the same three suits: he must keep three diamonds and must keep hearts (if he bares his ace-king of hearts, declarer would simply duck a heart twice) so Lauria indeed discarded a club.

When the last club in East's hand had gone, declarer played his last trump and East was squeezed again, now in the two red suits. Lauria discarded a heart, and now declarer should have played low heart from both hands. East wins, returns a diamond which declarer wins in

dummy, lead another heart while he still has a diamond entry to his master queen of hearts as his tenth trick.

Unfortunately, in the final position (trick nine), Manno played three rounds of diamonds, and went down one. The defence won the last three tricks.

Declarer should have come to the right conclusion: at trick eight, West discarded the heart jack (better to discard a diamond). Based on the bidding, the ace-king of hearts are probably in East (West did not double and shown up with the ace-king of clubs). Also, East discarded two hearts and there were only four hearts left, so there was a good chance that they were 2-2. If East had started with five hearts headed by the ace-king (or by 1 honour) and West with a doubleton, West would have probably switched to a heart at trick two for a heart ruff.

Probably the best practical defence is for West to discard a heart at trick seven (and bare his jack-ten of hearts), although declarer can probably come to the right conclusion anyway! This is a really great hand – there are not too many examples in the literature of this kind of squeeze...especially when declarer still has two losers.



January 11-25, ACT, Australia
Alan Taylor, Auckland, NZ

Canberra resulted from the Solomonic decision in the battle, between rivals Melbourne and Sydney, over which city would be named capital of Australia. Canberra was named capital in a 1908 compromise, and much like Brasilia, is an entirely planned city. It was designed by an American firm of architects and today boasts a young, well-educated and highly-mobile population of 345,000. The Summer Festival of Bridge is held in Canberra every January.

Winners of the major events this year were:

National Open Teams: Arjuna De Livera, Ian Robinson, Ian Thomson, Richard Brightling, Matthew McManus, Michael Ware

South West Pacific Teams: Liam Milne, Michael Whibley, Nabil Edgtton, Adam Edgtton, Andy Hung

Senior Teams: Bruce Neill, Avinash Kanetkar, Robert Krochmalik, Paul Lavings, George Smolanko, D Anderson

Women's Teams: Julia Hoffman, Jenny Thompson, Sheila Bird, Karen Creet, Eva Caplan, Rena Kaplan

Mixed Teams: A Riggs, Damien Czapnik, Nicky Strasser, Kennet Christiansen

Men's Pairs: Richard Brightling, Ian Thompson

Novice Pairs: K Irvine, M Carr

Women's Pairs: L Wilkinson, K Moyes

Senior Pairs: S Klofa, C Schwabegger

Mixed Pairs: Barbara Travis, John Rayner

Swiss Pairs: J Ebery, L Gold

Consolation Prize

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Mike	Nigel	Richard	Brad
Prescott	Rosendorff	Jedrychowski	Coles
1 ♦	1 ♠	Double	4 ♠
5 ♦	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

No doubt there are one or two bids in this auction which are not to everyone's taste.

Rosendorff compounded his own sins by finding the spade lead, perhaps not surprisingly. What was surprising was dummy's holding in the suit in which North-South had opted for game. (A game which was down three doubled had Prescott passed four spades round to East.)

Nevertheless, Prescott cashed the top three spades, discarding two hearts and his club loser. He then ruffed a spade to hand, played a club to dummy's ace and ruffed a club to produce:

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

With the black suits now eliminated, declarer played a diamond towards dummy's ten (perhaps the queen is better). North had to take this or else give up one of his natural trump tricks. However, the result was no

more palatable as he could now choose among: (a) giving up that trump trick by playing diamonds into East's tenace, (b) giving a ruff/sluff in a black suit to enable Prescott's heart loser to disappear, or (c) leading a heart, which also makes that loser vanish.

Plus 750 mollified Jedrychowski's disappointment at not being able to take a bite out of four spades.

From the Textbook

Barbara Travis brought this one to my attention. Have it as a problem. You are East:

Board 28. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

Your methods allow you to open two hearts (weak, hearts and a minor) and LHO overcalls two spades. Partner passes, RHO raises to three spades but LHO opts for three no trump.

Partner leads king of diamonds. Declarer ducks in dummy and partner continues with the queen of diamonds. Declarer plays the ace. What do you discard?

Have a look at the whole deal:

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

You must pitch the ace of spades! Now declarer cannot develop nine tricks without letting partner back in the cash his diamond tricks. Barbara (who, incidentally won the Mixed Pairs playing with Canadian international John Rayner) points out that declarer can succeed on a diamond lead by taking the first round. West can no longer unblock and declarer can develop his spades without letting East in.

A Carding Problem

Phil Gue was berating himself for failing to find the answer to a carding problem on this deal.

Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

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

Gue led the spade four (fourth best) and partner Paul Wyer's jack held the trick. West continued with the spade ace and Gue followed with the three. Wyer then continued with his singleton club and declarer made ten tricks. Gue's mood was not improved when he found that he could have made four spades on the lie of the cards.

Gue asked himself how he could have induced the diamond lead he so desperately wanted. And then the penny dropped. On the ace of spades, he must drop the king! West would certainly then find the diamond switch.

Winkle Avoidance

Try this one as a defensive problem:

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

As West, you lead the fourth-best three of spades which goes to the two, nine and ten. Declarer, one of Australia's top players, leads the eight of clubs to the king and your partner wins the ace. Partner continues with the spade queen to the five, four, and dummy's ace. Declarer cashes two top clubs, discarding the six and seven of spades as partner follows with the three and four. And you...?

Declarer is either 4-3-5-1 or 4-4-4-1. The ace-king-queen of hearts and the ace-king of diamonds would give him nine tricks and perhaps a three no trump rebid. Partner's plays in clubs should tell you he has something in diamonds, likely either the ace or king. So declarer may have four hearts to the ace-king-queen, so you'd better hang on to those. Your spades are now winners, and as the old saying goes, "Keep winners, throw losers."

All indications point to discarding two diamonds, so you let go the six and two in whatever order you think tells partner your holding. Here is the full deal:

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

South leads the diamond ten, three, king, and not wishing to be left on play with the queen, you play it under the king. Declarer cashes the ace and king of hearts, playing the nine and eight from the dummy as partner follows with the four and ten. We have reached:

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

Declarer had taken seven tricks when he exited with the four of diamonds and you discover, to your dismay, that you almost got it right. In the five-card ending, with declarer needing two tricks for his contract, your eight of diamonds sinks the defence. Partner can leave you on play to give declarer the last two heart tricks, or he can overtake the eight with the jack and choose between giving declarer or dummy the last two tricks.

Yes, you needed to keep the six or the two of diamonds to avoid the winkle. Of course, partner could have saved you by rising with the diamond ace on the lead of the ten from dummy, but that is another matter.

The King of Clubs

Matt Porter found a neat endgame on this deal from the South West Pacific Teams:

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

Some fairly exuberant bidding by all concerned saw Porter declare five spades from the West seat. North led the king of hearts, which Porter took to ruff a heart in dummy (not with the spade two!). He cleared the diamonds, finishing in hand to ruff another heart high. South over-ruffed with the ace. (It is no better for South to discard since a trump lead next leads to the same ending.)

A diamond from South would yield a ruff/sluff and enable declarer to hold his club losers to one. A club, however, was no more fruitful for the defence. Declarer played small from hand and North was caught. If he played the king, then Porter could simply lead towards the jack. North played the ten, but West won with dummy's ace, drew the last trump and threw North in with the king of clubs. The ruff and discard saw the last loser disappear.

More Kings I

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

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

Michael Ware and Matthew McManus reached six clubs and Ware received a club lead. He took that in hand and immediately ran the eight of spades. This drew East's queen and gave Ware real hope that he would make his contract as he now needed only the king of spades to be with West. When a diamond was returned, Ware decided to take out a little insurance – he also looked for a favourable heart position, being able to fall back on the spade finesse later, if necessary.

The heart ace was cashed and a heart was ruffed with the eight of clubs. Ware crossed back to the queen of clubs and led another heart. Avi Kanetkar calmly played the king of hearts on this but Ware was too well aware of Kanetkar's capabilities and he ruffed with the jack, preventing East from over-ruffing. A careless low ruff would have led to one off and acute embarrassment. Well done all round.

Kanetkar had another chance to play a king prematurely to his advantage. At trick two, if he'd calmly played the spade king on the eight he might have given Ware a nasty guess on the next round of the suit when the hearts failed to come in.

More Kings II

Another opportunity for defensive brilliance arose on the following deal:

Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

West	North <i>Markovics</i>	East	South <i>Kozakos</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1 ♣	1 ♠	Double	2 ♠
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Andrew Markovics led the two of spades and George Kozakos won the king. He drew the correct inference and returned the eight of clubs. Since his play of the king had already denied the queen, Kozakos was attempting to show the spade jack as a second potential entry if North held the spade queen. Markovics had enough faith to underlead his spade honours for a second time. His reward was a second ruff for one off. Great defence.



Correspondence ...

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The issue of the properly-constituted authority for bridge in Kenya, which was raised (again) in our New Year's wishes, prompted this response from José Damiani...

Dear John,

Thank you for your kind appreciation. However:

1. As far as Kenya is concerned, you look a little bit obstinate as we have already explained our position. We tried very much to merge the two associations, which did not work. Then we received official support from the Kenyan government for Kenya Bridge Africa Ltd to organize the African Championships in Diana Beach on the South Coast of Mombasa in April, 2007. Later on, we were advised that the case was in the hands of the Kenyan Supreme Court and it is absolutely mandatory for us to wait for its final decision, as well as the decision of the African Zone before officially registering the one which has been recognised by the Court.

2. I am happy to tell you that we had in Istanbul for the World Youth Congress an official BAM as we had in São Paulo for the City Cup, so we just preceded your request.

3. In the near future we are prepared to hold a Junior Championship in Africa.

Kind regards, José Damiani

Is it obstinate to want to right a wrong? It appears to us that the WBF is the obstinate one in refusing to recognise the official Kenya-government-ratified sports authority for bridge in Kenya, which is the Kenya Bridge Association (KBA).

Kenya Bridge Africa Ltd. (KBAL) had brought three lawsuits before the courts in Kenya, one against the Registrar of Societies, and two against KBA personnel, both of which have been dismissed, with costs, for "lack of prosecution and incompetence" and "to prevent abuse of the process of the courts".

This means KBAL brought the suits, then failed to pursue them, and the courts awarded costs to the defendants, KBA, noting that KBAL was merely using delaying and harrasing tactics, abusing the court process, and that KBAL never had any intention of pursuing the cases.

Counsel for the Registrar of Societies has submitted a blistering attack on KBAL in a replying affidavit, KBAL's suit being an attempt to dissolve KBA. The affidavit states that not only has there been no dissolution of the KBA, but that

KBAL is abusing the process of the courts, engaging in double-speak, is "taking the court through a circus", and is acting criminally.

Kenya Bridge Association, in conjunction with the Kenya government Ministry of Gender, Sports, Culture and Social Services, agreed to allow the already-scheduled African Championships to proceed in a gesture of goodwill to African bridge players. They did object to Kenya Bridge Africa Ltd., a private company, misrepresenting themselves as the Kenya Bridge Association, which KBAL had been doing (note the acronym of the private company, no coincidence).

The documentation supporting all these statements has been sent to me by Samina Esmail, President of Kenya Bridge Association, and has been forwarded to José Damiani, WBF president, Bernard Pascal, president of the African Bridge Federation, and Gianarrigo Rona, president-elect of the WBF. It will be made available to any interested party. The documentation consists of:

- *A letter to the WBF from the Ministry of Gender, Sports, Culture and Social Services of Kenya telling M. Damiani personally that the Kenya Bridge Association is the properly-designated National Association for bridge.*
- *The opinion of the Registrar of Societies that the Kenya Bridge Association is still a viable entity and that KBAL has acted illegally in attempting to dissolve KBA.*
- *The court documents of the rulings dismissing the suits brought by Kenya Bridge Africa Ltd against the principals of the Kenya Bridge Association, with judgements for costs to the principals of Kenya Bridge Association.*
- *A "Statement of Facts" regarding Kenya Bridge Association.*

According to Ms. Esmail, there are no current KBAL lawsuits outstanding against any members of KBA or against KBA itself.

The 'position' M. Damiani refers to is that the WBF will ratify whichever NBO the African Bridge Federation (ABF) ratifies. This is a Catch-22 for the Kenya Bridge Association, and is ingenuous on the part of the WBF, since the past-president (now President Emeritus) of the ABF is none other than... the president of KBAL! It would be amusing if it weren't such a miscarriage of justice. Joseph Heller would have loved it.

Two thousand eleven will be the 50th anniversary of the publication of Catch 22. It would be appropriate to have this situation resolved by then.