



BULLETIN

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Editorial

We frequently have discussions about 'sportsmanship' in these pages, opinions sometimes differing radically about whether a player's actions are 'good' sportsmanship or 'bad' sportsmanship. For example, in the 2007 Bermuda Bowl semifinal, in a very close match, Howard Weinstein allowed an opponent (who failed to follow suit when he could have done so) to take back a card played after Weinstein had taken a very long time to plan his play in six no trump. He felt that he had induced what is known in North America as the "Sominex Coup" (named after the over-the-counter sleep medication). He was both lauded and criticised for his action, but by far the majority of onlookers approved of it, including his own teammates. Basically, Weinstein knew it was the right thing to do, so he just did it, without consulting any TD.

However, the past 12 months have seen some examples of dreadful sportsmanship by international-calibre bridge players, especially, I am sad to say, Canadians. First, in the Toronto Team-of-Four League, an annual event run for more than 40 years, one team acrimoniously withdrew from the league after receiving an unfavourable committee decision. There was controversy over whether they had been misinformed about the conditions of contest regarding the late arrival of one of their opponents for a match. They apparently believed that the match was being played for an official result, despite the late arrival, whereas the conditions mandated a forfeit and one of three alternatives: (i.) 60% of the Victory Points available, (ii.) the average of their VPs-per-match, or (iii.) the inverse of their opponents' average VPs-per-match. The non-offending team would receive whichever of the three alternatives was best for them. The match was played out anyway and they won a near blitz, about 95% of the VPs, and thus wanted that result instead of the best of the forfeiture results. They refused to continue in the league when informed of the TD's, then the committee's decision. Whatever they were told, and whatever they believed, this seems clearly to be bad sportsmanship.

In another incident, from last year's Canadian National Team Championship final, in a two-card ending with a non-master spade and a non-master diamond in hand, and the ace-jack of spades in the dummy, declarer, foolishly trying to manipulate his cards with one hand rather than with both, inadvertently dropped the diamond from his hand rather than the spade. Right Hand Opponent, out of turn, hurriedly claimed the last two tricks, when it was obvious to all that declarer had been intending to take his spade ace (LHO would win the last trick). Only an overtrick in three no trump was at stake. None of the four players at the table seemed to know that declarer cannot have an exposed card and the TD was not

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PIRACY - THOMAS HIJACKS THE VANDERBILT

Barnet Shenkin, Boca Raton, FL

With 16 boards to play in the Vanderbilt, one of the world's most difficult team KO events, Fleisher-Kamil, Levin-Weinstein and Martel-Stansby led Zimmermann-Multon, Helgemo-Helness, Bessis-Bessis, by 24 IMPs, a significant, but not insurmountable number. Michel and Thomas Bessis are father and son.

The first board of the set was...

Board 49. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
—	1 NT	Pass	2 ♥ ¹
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			
			1. Transfer

In the open room, Helgemo-Helness were undisturbed and made plus 110. Here is the bidding in the closed room:

West	North	East	South
<i>T.Bessis</i>	<i>Martel</i>	<i>M.Bessis</i>	<i>Stansby</i>
—	1 ♣	1 ♥	1 ♠
4 ♥	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

Four hearts is an easy make and it takes a diamond lead to defeat five with a ruff. Unfortunately, for North-South, they were playing weak no trumps, and this allowed East to come into the auction at a low, relatively safe, level. Thomas led the king of hearts, and when in with

the spade king, he switched to his singleton club and took a ruff, the heart queen and the ace of diamonds for down two and plus 300. This was 9 IMPs to Zimmermann, now down by 15.

On the next board, Zimmermann won 4 more IMPs when Bessis-Bessis played two hearts and made eight tricks while Helgemo-Helness bid up to three diamonds, which was going down one, but Weinstein took further action that resulted in three hearts down one.

On Board 51 Fleisher won 5 IMPs when Levin-Weinstein collected a 300 penalty in one no trump doubled.

The margin was thus 16 IMPs when Board 52 arrived.

Board 52. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 NT
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	6 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	
West	North	East	South
<i>T.Bessis</i>	<i>Martel</i>	<i>M.Bessis</i>	<i>Stansby</i>
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	4 ♣	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♥	Pass	6 ♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Martel-Stansby bid well to the top spot of six clubs, which was cold on a heart lead. Declarer could pitch three hearts from hand on dummy's top spades.

In the open room, it was a different kettle of fish, where Levin had a great chance to find the heart lead and gain a large swing. None of the leads he had was really attractive on the bidding. He certainly thought long and hard about leading a heart, which would have given Fleisher a slam swing, but in the end led the jack of clubs, and now all declarer had to do was lose to the club king and he had 12 tricks.

That was a very lucky 2 IMPs to Zimmermann. It was 14 IMPs to Fleisher when along came Board 55.

Board 55. Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ Q 9 7 5
 ♥ K 8 2
 ♦ K Q 8
 ♣ K J 10

♠ A K 10 6
 ♥ Q 7 5 3
 ♦ 2
 ♣ A 7 6 3

♠ J 8 4 3 2
 ♥ J 4
 ♦ A 6 5 4
 ♣ Q 9

West	North	East	South
Weinstein	Helness	Levin	Helgemo
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			
West	North	East	South
T.Bessis	Martel	M.Bessis	Stansby
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1 ♣	Double	1 ♠
2 ♥	2 ♠	3 ♣	3 ♠
4 ♦	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

In the open room, Levin as East passed over the one-club opener and two spades bought the contract. West felt he hadn't enough values to bid when his partner likely had a lot of spades. It was equally awkward for East to come in at the three-level.

In the other room, Michel Bessis doubled one club where Levin had passed, and after making a game try with three clubs, remarkably ended in four hearts when Thomas the Tank bid up to the four level.

Martel led a spade. Thomas won, pitching a club from hand, and the led the two of diamonds from dummy. As declarer had bid diamonds, South ducked, allowing North to win. A trump return would now set the contract, but North played the seven of spades. Thomas ducked this in dummy and when South played low, pitched a second club. Now, too late, Martel played a trump to the jack and ace.

Then followed a diamond ruff in the dummy, the king of spades pitching another club, a spade ruff, the ace of clubs, a club ruff, and a diamond ruff. With three cards left, declarer was in dummy. North could only watch helplessly as declarer ruffed a club in hand for his ninth trick, then led a diamond. North had the king-eight of hearts remaining and dummy had the heart queen.

Thomas made dummy's trump queen en passant and scored up his game. Swashbuckling bidding and great play, although North-South had some chances to beat the contract. Perhaps South could have played the spade

eight on partner's seven, which would not allow declarer to force North to hold the lead, and then South could have shifted to a trump. At the end of a gruelling event these plays are easy to miss. This board won 12 IMPs for Zimmermann, who now trailed by only 2 IMPs.

Fleisher pegged back 5 IMPs on Board 56 when the Bessis overbid to four spades with only nine tricks available – Levin-Weinstein stopped safely in two.

Here is Board 57.

Board 57. Dealer North. EW Vul.

♠ 10 5
 ♥ A K 10 9
 ♦ K J 9 7 4
 ♣ 7 3

♠ A J 3
 ♥ 7 4
 ♦ A 3
 ♣ A K Q 8 6 2

♠ Q 8 4
 ♥ Q J 6 5 2
 ♦ Q 10 2
 ♣ 5 4

♠ K 9 7 6 2
 ♥ 8 3
 ♦ 8 6 5
 ♣ J 10 9

West	North	East	South
Weinstein	Helness	Levin	Helgemo
—	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠
3 ♣	Pass	Pass	Pass
West	North	East	South
T.Bessis	Martel	M.Bessis	Stansby
—	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

In both rooms, the bidding started the same way. Where Weinstein made a very heavy three-club overcall (strong in his system at this vulnerability), in the other room Thomas bid what he thought he might make, a rubber bridge bid of three no trump. A bid with a lot of upside. He collected a perfect dummy and the contract was unbeatable. As they say, "fortune favours the brave," and it often applies in bridge. That was 11 IMPs to Zimmermann, who had taken over the lead, by 4 IMPs.

Then came board 58...

Board 58. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

♠ 10 8
 ♥ K Q 4
 ♦ A 7 5
 ♣ J 9 8 7 5

♠ Q 7 2
 ♥ A 9 8 6
 ♦ J 9 2
 ♣ A K 2

♠ K 9 5
 ♥ J 5 3 2
 ♦ 4 3
 ♣ Q 10 4 3

West Weinstein	North Helness	East Levin	South Helgemo
—	—	1 ♣	Pass
2 ♣ ¹	2 ♦	Pass	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Limit raise plus

West T.Bessis	North Martel	East M.Bessis	South Stansby
—	—	1 ♣	Pass
1 ♦	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠
Double	Pass	3 ♦	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

In the open room, East-West were down one in three clubs, a normal type of result. North-South can make a small spade partial.

At the point of père's three-diamond bid, Thomas went into the "tank", sorry, for a long time and finally emerged with three no trump!

I was commenting on Vugraph and was asked the question, "Is that the son or the father?" I replied nobody over 30 would ever dream of bidding three no trump. Thomas is 28 years old. He had put himself in a corner by getting to three diamonds and took a rather wild gamble with three no trump. He must have been holding his breath to see what spades were in dummy.

We can see that with the normal spade lead the contract would make if the club queen fell doubleton (or singleton with North), around 30 percent. However, the contract appears to have no chance on the actual club division.

Thomas won the spade lead with the ten (three, two, nine) and played three rounds of clubs, South winning his queen. North played high-low in diamonds, discouraging. South got the fixed idea in his head that there was no way West could have bid three no trump without a spade stop. Thus he played back a low spade. North won the ace but the suit was blocked and the contract was home for 12 IMPs to Zimmermann. This brought Zimmermann's lead to 16 IMPs.

Small hands at the end meant the match was now out of reach with flat boards to come. Zimmermann won by 10 IMPs. A first win for the French and Swiss players, Thomas and Michel Bessis, Frank Multon and Pierre Zimmermann, ably aided by the Norwegians, Geir Helgemo and Tor Helness.

The Bessis partnership actually bid five games in the last quarter not bid by their opponents. One was defeated and two others could have been defeated. It is a long time since I have seen a player take such an active and fearless role. It reminded me of my junior days where I had the good fortune to play with and against the best junior players of that time. It could arguably be stated that Thomas Bessis hijacked the Vanderbilt and took it back to Europe.

THE SPRING NABC IN RENO

Barry Rigal, NYC
Brent Manley, Memphis, TN

Flawless by Barry Rigal

On this deal from the first qualifying session of the North American Pairs, Allan Popkin of St. Louis earned a near-top with flawless play. Popkin was playing with his wife, Nancy.

Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

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

1. Kokish relay (hearts or a very strong balanced hand).
2. Forced.
3. 25+ HCP.
4. Spades and hearts, 4-4, or five hearts.

North led the nine of diamonds, taken in dummy with the ten. Popkin played a spade to the queen and North's king. Popkin won the diamond continuation in hand and played three more rounds of the suit, pitching a spade and two clubs from dummy. South discarded two spades and a club, North a heart.

This was the ending:

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

When Popkin cashed the ace of spades, South had to unguard clubs, then three rounds of hearts squeezed North in the black suits. The perfect non-simultaneous double squeeze for 12 tricks earned the Popkins 23.5 out of 25 matchpoints.

The 'Normal' Game by Barry Rigal

Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

Okay, it's "hands up" time. I want every East-West pair who defended three no trump on the above deal and who said, "Well, it's cold!" to take a second look, and then apologize to Brigidda the Goddess of Bridge.

I'll tell you what happened at every table where I asked. North opened one no trump and played three no trump. North ducked the first spade, won West's continuation of the spade three, knocked out the club honours and claimed 400. So what's the point?

West was asleep at the wheel. He knows partner has the jack-nine-seven-five, but declarer can't see through the backs of the cards. West plays the eight of spades at the second trick, hops up with the ace of clubs and plays the six of spades back, and now declarer's best line is clearly to take an immediate heart finesse. If it loses, he can go back to clubs. Unlucky! Spades are 4-4 and that is the defenders' fifth winner.

Leave 'em Steaming by Barry Rigal

Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men? Only The Shadow knows ... and Peter Fredin.

Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

At the end of every championship, there will always be one deal where the Daily Bulletin editors will look at one another and say, "He did what!?"

On Board 12 from the first semifinal session of the Platinum Pairs, Fredin and Gary Gottlieb had a bidding misunderstanding to eschew their 4-4 spade fit.

The opening lead was the ten of hearts: queen, four, six. Fredin processed the information from the lead. South's short-suit lead from an unsupported honour suggested he had awkward holdings in all the other suits. If the spade finesse was working, all that was at stake was an overtrick, but he was playing in the Platinum Pairs, so that trick mattered. If the spade finesse was wrong, what was the best way to play the clubs for no loser?

Even given that chain of reasoning, I doubt if many readers would duplicate Fredin's play. He crossed to his hand with the diamond ace and led a low club from the East hand! When South innocently ducked, that was it for the defence. Plus 990 represented a complete bottom to top swing, and it left one "steaming" South and a happy declarer.

Double Murder - Fratricide-Suicide by Brent Manley

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

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

It was a case of adding injury to insult on this deal from the second qualifying session of the North American Pairs. The victims were midwesterners Bob Katz and Michael Alioto.

Katz, West, led the heart ace against three no trump and Alioto played the five to give count. Katz could hardly credit that his partner had three hearts, though, as that

would mean that South had jumped to three no trump with a singleton two for a stopper.

That was the insult, which became clear when Katz cashed the king of hearts. He then led a low heart to partner's ten, but the suit was blocked. East cashed the ace of clubs and led a low club to South's king. Declarer had eight tricks and the only hope for a ninth was a squeeze. With the count already rectified, inflicting this injury was easy. Declarer ran diamonds to get to this four-card end position:

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

When South led his last diamond, East and West were caught in a double squeeze. West pitched a spade and declarer pitched dummy's nine of hearts. East had to hold on to the queen of clubs, so he pitched a spade also, and dummy's nine of spades became the ninth trick. Minus 600 gave Katz and Alioto 1.5 matchpoints on a 25 top.

More Fratricide by Barry Rigal

This deal was played in the Platinum Pairs.

Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	Pass	Pass	1 ♣
Pass	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	
1. Hearts			

Nick l'Ecuyer sat South and received the lead of the spade ten to his ace. How would you continue?

Nick cashed the spade queen and played a low heart, intending to insert the eight, but West foiled him by playing the jack, so Nick won the ace, cashed the king of spades to pitch a diamond, then played a club to the ten and West's ace. West returned a low trump, Nick winning in dummy to lead a club to East's king. East switched to the queen of diamonds, covered by the king and ace. This was the ending after West cashed the king of hearts:

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

West does best to play a diamond, then on the jack of spades, declarer would ruff high and West could pitch a club. This defence would allow West to ruff the queen of clubs and score the nine of diamonds at trick 13.

West, however, returned a trump, squeezing his partner instead. If East pitched a spade, he would be endplayed with a diamond. If he pitched a diamond, declarer could cash the queen of clubs and gain a trick from the eight of diamonds. Finally, if East pitched a club, declarer would have two tricks in that suit.

Under Control (Or Not) by Barry Rigal

The first board of our match in the Vanderbilt Knockout Teams set the tone when this apparently unchallenging deal came along.

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

At our table, where South played in four hearts, West cashed two high clubs and shifted passively to a trump. It was easy enough to draw two rounds of trumps with dummy's king and queen, find the bad news, then knock out the ace of spades. West could duck the first spade, win the second and play a third round. South could ruff high and claim by drawing trumps.

At the other table, North also played four hearts on a club lead. George Mittelman, West, won the top two clubs and played a third round. Declarer ruffed in dummy and immediately played the king of spades, ducked, then a spade to the queen and ace. Mittelman played back a third spade, ruffed high by declarer to produce this ending:

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

To succeed in this ending, declarer must either cross-ruff, or cash the queen of hearts, then play the ace, king and ruff a diamond, then ruff a spade with the ten of hearts for the trump coup. When declarer actually cashed the queen and ten of hearts at once, she could not avoid shortening herself and losing trump control for down one.

Putting on the Pressure by Brent Manley

On this deal from the second final session of the North American Pairs, Michael Polowan took advantage of less-than-optimal defence to score a near top. He and Jared Lilienstein finished second in the event.

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Lilienstein</i>	—	<i>Polowan</i>	1 ♦
—	1 ♠	—	Pass
Double	Pass	3 ♥	—
Pass	Pass	—	—

South started with two high diamonds, not best, and continued with a third round of the suit. Polowan ruffed with the jack of hearts. When that held, he knew how to play the heart suit, cashing the king and playing a heart to his ace, felling the queen. Now he cashed two

more hearts and the jack of diamonds, reaching this position, with North still to play:

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

North is caught in a trump squeeze. If he discards a spade, Polowan can play a spade to the ace, felling the now-singleton honour and take the rest of the tricks. In practice, North discarded a club, so Polowan played the king of clubs, a club to the ace, and ruffed a club, establishing the five of clubs for 11 tricks and a near top.

South can hold Polowan to nine tricks by switching to a spade, a club or a low diamond at trick two. Even a heart switch would have prevented the overtricks.

Vanderbilt Variations by Barry Rigal

In our round of 32 loss in the Vanderbilt Knockout Teams, this entertaining deal presented itself.

Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West led the king of spades, asking for attitude. East followed with a discouraging six. West went into the tank and emerged with the club six. Over to you.

You can see that it will be fatal to let East gain the lead, so you rise with the king of clubs and lead a low diamond, hoping to duck it to West, but East meanly plays the nine and you are forced to win as West plays the three. Now you play a club up, and when West produces the queen, you duck. West returns a second diamond, the seven, and you cover with the eight. East plays the ten,

Continued on page 10...

IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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513. Dealer West. E-W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
1 ♦	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Playing five-card majors, West had to open one diamond, and led the queen of hearts against the spade game.

Declarer saw that he would fail on the above layout unless he played a diamond at trick two, which threatened to set up a diamond ruff. This was ducked to East's ten of diamonds and East exited with a trump. Declarer took this with the ace and continued with the king of diamonds, forcing West to win the trick.

West was now finished! If he exited in hearts, declarer would score a diamond ruff in dummy and discard his heart loser on dummy's clubs. The actual trump return was no better, even though it stopped declarer ruffing a diamond in dummy. Declarer won the trick with the ten, cashed the king of trumps and then led a club to dummy's jack. When that held, as expected, declarer threw a heart and a diamond on the ace-king of clubs. The defence scored two diamonds and the spade queen.

You might have noticed that there was one suit that would defeat the game on opening lead, a club! It succeeds because West's fourth trump and doubleton club remove dummy's clubs as a threat.

Additionally, the defence can succeed by continuing hearts if declarer plays the diamond king at trick two. West continues hearts - if declarer plays for immediate discards, West gets a trump promotion.

514. Dealer East. E-W Vul.

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

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

In this rather old-fashioned auction, South promised a hand that he felt was too strong for a simple overcall of one spade.

West led the three of hearts. East won the first trick with the queen and continued with the ace of hearts. Declarer ruffed and, after pausing for thought, saw the danger of drawing trumps before touching diamonds. So he crossed to dummy with the king of diamonds and played a second diamond. Although the diamond finesse was tempting, declarer saw that he was safe as long as diamonds were 3-2. Consequently, he rose with the ace of diamonds held and exited with a diamond to West's queen.

This left West without recourse. If he continued with a third round of hearts, declarer would ruff his two diamond winners in dummy with the queen and ten of trumps; he would make three plain suit winners and seven trump tricks. At the table, West tried a trump. Declarer countered by drawing trumps and claiming two long diamond tricks; he made five trumps, four diamonds and the ace of clubs.

Declarer can also succeed by discarding his losing club on the second heart and ruffing the third, which play exhausts West of hearts.

515. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

After a simple transfer auction, West led the ten of diamonds to dummy's king. The hand is straightforward if the trumps break no worse than 3-1 for, unless there is a ruff about, declarer will lose at most one spade, one hearts and one club.

The hand became trickier after declarer cashed the ace of trumps at trick two and West discarded a club. Declarer saw that he needed to discard dummy's second club on the fourth round of diamonds. However, for that to succeed, declarer needed to draw another of East's trumps before tackling diamonds. So, he led a low trump towards his hand, catching East in a Morton's Fork in the trump suit; East cannot afford to rise with the king of trumps, for that would cost a trump trick.

So, East correctly followed with the nine of trumps and declarer's jack of trumps won the trick. All declarer needed now was for East to follow to a second round of diamonds. After the queen of diamonds held, declarer advanced the jack of diamonds. East ruffed and shifted to a club but it was too late; declarer took this with the ace of clubs and played the ace of diamonds, ditching dummy's remaining club. The defenders were restricted to two trumps and a heart.

516. Dealer West. E-W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
2 ♥	2 ♠	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

In the bidding, South saw that his heart suit would likely prove to be a stopper as long as North began with two hearts. Also, it would provide the same service when the defensive hearts were blocked.

When North raised to game, West led the king of hearts. Declarer took this with dummy's ace and continued with a spade towards the queen. At the table, East rose with the spade king and switched to a low diamond. Declarer took this with ace and cashed the queen of spades, West following with the jack. As spades were unlikely to break evenly, declarer formed a plan on how to manage if the jack of clubs did not fall in three rounds of the suit. Perhaps you might like to find the winning play.

Declarer made the slightly surprising move of cashing the king of diamonds next. After taking the ace and queen of clubs, declarer cashed the ace of spades, discarding the ten of diamonds from hand. Assuming West had six hearts, declarer saw that the possible original distributions on his left were now down to either 2=6=3=2 or 2=6=2=3. So, declarer played a club next and finessed the ten. If West had won he would only have had hearts left and declarer's ten of hearts would take a trick. At the table, the ten of clubs won and the king of clubs was declarer's ninth trick.

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forcing you to win the ace. This is the position with the opponents' cards sure to look something like:

```

      ♠ —
      ♥ Q 6 5
      ♦ J
      ♣ K 10 7 5

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

      ♠ A J
      ♥ K 9 2
      ♦ 6 5 4
      ♣ —
  
```

With the lead in the South hand, you need six of the last eight tricks. If you lead a low heart to the queen, you will never score your ace of spades. If you cash it, West will be able to cash out his spades when in with the heart ace.

The solution is simple but elegant. Advance the king of hearts. West must win because if he ducks you will lead a low heart to the queen. West can do no better than return a top heart. You win with the queen and run the clubs. At trick 12, you lead dummy's losing diamond to East, who must give you your ace of spades at trick 13.

This deal also contributed to our exit from the event.

Dealer East. Both Vul.

```

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

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

      ♠ A Q 9 4 2
      ♥ 8 6 5 4
      ♦ A J 5
      ♣ 9
  
```

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

West leads a low diamond to dummy's king. You cash the king of spades, both following, and lead a second trump from dummy, East pitching a diamond. He discards another diamond on the ace of spades. What next?

In case hearts are 4-0, you should ruff a diamond, cash the ace of clubs, ruff a club, play a heart to dummy's ace, noting West's discard, to get to the ending at the top of the next column.

On the lead of the six of clubs from dummy, East is caught in a non-material squeeze. If he pitches a heart,

declarer ruffs the club and easily sets up hearts by ducking a round. If East pitches a diamond, declarer again ruffs the club, then cashes the ace of diamonds and ducks a heart for the endplay.

```

      ♠ —
      ♥ K J 7 2
      ♦ —
      ♣ 6

♠ —           ♠ —
♥ —           ♥ Q 10 9
♦ —           ♦ 10 8
♣ Q J 10 3 2 ♣ —

      ♠ 9
      ♥ 8 6 5
      ♦ A
      ♣ —
  
```

NATURALLY SPEAKING

Mark Horton, Bath, UK

Valio Kovachev and Vladi Isporski are one of the many good pairs to have emerged from Bulgaria. They recently changed their system from Precision to one with a natural base and they used it to good effect on this deal from the NEC Festival:

Dealer West. NS Vul.

```

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

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

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

West	North	East	South
	<i>Isporski</i>		<i>Kovachev</i>
Pass	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	3 NT	Pass	4 ♦
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	6 ♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

In the Bulgarians' system a two-no trump rebid by North would have been an artificial game force, so three diamonds was simply a good hand with six or more diamonds. South showed some spade values and then went on with a well-judged four diamonds.

Four hearts asked for key cards and four spades showed one or four. With West not doubling spades at any point declarer was unlikely to be pressurised by a spade lead.



THE GOLD COAST TEAMS

John Carruthers, Toronto

Word of mouth has led to the Gold Coast becoming an increasingly-popular bridge destination for Europeans and North Americans who wish to flee the ravages of a northern hemisphere winter. Last year, with the Yeh Bros. Cup just preceding the Gold Coast Congress, was a watershed, with many of the star-studded Yeh Bros. squads staying on to comprise what was probably the best field ever to play the Gold Coast Teams.

This year, two Polish teams led by Krzysztof Martens and a Chinese squad led by Jack Zhao appeared. There were the Irish, Hugh McGann and Tom Hanlon, once again, and the English were represented by Fiona Brown and Susan Stockdale, putting in an appearance after taking part in the NEC Cup in Japan, and Brian Callaghan and Chris Duckworth. North America was represented by Barry Goren, heading a team of Aussie juniors and Barry Rigal, taking time off Daily Bulletin duties to play on a team with Pablo Lambardi of Argentina. Steve Hamaoui, Venezuelan ex-pat, now of Italy, was also there.

The success of the Gold Coast Congress is well-deserved: the Convention Centre venue is unsurpassed and the organisation of the tournament as good as you'll find anywhere in the world. Then there's the weather, the friendly locals, the beach, the restaurants...

How about the bridge? Well the foreign contingent does well, but the Aussies and Kiwis hold their own. The Gold Coast Teams consists of a 12-round, three-day Swiss to qualify six teams (of the more than 200 that enter) for knockout play. The top two have a bye to the semifinals while the remaining four play a 24-board 'quarterfinal' match, where the third-place finisher gets to choose its opponent – a perilous task. In an intelligent innovation adopted from the NEC Cup, the team finishing ahead of the other in the Swiss receives a ½-IMP carryover into the knockout matches, so no ties resulting in extra time are possible.

This year, the six teams qualifying for knockout play were headed by the Irish, playing with Australians Sartaj Hans, Tony Nunn and Michael Ware. They were followed by Belonogov (Gheorghii Belonogov, Eva Kowalczyk, Michael Courtney, Jill Courtney, Catherine Ritter), Goren (Barry Goren-Nabil Edgtton, Andy Hung-Adam Edgtton, Nye Griffiths-Justin Williams), Klinger (Ron

Klinger-Matt Mullamphy, Bill Hirst-Andrew Hirst-Howard Melbourne) and the two Polish Teams, Consus Oil (Pawel Niedzielski-Janusz Makaruk, Krzysztof Martens-Dominik Filipowicz) and Consus Red (Piotr Zak-Jerzy Zaremba, Jaroslaw Cieslak-Grzegorz Lewaciak, Jan Zadroga-Piotr Walczak). The final Swiss Qualifying table looked like this:

1	HANS	242
2	BELONOGOV	225
3	GOREN	221
4	KLINGER	221
5	CONSUS OIL	219
6	CONSUS RED	218

In the quarterfinals, Goren would play Consus Red, leaving Consus Oil for the Klinger team.

Consus Oil handled Klinger fairly easily in their match and so headed off to the semifinal. The other semifinal went down to the final board, with Goren ahead by the carryover! On that board, the Goren team reached five clubs and Consus Red reached four no trump. If both contracts were successful, the Poles would gain an IMP on the board and win the match by half an IMP.

Board 24. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Zak	A. Edgtton	Zaremba	Hung
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♣
Pass	4 ♥	Double	Pass
Pass	5 ♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

We have all been in worse slams that six clubs on the North-South cards. We Canadians have all been in worse grand slams. Today, however, the kids stopped in five clubs after East informed them that the heart king was offside.

Piotr Zak tracked the three of hearts (2nd/4th) and Andy Hung played the queen anyway – Jerzy Zaremba won and returned one. Hung played three rounds of diamonds, ruffing low in the dummy and survived that hurdle as both followed. On the queen of clubs, it was a bit of a blow when East discarded. Hung did not panic,

however: he cashed the heart queen and played the ace and ruffed a spade, accounting for all 13 of West's cards – he was now known to be 2=3=3=5. When Hung played the jack of diamonds, West had to ruff in and was overruffed in the dummy.

Hung was left with the ace-nine-eight of clubs and Zak with jack-ten-six. In the dummy, declarer could play any card and put on the club eight – a perfect trump endplay for plus 400. Hung demonstrated a remarkable maturity for one so young, both in the bidding and in the play.

With a higher club spot in the dummy, it would have been more tempting to cash a high one first, at trick three. As it was, doing that with the king-queen-two could create a needless trump trick for West if he'd had only two diamonds.

At the other table...

West	North	East	South
Goren	Walczak	N. Edgtton	Zadroga
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 NT
Pass	4 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Andy Hung's terrific declarer play would go for nought if Piotr Walczak could find a way to 10 tricks and plus 430 to win the match by ½ an IMP.

Nabil Edgtton started with a heart to the ten and queen. Four no trump looked easy until declarer cashed the club king, the five-nil break complicating matters. East discarded an encouraging three of spades upon that.

We can see that with diamonds 3-3, four no trump was still makeable. Walczak, however, knew too much. It looked like hearts were 5-3 from the lead and he'd just seen clubs go 5-0. He took the very reasonable line of leading a diamond to the nine, then ducking the spade deuce return to the queen. When Edgtton exited with the diamond eight, declarer put in the jack and could no longer make more than nine tricks. Minus 50 and 10 IMPs to the Goren team, to win the match by 10½ IMPs.



The Gold Coast Convention Centre Venue

In the semifinals Hans beat Goren by a score of 99½-81, while Consus Oil defeated Belonogov 171-101½. Hans would have the ½-IMP carryover in the final.

Although the final was pretty one-sided in favour of the Poles, the following deal was one of the bright lights for the Hans team.

Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Hans	Niedzielsk	Ware	Makaruk
—	—	—	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Michael Ware led the diamond two to the nine, four and queen. Pawel Niedzielsk played a club to the ace and another club. Ware won the king and played a low spade, won by the ace. Declarer crossed to the diamond ace and played a third club. This allowed Ware to discard a diamond, and Niedzielsk was headed for one off. He ruffed the club in dummy and tried to cash the diamond king – Ware ruffed and had two more trump tricks to come.

Declarer had to cash diamonds early or take a ruffing finesse in spades to make four hearts. He was minus 200.

West	North	East	South
Martens	Hanlon	Filipowicz	McGann
—	—	—	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Hearts

Hanlon's transfer altered the timing when Krzysztof Martens led the obvious club queen and Dominik Filipowicz put the king on it. McGann allowed the king to hold and won the next club in hand. He was now in a position to ruff a club in the dummy, but with East looking to have only two clubs, careful timing was still required.

McGann cashed the two diamonds in dummy, crossed to the spade ace and cashed the third diamond,

discarding one club. He then ruffed a spade and only now played the third round of clubs, ruffing with the seven. Another spade ruff and a low heart from hand ensured the contract. Well played for plus 620 and 13 IMPs.

Martens and Co. were, however, worthy winners, winning all four sets of the final. The scoreline was 156-81½.

TGR AUCTION PAIRS 2010

Nick Sandqvist, London

The inaugural TGR Auction was held on Sunday 17th January, 2010. Zia Mahmoud and Sabine Auken led a star-studded field of 60 pairs, 16 of whom were seeded. The auction raised £38,570, with the top-priced pairs being Krzysztof Buras-Grzegorz Narkiewicz from Poland (£3,000), Jason & Justin Hackett (£2,400), Andrew McIntosh-Nick Sandqvist (£2,200) and Michael Elinescu-Entscho Wladow from Germany (£2,000). Congratulations are due to Marilyn Malinowska for a well-run tournament!

Results:

	Score	Price	Prize
1. McIntosh-Sandqvist	68.6%	£2,200	£14,000
2. Charlsen-Hoftaniska	60.3%	£1,800	£7,000
3. Andresen-Furnes	60.2%	£1,000	£4,200
4. Forrester-Herman	59.0%	£1,250	£1,750
5. Buras-Narkiewicz	58.2%	£3,000	£1,050

Full details at:

http://www.tgrsbridge.com/Auction_Pairs.html

We were East-West on the following deal, and I dare say declarer must have fancied his chances when he saw the dummy... but this day belonged to us.

Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	1 NT ¹
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass
1. 12-14			

I led the king of clubs, asking for unblock or count, and Tosh played the seven. I had to assume that Tosh's only

card was the heart king, and continued with a high club. Declarer took a successful heart finesse, followed by a spade to his nine. I won and cleared the clubs with a suit preference eight, and when Tosh won the next heart and played a diamond through, declarer was in trouble. After cashing my club I could endplay the South hand with ace and another diamond and our eighth trick was the queen of spades. Plus 100 would have been just above average, but 300 was of course close to a top.

Needless to say, the opponents were rather kind to us on more than a few occasions. Here, Tosh took advantage of a lucky lead and a careless defence to extract almost all the matchpoints.

Dealer West NS Vul.

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

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

West tried his luck with a club. Tosh rose ace and played a diamond to his king and West made our life easy by taking the Ace and playing another club. Not under any kind of pressure from this lame defence, Tosh could afford to run the heart ten. When that held, he cashed the last club honour from dummy and ran his diamonds. Neither defender was able to keep two spades at the end, so the queen of spades made a trick.

The deal caused many pairs to go overboard, so any plus was good enough for an above average score, but 690 got almost all the matchpoints.

This material can be used without accreditation to the writer.

Bridge Baron Offer

IBPA members who have access to an iPad, an iPhone or an iPod Touch and who wish to review the iPad or iPhone version of Bridge Baron may contact Stephen Smith, the lead programmer for Bridge Baron, at stephen@bridgebaron.com. Smith can request "promo codes" from Apple that enable free installation of review copies, and then provide a promo code to each reviewer.

Editorial continued...

consulted until well after the incident. Both LHO and RHO insisted on their right to both tricks and declarer gave in, embarrassed at his gaffe.

A third incident occurred in the recent NEC Cup. An English player revoked, then refused to allow an opponent to see his hand after the cards had been returned to the board. When he was told by the opponent that the opponent thought he had revoked and he wanted to check to see whether that was the case, the English player still refused to show his hand, insisting that he had not revoked. The TD was called and the situation explained. The TD asked to see the hand and to be told the play: the English player had indeed revoked and the appropriate penalty was applied. Whether or not it was his intention, the English player's refusal to allow the opponents to see his cards certainly made it appear as though he were illegally trying to conceal his revoke.

Even more recently, in an early round of the 2010 Vanderbilt, a world champion-calibre team was playing a young, unheralded, team. One of the unheralded pairs was playing Multi Two Diamonds, which the ACBL requires of its proponents to supply two copies of the official, standard, ACBL defence for its opponents. The pair had tried to obtain the approved defence from the tournament officials to no avail, so they wrote it out by hand. The first pair they played against on the team unwittingly allowed the transgression after a misunderstanding. The second pair they played against said, "We'll see how it goes," (according to the young pair, but denied by the champions), then called the TD when the young pair opened Two Diamonds later in the set. When the TD arrived, the world champion pair suggested a procedural penalty (again, this version is disputed by the champions) against the young pair. When the youngsters informed the TD that they had a handwritten copy of the defence, the world champion pair questioned its legibility and accuracy. The young pair was eventually informed that they could not play Multi and had now to play weak twos. The world champions' actions in this incident were generally looked upon unfavourably, but not by all.

There are two issues at stake (three if you count the ACBL's attitude to the Multi as an issue!). Firstly, if the ACBL requires its players to provide the official ACBL defence to Multi, should they not take it upon themselves to make a supply of the defence booklets available to the needful pairs? Secondly, how likely is it that a world champion pair did not have its own defence to Multi Two Diamonds and needed the ACBL defence?

The central issue in all this is whether we want bridge to be like golf in terms of honesty, self-policing,

sportmanship, gentlemanly conduct and integrity, or whether we want it to be like other sports, football for example, where those qualities, for the most part, are left to the officials to ensure.

One year, golfer Davis Love III was playing the last event available to qualify him for the U.S. Masters – he had to win the event to qualify and was in contention to do so. On one of the greens, his playing partner asked Love to move his ball mark as it was in his putting line. Love moved his mark, then putted out after his opponent. Having done so, he realised that he couldn't remember whether he had returned his mark to its original position, a penalty if he had not done so. Upon enquiry, no one else had seen whether he had replaced it or not. After consulting a rules official and being told that it was his own call, Love called the penalty on himself. Afterwards, he was asked, "How would you feel if that penalty, which you are not sure should have been called, prevented you from getting into the Masters?" Love replied, "How would I feel if I got in and won the Masters and wasn't sure whether I'd cheated to do it?"

At the opposite extreme are professional team sports, where the only sin seems to be getting caught cheating, and it is the officials who are asked to police fairness, sometimes with patently unfair results (viz., Thierry Henry v. Ireland and Diego Maradona v. England).

Personally, I prefer the Davis Love/Howard Weinstein ideal. How about you?

RENO SPRING NABC WINNERS

North American Open Pairs – Frank Merblum, Doug Doub

IMP Pairs – Pablo Ravenna, Pablo Lambardi

Platinum Pairs – Andrew Stark, Frank Baseggio

Senior Pairs – Les Bart, Gloria Silverman

Mixed Pairs – Judi Radin, Scott Levine

Open Pairs – Nicolas l'Ecuyer, Steve Landen

Women's Pairs – Suzy Burger, Linda Lewis

Open Swiss Teams – John Diamond, Brian Platnick, Fred Gitelman, Brad Moss, Eric Greco, Geoff Hampson

Women's Swiss Teams – Migry Zur-Campanile, Phyllis Fireman, Shannon Cappeletti, Shawn Quinn, Martine Verbeek, Wiestke van Zwol

Vanderbilt KO Teams – Pierre Zimmermann, Franck Multon, Thomas Bessis, Michel Bessis, Tor Helness, Geir Helgemo



Correspondence ...

The Editor reserves the right to abridge and/or edit correspondence
Email: ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca

The guest editorial by Paul Marston elicited an extraordinary number of responses from our members. Many wrote to disagree vehemently, led by...

Dear John,

It is not too late to thank you for the prominent space you gave to the World Bridge Series in Philadelphia.

That was very appreciated, more so than the strange editorial from Paul Marston, who confuses a small elite and a real policy for the masses.

He does not know the subject at all. If chess succeeds a little bit more with youth, it is only because chess is taught more commonly than bridge is in schools. I began that for bridge some years ago, with great success in some countries: Indonesia 35,000 pupils, China 50,000, Canada 3,000, France 6,000, Italy 4,000. In the U.S., despite the US\$1M obtained from Bill Gates and Warren Buffett, there are no results at this time. What a pity.

Regards, José Damiani, WBF President, Paris

To the Editor:

In my opinion, the argument put forth by Paul Marston in the March 2010 IBPA Bulletin that attempts to create a link between system restrictions in WBF events and the lack of young people playing our game is clearly absurd.

What Mr. Marston fails to realize (or more likely fails to admit) is that the key to getting more young people to play bridge is to get them through the front door. Obviously, system restrictions do not prevent young people from trying bridge for the first time - new bridge players do not even know how to count their points. Typically it takes months or (more likely) years before a new player, regardless of his or her age, is sufficiently familiar with the basics to even think about playing bidding methods that are far outside the realm of what is considered 'mainstream'.

If we are somehow successful in getting large numbers of young people to give bridge a try (sorry, I don't know how to do this) then a reasonable percentage of them will realize what a great game it is that we play. They will be hooked, quite possibly for life. Will they subsequently give up the game when, in the future, they learn that there are restrictions on the bidding methods they are allowed to play in most clubs and tournaments? Of course not! Even Mr. Marston, who has evidently not been allowed to play his preferred methods in WBF tournaments for many years, has not given up bridge.

In fact, I do not recall meeting a single young bridge player who decided to stop playing our game because of systems restrictions. For sure, there are plenty of bridge players of all ages who would prefer that the restrictions placed on bidding methods by the powers-that-be were changed so that their favorite toys were allowed. But I suspect that, almost without exception, even these people appreciate that bridge with restrictions is more than sufficiently challenging and that the rules that exist permit sufficient scope for innovation to keep them coming back.

Meanwhile, it is my strong impression that for every existing bridge player like Mr. Marston who would like to see fewer rules (or no rules at all) in this area, there are many other bridge players who think the status quo as defined by the WBF is not far off the mark.

Fred Gitelman, BBO President, Las Vegas

Dear John,

I couldn't disagree more with Paul Marston's views on "The Cancer of Bridge." The reason it is difficult to get younger players involved in bridge has nothing to do with bidding regulations. It has to do with alternatives. When 'we' were kids, it was normal to play card games. There were limited alternatives. Today, kids are using electronic devices 24/7 and don't play cards.

In the few instances where children can be convinced to learn bridge, the simpler the better. The successful junior programs don't flourish because the kids can play the upside-down reverse dungeon convention. Our game is beautiful and simple. Allowing complex systems drives away players more than it attracts newcomers. Sure, after youngsters learn, they do like to experiment, but once they are addicted to bridge, the conventional limitations aren't what turns them off. Time constraints and today's lifestyle are the culprit.

The biggest area of growth in bridge is with retirees. They love the purity and beauty of the game. Once it gets alert-filled, we lose them. All the bridge teachers I've talked to and work with agree - there is no question that "simple is best" in order to grow our great game (which, note, has recently been growing in the ACBL).

Yes, some younger players, once they are comfortable, want to experiment with wacky conventions. Denying them that ability is a small price to pay for the bigger picture. All of my teaching and writing experience shows that by far the majority want the bidding methods and artificiality kept to a minimum. Allow a policy of "anything goes" and you'll really see what extinction looks like.

Larry Cohen, Boca Raton, FL

Hi John,

In the 1980s I agreed with Paul Marston's editorial pretty much wholeheartedly. These days, I want some 'light' regulation of systems and conventions. The danger I see in not doing so might see the problem I had over 30 years ago replicated; I came across a pair who said that their one no trump opening in third seat promised 0-13 points and any shape. It was clear they had implicit partnership agreements about which 0-13 point hands were in the one no trump range. The directors of the day didn't understand this; they should either have forced the pair concerned to open ALL hands with 0-13 points in 3rd seat with one no trump or, more properly, banned this opening and subjected the pair to procedural penalties.

This is why I believe that any partnership that plays very wide-range, preemptive, artificial openings is in danger of being accused of developing implicit agreements. So I'd want players who (say) play 3-11 point openings that promise 4+/4+ in the majors to be compelled to open ♠5432 ♥5432 ♦K2 ♣432 at any vulnerability in perfect tempo, with significant penalties for non-adherence .

Otherwise, apart from banning openings above one club that are "fert" in nature in general competition, I believe that there is little regulators should do otherwise. Why? Well, in my view, such a ban is in the interest of fairness; you should be able to play your system other than first in hand, which higher "fert" bids take away. (Over a one club "fert", double is a one club opening and otherwise "system is on".)

Regulators should also have to provide simple, generalised defences to artificial preemptive openings. By the way, I wish all national bridge organisations would offer "anything goes" tournaments to for those with an adventurous heart to encourage the development of new methods.

Regards, Tim Bourke, Canberra

John,

I read with interest Paul Marston's editorial in the March edition of the IBPA Bulletin. While not disagreeing with a lot of the sentiments that he expressed there, I feel I need to point out a major misstatement in the article.

It is true that Australian youth players are offered free membership of the Australian Bridge Federation masterpoint scheme and perhaps only 81 of those members earned masterpoints in 2009. However a large number, and we estimate 100+, are members of their local club which also affiliates them to the masterpoint scheme. The masterpoints earned by those club members would not be recorded as youth club members earning masterpoints, making Paul's statistic a gross distortion of the participation rate of youth bridge in Australia. Certainly our youth database well exceeds 200 players, most of whom are very actively playing bridge.

That notwithstanding, we struggle to get youth participation on an ongoing basis.

Regards, David Stern, Chairman, Australian Bridge Federation Youth Committee

Not quite everyone disagreed with Paul...

Hallo John,

I couldn't agree more with the editorial by Paul Marston. Impressive and positive ideas. As for the 2010 White House Junior Internationals, we follow the idea of not restricting any systems and conventions (with the obligation to post these a day before on the Internet or in the playing area). It will be interesting to see if there are any new approaches by the juniors (in my playing days, we experimented with all kinds of stuff: weak opening systems, strong pass and so on). It was always exciting to play against Balicki-Zmudzinski!

Kindest regards, Kees Tammens, Coach, Netherlands Junior Team, Amsterdam

**The World Bridge Federation and BBO
Present a Women's Bridge Festival
Pairs and Individual Championships
12th – 18th April 2010**

**Make new friends and enjoy a new and
exciting bridge competition in a warm
and inviting atmosphere.**

Anna Maria Torlontano, Chairman of the WBF Women's Committee writes:

Players from all the WBF Zones are invited to participate in Pairs and Individual Championships. There will be 4 daily tournaments of 10 boards each: 2 individuals followed by 2 pairs events. The Festival will last one week, from 12th – 18th April 2010 and will include a total of 28 events.

Full details, including the times of play, are on the website at:

<http://www.wbfwomensbridgeclub.org> – just click the link to the Online Festival

All the events are limited exclusively to women players who must enrol in the Festival through the website. The entry fee is \$1, the standard fee for most BBO pay tournaments. BBO Master Points will be awarded based on the size of the field. Certificates will be awarded to the top 3 places overall in the Pairs and the Individual events, and to the top 5 places in the overall combined classification. Players interested in participating in this new and exciting event should go to the website.