



BULLETIN

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Editorial

What do you think is the biggest single change in bridge over the past 40 years or so? If you believe it is in actual bridge play, then bidding developments, especially in competitive bidding, have been enormous. Advances in defenders' signalling methods have also been significant, with several important books written on the topic. Declarer play, while not altogether stagnant, has been the area of play that has changed the least. All these advances, when taken together, and as a result of written explications, have resulted in a general improvement in the skill level of everyone, from expert to dub. No longer is it possible for a top-seeded team in a major knockout to feel that they'll have an easy three or four matches before facing a tough team. Everyone can play now, the top seeds say.

In competition, at the highest level, the rise of European bridge (we exempt the Italians and the French) has been phenomenal. Major world team championship wins by Poland (1978 Rosenblum, 1984 Olympiad), Germany (1990 Rosenblum), Iceland (1991 Bermuda Bowl), the Netherlands (1993 Bermuda Bowl), and Norway (2007 Bermuda Bowl) have been interspersed in the usual string of successes by the USA and Italy, with France and Brazil making occasional inroads. Despite this success, there remain only 10 nations that have won major world team titles. (Curiously, at the time of writing, before the World Cup final, only seven nations have won that title; five of these are in common.)

Administratively, we must look at the rise of membership everywhere but North America. Europe has more than doubled its membership rolls in that time frame, while North America has declined by about 25%. The ACBL had more than 200,000 members in 1970 (20,000 of whom were Canadian); today there are a little more than 150,000 members (16,000 of whom are Canadian). Mexican and Bermudian membership is miniscule in comparison. Numbers have grown almost everywhere else in the world. The model for membership on a per capita basis has to be Iceland, with 3,000 members in a population of 350,000. It is the only country in the world where you can get into a taxi and have the driver say to you, "You hold..." Don't scoff, this actually happened during the Icelandair Open one year!

Technically, a huge change has been the advent of computer programs to teach, play, score and watch bridge. Among these are BBO, Fred Gitelman's baby, which has literally revolutionised bridge kibitzing, and BridgeMate, which has had no less an effect on scoring. Thousands of people now routinely view a European, USBF or World Championship, previously restricted to the select few at the venue. Scores appear almost as soon as the last card is played. Daily bulletins available almost instantaneously on the Internet report results and interesting deals, obviating the need for frantic trans-continental telephone calls to discover

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NIGHTMARE ON KOBLENZER STRASSE

John Carruthers, Toronto

This year's Bonn Nations Cup, co-sponsored by the Bonn Bridge Club and the German Bridge Federation, was held May 12-13 in the Stadthalle on Koblenzer Strasse, Bad Godesburg. It was the 25th edition, and sported its strongest-ever field of national teams. Many of these teams were preparing for the European Teams Championships in June in Ostend. This year, there was also a women's event.

It followed that these tough teams gave many difficult decisions to their opponents. Here are a few of these problems messed up by me, my teammates and our opponents, but not by my partner, Bruce Ferguson, who was a tower of strength. Names are withheld to protect the guilty. Making or defeating the contract is paramount, extra undertricks or overtricks are relatively unimportant. You needn't worry, however, as that will not be an issue.

We'll do the problems two at a time.

Problem 1. Dealer East. Both Vul.

♠ A 8 6 3
♥ 8 5 3
♦ A 7 4
♣ Q J 4

♠ K 2
♥ A K J 9 7 2
♦ J 9 6 5
♣ 3

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

1. Limit raise or better in hearts

West leads the ace of clubs (ace from ace-king) and shifts to the four of spades (3rd/5th), East playing the ten (upside-down count and attitude). Plan the play.

Problem 2. Dealer West. NS Vul.

♠ K Q 7 2
♥ A K 4
♦ J 8 5 2
♣ 10 9

♠ J 10 6 5
♥ Q J 2
♦ 4
♣ A Q 8 5 2

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

- Relay enquiry
- Maximum (in the context of 14-17 no trumps), four spades, no shortness

West leads the three of hearts (3rd/5th). How would you play?

Solution 1. How to play the red suits is the key. If you play for hearts 2-2, no further problems ensue, as you can ruff the fourth diamond in dummy, should that distribution eventuate.

If you win the spade in hand, cash the ace of hearts and the queen does not drop, travelling to dummy for a heart finesse and guessing queen-to-three onside correctly still does not see you home as you need to set up that fourth diamond. However, the good news is that the chances of that are pretty good, with West having five (probable) spades and some club length. Draw the trumps and duck a diamond, then lead one to the ace and lead the third round from dummy toward your jack-nine.

The known 5-2 division of the spades makes 3-1 hearts a slight favourite over hearts 2-2, but this tempered by the need to bring in two diamond winners.

Here are the East-West cards.

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

If you opted for simplicity, three cheers to you.

Solution 2. If you can arrange to ruff three diamonds in hand or three clubs in dummy, that would see you home. With no need for a successful guess in clubs. The problem is that you may lose the lead twice (once each in diamonds and clubs) for the opponents to lead trumps).

Instead, look closely at that lovely eight of clubs in your hand. Why not take two club finesses, close to a 75% play for your contract?

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

If you win the heart and start on trumps, planning to run the club ten, or run the club ten immediately, you'll be chuffed when the king from West is required to win the trick.

Problem 3. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

♠ 10 6 3 2
 ♥ K 10 9 6 5
 ♦ Q 6 5
 ♣ 3

 ♠ K 5 4
 ♥ A
 ♦ A K 10 9 8 7
 ♣ K 9 5

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

West leads the heart four, you play the five and East the jack. West has made a good lead to avoid giving you your ninth trick on the go. Can you counter this, after winning the heart ace at trick one?

Problem 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

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

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

Partner leads the five of diamonds, 3rd and 5th; declarer ruffs in dummy as you signal encouragement with the eight. Declarer follows with the three of diamonds, and leads the club jack from dummy. You go up ace (would you?), declarer plays the king and partner plays the two (old-fashioned count and attitude).

You lead the spade six, declarer plays the nine and partner wins the ace. He continues with the diamond six, ruff, two, seven. Declarer ruffs a club and leads the heart two, four, jack, ace. You are in – what's going on and what do you do now?

Solution 3. Those diamond spots are annoying, leaving you with only the queen as an entry to dummy. However,

you can do wonders with that queen! Play the ace of diamonds and another to the queen as West discards a club. Now, king of hearts and ten of hearts establishing the nine and discarding one club and one spade from hand. Now West has to give you one of the black kings or the heart nine. Easy, wasn't it?

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

You need to retain a diamond entry back to hand lest West give you the heart in dummy, squeezing your hand.

True, East might have had the ace of clubs, allowing you to lead a club from the dummy and make the hand that way, but the odds favour West's holding that card. The ace of spades onside surely means the ace of clubs is offside, and that would lead to a big set when East takes the spade ace and leads a club through your king.

Solution 4. Declarer has played the hand rather well, leaving you with both a club and a spade exit.

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

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

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

However, look what happens if you exit a trump or a club (it doesn't matter which) in the end game:

♠ Q 8
 ♥ K 7 6
 ♦ —
 ♣ 10 5

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

 ♠ K J 10
 ♥ 9 5
 ♦ A 9
 ♣ —

In the diagrammed position, after your trump exit, declarer wins in hand, ruffs the diamond nine, ruffs a club back to hand and cashes the diamond ace and his last trump. Partner is squeezed between hearts and clubs.

So, you must return the ten of hearts after winning the ace to break up the squeeze on partner.

Did you notice that your side is 'almost cold' for five diamonds and never got into the auction? Okay, some Wests made a takeout double with those cards and some Norths bid only three spades, allowing East to come in with four diamonds. The unlikely club king lead is needed to beat five diamonds.

Problem 5. Dealer South. EW Vul.

♠ A 10
♥ 10 4
♦ A J 9 8 7 4
♣ Q 9 8

♠ K 8 6
♥ Q J 7 6
♦ Q 2
♣ A J 10 6

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

West leads a fourth-best three of spades to the ten, jack and king. (You can't afford to duck because you need the ace as an entry to dummy when diamonds are established.) The diamond queen is covered by the king and ace, and you cash the jack, but the ten does not fall. On a third diamond from dummy, East wins the ten, you discard the heart six and West throws the club seven, old-fashioned signals.

East continues the spade attack, leading the two to dummy's ace, West following with the nine. Of necessity you cash the diamonds, pitching your third spade and two clubs. East pitches, in order, the two of clubs, the five of spades and the nine of hearts. West discards the two, three and eight of hearts.

Are you confident you know what's going on? Do you take the club finesse or play a heart to endplay West?

Problem 6. Dealer North. NS Vul.

♠ A K 7 3 2
♥ 7 2
♦ K Q 5
♣ K Q 3

♠ J 9 6
♥ A K 6 3
♦ 8 6
♣ A J 9 5

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

1. Game forcing, natural
2. RKCB for spades
3. 2 key cards, no spade queen

Partner has landed you in a dicey slam, but certainly a better one than six spades would have been. West leads the diamond ace and shifts to the spade five. Plan the play in detail.

Solution 5. You had better take the club finesse! True, the opponents have discarded very well to convince you otherwise, but even if West stiffed his heart honour, he can win it, and cross on a spade, squeezing your hand...

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

If you play a heart in the five-card ending, you're playing the end position to be something like:

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

When you lead a heart, West wins and leads his low spade to East's seven and you discard...? If you discard a heart, East cashes the ace and leads a club through. If you discard a club, he leads a club to your ace and takes a heart and a club at the end.

In reality, East had all the high cards, so on your heart exit the defence simply cashed the ace and king of hearts, then took two spades.

Solution 6. The diamond ace is a good lead for you, but that spade five is very suspicious. Is it suspicious enough for you to duck in dummy? I'll tell you what happens later if you do that.

Two lines of play present themselves:

- i.) Win the spade ace and king, draw two trumps with the ace and king, then if the spade queen has not dropped, pitch your third spade on the diamonds,

ruff a spade high, go back to dummy with the club queen and claim. You need spades 3-2 and clubs 3-3 for this to work; or the spade queen doubleton and 4-2 trumps.

- ii.) More complicated, but slightly superior: cash a high club from the dummy and play off the other high spade. Assuming the queen has not dropped, play off the two high diamonds discarding your third spade, then play ace-king and ruff a heart low in the dummy. If that lives lead a third spade: if East shows out, claim on a cross-ruff; if East follows with the queen ruff high, ruff your last heart and lead a spade, hoping East has the club ten so you can score the club nine. This line needs the 3-2 spade break, plus a 4-3 heart break, plus either the spade queen on the left or the club ten on the right. This is slightly better than the aforementioned 3-3 spade break.

Here's the complete deal:

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

Playing for 3-3 clubs would have worked a treat. Notice that you could have made the slam on a slight improvement on line ii.) by cashing no high club from the dummy. Then when hearts went 5-2 in front of dummy, West could not ruff profitably – you'd need the clubs favourably located, after all, but still, it would have been a slight improvement, losing nothing when hearts were actually 4-3.

Winners of the 2010 Bonn Nations Cup were Israel: Ilan Herbst-Ophir Herbst, Ron Pachtmann-Eldad Ginossar, Yaniv Zack-Michael Barel.



GERMAN BRIDGE TROPHY

**Elke Weber
Brühl, Germany**

Every year since 1985 the German Bridge Federation has invited some 14 countries from Europe - and sometimes beyond - to the "Bonn Nations' Cup". This event takes place on Ascension Day and the day before, which means that teams sometimes submit themselves

to a long journey for playing bridge only on a Wednesday and Thursday.

The idea of complementing the Nations' Cup with a tournament to fill out the week had been on several people's minds for some time, but it was only in 2010 that this became a reality, mainly through the German Bridge Federation's Vice President Josef Harsanyi. In order to create a tournament interesting to strong international teams as well as German bridge players he used the "Citta di Milano" as an inspiration for the movement and prize money structure and allotted the tournament the three days following the "Cup".

After an initial round robin, the field was divided into groups from which teams moved up-and-down after every set of three rounds of Swiss. A strong field of 50 teams altogether, 33 from Germany and 17 from abroad, competed for a total of more than 20,000 Euro of prize money, including 5,000 Euro to the winner.

Players could enjoy a spacious playing area and excellent organization, including quick and error-free scoring and competent tournament directors - Peter Eidt (Head of the Organizing Committee), Matthias Schüller (Chief Tournament Director), Gunthard Thamm, Slawek Latala and Marc van Beijsterveldt plus seven caddies – all ensured a smooth, trouble- and stress-free experience to the participants, with the possible exception of those fortunate enough to be at Table No. 1. Here, players had to endure their play being broadcast over the nowadays-ubiquitous BBO and scrutinized by the entire web.

There were lots of interesting problems, like these four:

- 1 - Picking up the following hand your first turn is after pass from partner and four diamonds from RHO.

♠ J
♥ A 8 6 4 3
♦ —
♣ A K 10 9 6 4 2

Those who bid five clubs were confronted with six diamonds, pass, pass for their next decision.

- 2 - Many solutions were found for the following bidding situation:

♠ Q 9 4 2
♥ A 10 7
♦ --
♣ Q J 6 4 3 2

West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	Pass
1 ♥	Double	2 NT ¹	?
1. Four hearts, 6-8			

- 3 - Another interesting bidding problem was how to proceed after a one-heart opening from partner with the following collection:

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

4 - In the final, many Wests were confronted with the task of making three no trump after the diamond five lead to the nine and queen, and after an unopposed auction:

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

Many players coming together from different origins makes for different approaches to problem solving and sometimes leading to major swings. The greatest swings of the whole tournament were to be found on Board 4 of the first round of the Swiss. The score sheet included results from plus 2330 to minus 1540...

Swiss 1-4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

In the Turkey-France BBO match, over four diamonds from North, both Easts decided to start with five clubs and bid six hearts over South's raise to six diamonds. This proved to be a cheap save:

West	North	East	South
Zorlu	Grosset	Assael	Lorenzini
Pass	4 ♦	5 ♣	6 ♦
Pass	Pass	6 ♥	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	
West	North	East	South
T.Bessis	Aslan	Volcker	Kubac
Pass	4 ♦	5 ♣	6 ♦
Pass	Pass	6 ♥	Double
7 ♣	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Some Easts, including Germany's Michael Gromöller, bid four hearts over four diamonds. His partner, Andreas Kirmse, cooperated with six hearts, but Hungary's Tamás Nikolitis as South ended negotiations with seven diamonds(!). When Gromöller led his "safe" ace of clubs, this contract rolled home and brought 19 IMPs to the Hungarians, a not-insignificant contribution to their later tournament victory.

The mean score was plus 770 to North-South: Here are the frequencies...

Decl.Contract	+	-	Frequency
N: 7 ♦ X =	2330		1
N: 6 ♦ X +1	1740		5
N: 6 ♦ X =	1540		4
N: 3 ♦ X +4	1470		1
N: 6 ♦ +1	1390		2
N: 6 ♦ =	1370		1
N: 5 ♦ X +2	1150		10
N: 5 ♦ +2	640		3
N: 5 ♦ +1	620		1
E: 7 ♣ X -2	500		2
W: 6 ♣/♥ X -1	200		15
E: 5 ♥ X =		850	4
E: 6 ♣ X =		1540	1

Another deal where high-card points were quite evenly distributed, but a slam could be made on one side (NS), was Board 18 in the third round of the Swiss. In six clubs, declarer had only to play West for the doubleton ace of spades, not difficult after the auction:

Swiss 3-18 Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

On BBO in the Turkey-Iceland match, both Souths jumped to four spades with different rates of success. While in the Open Room, the bidding ended up in five hearts doubled for plus 500 to North-South, in the Closed Room, East had shown his hand as a "good heart raise", encouraging West to double four spades for plus 1190 to North-South:

West	North	East	South
Zorlu	Ingimarsson	Assael	Sigurjonsson
—	—	Pass	Pass
1 ♥	Double	3 ♥	4 ♠
5 ♥	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			
West	North	East	South
Magnusson	Aslan	Haraldsson	Kubaç
—	—	Pass	Pass
1 ♥	Double	2 ♦ ¹	4 ♠
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Good raise

The par score of plus 800 North-South was only reached at two of the 50 tables. The following example shows how a four-diamond bid from Miklos Dumbovich as West helped both sides to judge their hands:

West	North	East	South
<i>Dumbovich</i>	<i>Gladiator</i>	<i>Gotthard</i>	<i>Weber</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1 ♥	Double	2 NT ¹	3 ♥ ²
4 ♦	Pass	4 ♥	5 ♣
Pass	Pass	5 ♦	5 ♥ ³
Pass	6 ♣	Pass	Pass
6 ♦	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. 6-8 HCP, four hearts
2. Good hand
3. The hand has become even better

Decl. Contract	+	-	Frequency
S: 6 ♣ =	1370		2
S: 4 ♠ X +2	1190		2
W: 6 ♥ X -4	800		2
S: 4 ♠ +2	680		6
S: 5 ♠ =	650		3
N: 4 ♠ =	620		2
S: 5 ♣ =	600		1
E: 5 ♥ X -3	500		13
W: 5 ♦ X -2	300		7
S: 3 ♠ +2	200		1
N: 4 ♣ +2	170		1
S: 3 ♣ +2	150		1
E: 4 ♥ -2	100		6
W: 4 ♥ -1	50		2
S: 6 ♣ X -1	200		1

The noble art of avoiding slams could be practiced here:

Swiss 9-14. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

While in the groups A and B only four out of 20 teams reached the unmakeable slam, in the lower groups the percentage was around 50%. Many Norths began with a (frequently void-showing) splinter and then made a second try to put the brakes on at the five-level like Ophir Herbst in the Israel-Turkey BBO match:

West	North	East	South
<i>Kubaç</i>	<i>O. Herbst</i>	<i>Zorlu</i>	<i>I. Herbst</i>
—	—	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	4 ♦	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 ♦
Pass	5 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

In the Closed Room, Turk Hakan Göksu failed when he tried to get some information by means of natural bidding. His partner only had 11 HCP, but his hand, rich in controls and with six trumps, was too tempting for him to resist the five-heart slam invitation at the end of the bidding:

West	North	East	South
<i>Ginossar</i>	<i>Göksu</i>	<i>Pachtmann</i>	<i>Aslan</i>
—	—	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♣
Pass	5 ♥	Pass	6 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

In the three no trump contract mentioned previously (problem 4), the Open Room declarer in the BBO finals made it rather easily after a spade attack by winning the spade ten in dummy and then leading hearts twice towards his king-queen:

Swiss 12-10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

In the Closed Room, declarer was only in two no trump, but he failed in this contract after a diamond lead and two rounds of clubs from the top. An interesting line of play to make two no trump safely was found by Hristo Chavdarov (Bulgaria). After winning the diamond queen, he played his heart queen, which South won with her ace. After a diamond to the king and the third round of diamonds, declarer now ducked a club.

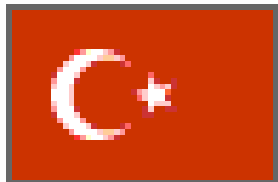
When South refused to overtake the club ten, the contract was made easily, but jack of clubs and another would probably not have been enough to beat the contract either after this start.

In the end, the results were:

1. Hungary: Lakatos-Nikolits, Szilagy-Winkler 304 VP

- Israel: Herbst-Herbst, Barel-Zack, Ginossar-Pachtman 302 VP
- Turkey: Assael-Zorlu, Aslan-Göksu, Kubaç 297 VP

All results and information can be found at:
www.german-bridge-trophy.de



TURKISH DELIGHT

Erdal Sidar
Istanbul

The following deals were played in the Turkish National Open Team Trials for the Ostend European Championship. Sadly, however, the successful declarer, Coskun Kesgin, did not make the team.

Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South <i>Kesgin</i>
—	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠
2 ♦	2 ♥ ¹	Pass	5 ♦ ²
Pass	5 NT ³	Pass	7 ♦ ⁴ !
Pass	7 ♠	Pass	Pass

- Fewer than three card in spades, no information about hearts
- Exclusion key card ask
- Two key cards in the suits other than diamonds
- Pick a major grand slam

West led the ace of diamonds. How would you play had you been declarer?

Most of the commentators agreed that the best play would be to ruff a heart in dummy, hoping for a 4-2 break in hearts and a 3-2 break in trumps. Yet, Kesgin took a different, spectacular path.

Kesgin crossed to dummy twice via trumps, to ruff two more diamonds in hand. Both opponents followed to the two spades. Kesgin then cashed the king of trumps and the ace, king and queen of hearts to reach:

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

West has to give a card before dummy. To keep his diamond king while the nine was still in dummy, he desperately pitched a club. But Kesgin threw the last diamond from dummy and finessed the club jack successfully, making four club tricks and his contract!

As you can see, the 'reasonable' way of playing the hand is destined for failure at the second trick when the heart ace is ruffed by West. Since East had only two diamonds, a trump lead would not help the defence. West needed to lead a club to break the squeeze.

Kesgin told us later that he felt West might have led a trump had he had not expected a ruff, and might have bid three diamonds rather than two diamonds had he not had a side suit. He added that a 4-1 break in trumps was another dangerous aspect to be avoided.

Kesgin was then asked what he would have done if West had played the ten of spades on the first round of trumps - a good deception indeed. If it is an honest card, indicating a singleton, the danger of a heart void in West is no longer valid and intermediate spades in hand would have been good enough to handle the 4-1 break. Then playing on hearts becomes more attractive.

Kesgin said, "I might still have been there at the table."

You may not agree with such arguments, still, Kesgin's play was remarkably brilliant.

In the second deal, Kesgin's line, again, was not easily predictable. He reached four spades after a rather smooth bidding sequence.

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

1. Forcing
2. Invitational with three-card support in a balanced hand

West led the two of spades. Kesgin won East's king in hand and when he played the club three, most of the spectators thought it was dropped accidentally. It was ducked by West and East took dummy's ten with his queen, cashed the spade queen and continued with the two of hearts, indicating an odd number of cards in the suit.

Kesgin won in hand and played the king of clubs. West won and continued with the heart queen. This was the most critical moment of the play. West needed to play a diamond to break up the coming squeeze.

Kesgin won in dummy and cashed all his trumps but one. These were the last five cards:

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

On the last trump, West and dummy threw hearts but East's cards were all busy.

AUSTRIAN OPEN TEAMS 2010

Fritz Babsch,
Vienna



Participation was disappointing as only 20 teams competed. The field was strong, but Franz and Sylvia Terraneo were absent. The best six teams after nine rounds of Swiss played in the final. The final was a tough fight between FUCIK (Fucik-Purkarthofer, Lindermann-C. Terraneo; Feichtner-Obermair played only in the qualification) and ALIZEE (Fischer-Saurer, M. Erhart-Schifko; Peter Erhart played only in the qualification). After five rounds FUCIK won by one Victory Point!

The best hand was a grand slam:

Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

With open cards you can make seven diamonds with the East hand and seven no trump always. But how can you reach a diamond contract with the East hand? Seven diamonds by West is down at trick one because every North player will lead a spade. Seven no trump by West is also difficult after a spade lead because you would play for split kings, wouldn't you? Seven no trump by East is easier because South will lead the 'safe' ten of hearts. Then the position of the heart king would be clear and as you need the club finesse in any case you must play for the squeeze.

In real life, three players were content with six diamonds; two went down in the grand slam, and Fischer-Saurer made seven no trump for a big gain. In my opinion, seven no trump is a very bad contract and seven diamonds is good, if not excellent.

There was also a fascinating deal in the consolation:

Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
1 ♠ ¹	4 ♠	5 ♦	Pass
6 ♦	6 ♠	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass
1. Blue Club			

Eleven tricks, plus 200 (EW)

Continued on page 12...



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

525. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

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

After North's splinter raise of spades, South had an awkward choice in the auction. Despite the void in hearts, he decided to use Roman Key Card Blackwood because he did not want to be in a grand slam without the ace of hearts. The five-club response promised three aces and South bid six clubs to ask for help there. North was delighted to bid the grand.

West led the jack of clubs and declarer counted five trumps, three aces, the king of clubs and two diamond ruffs, which was two short. So his best bet was to ruff two clubs in dummy, while discarding his fifth club on the ace of hearts. He took the opening lead with dummy's club ace and threw a club on the ace of hearts. After a diamond to the ace, he ruffed a diamond and a heart low. Next, declarer cashed the king of clubs. He had made six tricks and had the remaining seven tricks on a high crossruff.

526. (See top of next column.) West led the nine of spades against six hearts. Declarer counted his tricks - four trumps, three spades, two diamonds and a club. This meant he needed two minor-suit ruffs in one hand or the other. As this particular East would likely have preempted at favourable vulnerability with a six-card spade suit headed by the king, declarer called for dummy's queen of spades.

Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

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

1. Fourth-suit forcing

On the spade lead, declarer realised that if he played a low spade from dummy at trick one, then he would be an entry short to bring the contract home as he would be unable to score two minor-suit ruffs if the trumps were 4-1. Playing the queen would make the ten an entry to hand.

East took the queen of spades with the king and returned a trump (nothing else is better). Declarer took this with the ace, cashed the ace of clubs and ruffed a club. After returning to hand with the ten of spades, declarer ruffed another club. Next, he overtook the queen of trumps with the king, East showing out, and drew the last two trumps, throwing dummy's two losing diamonds.

Dummy was now high, with the ace-jack of spades and the ace-king of diamonds!

As the cards lay, the contract could still be made by playing the ace of spades but that is likely to involve more complications on other layouts. Once the observation is made that East's bidding habits make the lead unlikely to be a singleton, playing the queen of spades at trick one is clearly best.

527. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

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

1. Limit raise or better in clubs
2. Key card ask
3. Two key cards, no club queen

West led the jack of hearts; declarer won the queen and drew trumps, West showing up with a singleton. How to continue? Declarer saw that he could discard one of dummy's spades on the third heart, so all the contract depended on was playing the diamond suit for four tricks. A 3-2 diamond break would make life easy, so declarer asked himself, "Who is more likely to hold four diamonds headed by the jack?"

As West began with six cards in the black suits to East's seven, that was a vital clue! If West had a singleton diamond his original distribution shape would then have been 5=6=1=1. With that shape, he would surely have bid a Michaels two clubs to show both the majors. So, declarer began with the ace and king of diamonds and the slam was made.

528. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

1. Texas transfer

West led the queen of diamonds to the ace. Declarer saw that he could afford to lose a trump trick provided he avoided conceding three heart tricks. He saw that if he cashed the king and finessed dummy's jack and it lost to East's queen, a heart shift would see him perilously placed. As the cards lay, East would win the queen of trumps and shift to the jack of hearts. The defenders will score three heart tricks for one down.

Declarer then considered cashing the king and ace of spades, as this would prevent East from gaining the lead with queen-low of trumps. If both defenders followed with low trumps, he could play on clubs, which would make the contract if the defender left with the queen of trumps also held three clubs, as then he could discard one of dummy's hearts on the fourth round of clubs. (There is also the residual chance that the ace of hearts is onside). On the diagrammed deal, declarer would fail.

Finally, declarer decided that it was slightly better to try for an avoidance play and led a low trump from dummy at trick two. When East followed with a small trump, declarer finessed the nine. When this lost to West's ten, the safe hand won the trick and could not attack hearts successfully.

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Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
1 ♠	2 ♥!	4 ♥	Pass
Pass	5 ♠	Pass	Pass
Double	Redouble	Pass	Pass
Pass			
1. Michaels			

Eleven tricks, plus 1200 (N-S)

To take a save in a major suit that has been RHO's opening bid is really sensational (whether East would make six diamonds after the lead of a trump is doubtful, but maybe South would not lead a diamond). East bid badly in the Closed Room because it costs nothing to show the diamonds. Personally I hate the jump to four of a major with three small cards!

Results:

1. Fucik-Purkarthofer, Lindermann-C.Terraneo 166
2. M.Erhart-Schifko, Fischer-Saurer 165

The winning team will represent Austria in Ostend, together with Franz and Sylvia Terraneo.



WHO ARE THESE GUYS?

Ray Lee, Toronto

My wife Linda and I provided BBO commentary for the Canadian National Team Championship semifinals. As the third quarter started, Round Robin winners GARTAGANIS and dark horse JANICKI were separated by only 4 IMPs, so we settled down to watch that match. At our table, the East-West pair were Gordon Campbell and Piotr Klimowicz, both members of Canada's IOC-winning team in Salt Lake City in 2002 (that was where Canada had to beat Italy, the USA, and then Poland in the final - no cheap victory), although they did not play as a partnership in that event. South was Jim Priebe, who played for Canada in the 2004 Olympiad, and North was Paul Janicki - a relatively new partnership.

Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

The set started quietly, but soon came to life on this deal - one whose result was to establish a trend that ended after 18 boards with GARTAGANIS holding a commanding lead. The deal looked innocuous at first.

In the other room, Nick and Judith Gartaganis (North-South - and also members of Canada's IOC teams in Salt Lake City) faced Jordan Cohen (East) and Steve Cooper (West). The auction went:

West	North	East	South
Cooper	N.Gartaganis	Cohen	J.Gartaganis
1 ♠	2 ♣	2 ♠	Double
4 ♠	5 ♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

The defence started routinely with a spade to the ace, and a diamond switch. Nick won this, ruffed a couple of spades in dummy, drew trumps, and led up to the heart honours to chalk up an easy 400. At our table, the auction was as follows:

West	North	East	South
Campbell	Janicki	Klimowicz	Priebe
1 ♠	2 ♣	2 ♠	3 ♣
3 ♦	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
Pass	5 ♣	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

Just as we were beginning to speculate on whether the contract could be beaten on what seemed to us to be a highly unlikely trump lead, the club three hit the table from Klimowicz. Declarer won this in hand and played a heart: on this trick, Klimowicz made his second nice, and highly necessary, play by ducking the ace. If he wins the ace, declarer can come to three heart tricks - but more importantly, the hearts give him entries to ruff out diamonds: he gets home with six clubs, three hearts and two diamonds.

Now declarer, in dummy with the heart king, called for a spade, and it was Campbell's turn to shine - he ducked his ace-king-queen to allow partner to win the spade and play another trump. After this it was all over - wriggle as he might, declarer was always going to lose the two aces, and either a second heart or a second spade. By now, Janicki could have been forgiven for echoing a famous line from *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*: 'Who are these guys?'

These days, one checks all analysis with *Deep Finesse*, and DF of course points out that a low heart lead also beats five clubs. Back in the real world, only a trump lead, followed by the precise defence found at the table, is good enough. A spade would not have worked - the timing is off for both the heart ruff and the trump leads.

From here on, Campbell and Klimowicz were merciless, scarcely making a wrong bid or play, and when the set was done, GARTAGANIS was 60 IMPs up and headed for the final. (*Which they won.* - Ed.)



**By Various Scribes
From Various Sources**

Thirty-eight teams entered the Open Championship. They were divided into two equal groups of 19 to play a round robin within their group, the top nine in each group qualifying for further play. Each qualifying team would then play only the teams from the other group. There was full carry-forward from the matches between qualifying teams only. The favourites were, as usual, Italy. Norway, as defending champions, did not send its best team and were thought to be longshots to finish in the top six and qualify for next year's Bermuda Bowl in the Netherlands. If the Netherlands finished in the top six, the first seven teams would qualify.

France, with Chemla-Levy, and Iceland, with Baldursson-Jonsson, were anomalies – lots of the other top teams fielded very young (in bridge terms) pairs, especially Poland, Israel, England, Sweden and the Netherlands. If any team were to challenge Italy's domination, it was thought that it would come from that group.

No event in world bridge is as predictable as the Women's Teams: France, Germany, England, and the Netherlands were thought to be sure-thing qualifiers. The other 24 teams would battle for the three remaining spots; about half of these had a chance to make it. The Senior Teams, on the other hand, is the most unpredictable event in world and European bridge; England, as reigning World Champions, had to be considered the favourite. Nevertheless, with few exceptions, most of the 23 teams felt they were in with a chance.

The final qualifiers:

Open		
Rank	Team	VPs
1	Italy	314
2	Poland	308
3	Israel	304
4	Iceland	289
5	Sweden	274
6	Netherlands	271
7	Bulgaria	265

Women		
Rank	Team	VPs
1	France	505
2	Netherlands	504
3	Sweden	500
4	Germany	495

5	England	492
6	Poland	481
7	Italy	469

Seniors

Rank	Team	VPs
1	Poland	422
2	Denmark	416
3	Italy	411
4	France	407
5	Germany	391
6	Bulgaria	385

Netherlands also qualifies as host.

Well done to Italy and Poland for earning qualification in all three events.

**England v. Germany
Mark Horton, Bath, UK**

I'm writing this on the day that the countries meet in the World Cup and have developed a tendency to type England as it is chanted by football supporters — Engalund, Engalund, Engalund — luckily the spell-checker comes to the rescue.

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Nehmert	Smith	Giampietro	Brock
—	—	1 NT	Pass
2 ♣	2 ♦	3 ♥	5 ♦
5 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

South picked an excellent moment to put the pressure on with her jump to five diamonds. Reasonably enough West went on in search of the vulnerable game bonus and in one sense it was unlucky that declarer had some useless diamond values.

South led the five of diamonds and North won and switched to the three of hearts. Declarer won in hand and made the natural-looking, but fatal, play of ruffing a diamond. A spade to the ace was followed by a heart to the ace and a second spade. Declarer ruffed her last diamond and tried to cash the queen of spades but North could ruff and that spoiled the party, one down, minus 100.

The winning line, not easy to spot, is to unblock the spades, then cross to dummy with a trump and play a club. Say North ducks, you win with the king, go back to dummy with a heart and cash the queen of spades pitching a club. Then you exit with a club and North is fixed. Quite tough to find I'm sure you will agree.

West	North	East	South
<i>Dhondy</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>von Arnim</i>
—	—	1 NT	Pass
2 ♣	2 ♦	3 ♥	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Here declarer was under no pressure and once she had drawn trumps and unblocked the spades she simply played the two of clubs from hand for the jack and queen and claimed ten tricks and 12 IMPs. Credit those to Sally Brock.

Worth a Look Barry Rigal, NYC

One of the deals from the match between Russia and Netherlands in round three is worthy of a look.

Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

How would you fancy your chances in four spades? Simon de Wijs led the heart jack, which declarer won with the king in hand to play a trump. Simon rose with the ace and continued with his lowest heart for Bauke Muller to ruff. Muller did return a club for the ace and another heart promoted the spade queen into the setting trick en passant. Well done indeed.

West	North	East	South
<i>Khven</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Rudakov</i>	<i>Brink</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 NT
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

In the other room, the Dutch avoided this trap and duly reached four hearts. A diamond went to the jack, queen and ace and a spade was led, the king winning (the first essential element of the defence). The next spade went to the ace and at this point, at the table, West cashed the ace of clubs before continuing a diamond. This gave declarer an easy ride.

Best defence at that point would have been to continue with the diamond ten. South wins, cashes the heart king and queen and crosses to the heart ace to ruff a spade, and again West must be careful. He must discard, or declarer can cross to dummy to run the spades. Declarer ruffs a diamond before leading a winning spade for West to ruff, and in the three-card ending West is down to ace-third of clubs. The final trap is that West must underlead his club ace, letting South score his club king but giving the last two tricks to the defence.

Declarer can prevail if he ignores the trump suit, ruffing a diamond and ruffing a spade. It does not help West to overruff, so he discards a club. Now declarer goes to the ace of hearts and plays a club to the jack and ace. He wins the heart return and cashes the king of clubs and ruffs a club with the master trump still to come. It is the old story, declarer establishes the side suit first. The best lead at trick one is the jack of hearts, and then a switch to a diamond when winning the second round of spades makes life too difficult for declarer.

A Very Nicely-Played Hand Barry Rigal, NYC

Round 11. Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Castells</i>	<i>Harding</i>	<i>Conrado</i>	<i>Fuglestad</i>
—	—	2 ♥	Double
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♦	Pass	4 ♠

1 Hearts and another suit, 7-10 HCP

Four spades was easy where declared by South (as indeed was the case in the other room) on a club lead into the tenace. Harding as North received the singleton club lead and ran her four rounds of trumps. East pitched two diamonds and a heart and declarer led a diamond to the ten. When that held she cashed the

diamond and heart aces and exited with a heart to end-play West to lead clubs into the tenace. Nicely done.

Combining Your Chances Jos Jacobs, Maarn, Netherlands

Board 14. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Smirnov</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1 NT	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

How do you play this on the lead of the two of spades by North? Duboin's approach was logical and easy. He won the king of spades and simply returned the suit, keeping the heart chances intact and also getting a better view on the actual spade distribution.

South won the spade queen and shifted to a diamond rather than continuing spades. This was all Duboin wanted to know: he won the diamond ace, crossed in hearts and ducked a club to North. With the spades obviously breaking 4-4, nothing could go wrong. Italy plus 400.

West	North	East	South
<i>Kirmse</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Gromöller</i>	<i>Versace</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

At the other table, Kirmse also won the spade king at trick one and immediately went after the hearts, apparently unsure about North's promised spade length. When the suit did not break 3-3, he could no longer afford to duck a club so he had to accept one down. Italy plus 50 and 10 IMPs.

Delusions and Illusions John Carruthers, Toronto

Perhaps the most remarkable deal of the tournament occurred here. It was difficult for North to stop bidding with his hand if he ever got a peep of support from partner. Or sometimes even if he did not. The

defence had to be accurate to come to the two tricks to which they were entitled. Not everyone could do it.

Round 16. Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

As you can see, East-West are cold for six clubs with their slightly less than half the deck. North-South, with their double fit in the red suits, can make 11 tricks in hearts or diamonds.

Even so, only three East-West pairs of 66 were allowed to declare, one in seven clubs, off one doubled, one in six spades, down five doubled, and the third, incredibly in five clubs making six.

The other 63 declarers were in hearts or diamonds North-South, usually making 11 tricks (44 times), but ten times making just ten tricks, and once each making nine and eight tricks respectively.

That leaves seven declarers who made 12 tricks on the North-South cards. Here is one...

West	North	East	South
<i>v.d.Vorst</i>	<i>Justin H.</i>	<i>Dewasme</i>	<i>Jason H.</i>
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♦	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	5 NT ¹	Pass	6 ♣ ²
Pass	6 ♥	Pass	Pass

1. Grand slam force
2. Ace or king of hearts

In the England-Belgium match, Justin Hackett of the English team received the spade ace opening lead, ruffed. He cashed the heart ace, and when East discarded a club, led another toward the dummy, giving Isabelle Dewasme a problem.

Should East put the ten or the six on the second heart? It would seem, on the surface, that if declarer needs to ruff a club (picture the hand he held with solid diamonds and ace and another club), you might play low, allowing him to win the seven, but making him ruff his club loser with the heart king, promoting your queen-ten into two tricks. On the other hand, with not quite solid diamonds and no clubs to ruff (his actual hand), you need to split the queen-ten to ensure two red-suit

tricks, either a diamond ruff and the heart queen, or the heart queen and a tertiary diamond trick.

However, if North had needed to ruff a club in dummy, he might already have done so, before playing trumps in this fashion.

In any case, the heart duck does not stand up to analysis. Visualising the hand being played out if declarer has solid diamonds and needs to ruff a club: if you split, declarer will win the heart king, lead a club to the ace and ruff his club. He must now ruff a spade (he is automatically down if he plays a diamond) back to hand and force out the heart queen. At this stage, you and declarer are both down to two trumps apiece. Any black card by you establishes a second trump trick.

So the split of the queen-ten of hearts to force the king defeats the contract whenever it can be beaten. This, however, was not easy to see, and when Dewasme played the six of hearts, Hackett was home, winning the seven and leading the diamond ten to the ace. East could ruff or not, but the heart king now provided the vital entry to dummy to take the diamond finesse, while drawing East's last trump. A fantastic plus 1430.

Astonishingly, Nevena Senior for the English women also made 1430, though on a rather more egregious misdefence, West discarding diamonds on the trumps.

Of the other five declarers who made 12 tricks, let's hear a cheer for Michael Gromöller of Germany, who was not only allowed to play in one heart, but was also allowed to make the fifth overtrick (East obtained a diamond ruff, then led a trump), temporarily confounding partner Andreas Kirmse, but eventually winning 10 IMPs against the six hearts doubled down one at the other table.

Win the Board, Not the Match Sviatlana Badrankova, Minsk

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

The Belarus Women's team was making its first appearance at the European Team Championships, so we were there primarily looking for experience, not for results. That's why each 'lucky' board played vs. well-known opponents brought huge excitement. In Round 21, Denmark-Belarus, we were lucky enough to find Dorte Lilleborg and Dorthe Schaltz playing four hearts, not an easy four spades, on this deal.

After the start of the diamond ace, declarer ruffed and played a small heart to the queen in her hand. When the ace didn't appear, she ruffed her second diamond and returned to hand with the spade king to play a heart honour to East's ace. Now a spade return nailed declarer to the table and the defensive continuation was as easy as it was evident: either East ruffs the third spade and waits for two club tricks (easy), or, after a club lead from the table, East turns on straightforward reasoning: only if partner has the club jack do the defenders have a chance (evident). We scored 5 IMPs on this board (plus 100 at our table and plus 100 from the Closed Room where our teammates beat five diamonds).

The winning line for declarer – difficult to see – is to play two rounds of spades ending in hand and only then play a heart. This 'Dentist's Coup' extracts East's second spade, after which there is no defence.

The remainder of the match was not so easy and only the last board with plus scores in both rooms allowed us to finish with a 'two-digit record' – 10-20 VP for Denmark. As the phrase about battle and war became proverbial, I'd like to express one more meaning for it: we lost a lot of matches here, but we won our two weeks of splendid bridge competition.

Nice Declarer Play Micke Melander, Sundsbruk, Sweden

On Thursday morning, Iceland was taking on Sweden in one of many Nordic battles during these championships. Only 54 IMPs were shared between the teams in this very close match, which ended 16-14 in favour of Iceland.

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Nyström	Haraldsson	Bertheau	Magnusson
Pass	Pass	1 ♣ ¹	Pass
1 ♦	2 ♦	Pass	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		
1. Strong			

West	North	East	South
Baldursson	Fredin	Jonsson	Fallenius
Pass	Pass	1 ♣	Pass
1 ♦	Double	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

In the closed room, Jonsson made 11 tricks after a diamond lead. He established clubs, then squeezed South in the majors for the second overtrick.

In the open room, Nyström got the three of clubs lead, won with the ace. He continued with a spade to the ace and a club towards dummy, on which Haraldsson discarded the four of diamonds. Nyström then ruffed a club on the way back with the jack of spades and continued with his third trump to dummy's king. Another club was ruffed with his last trump, establishing the suit.

That left the following situation:

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

Nyström now played a diamond to dummy's king and continued with his clubs. Magnusson could ruff when he wanted, but was then thrown in to give away a trick in hearts. Excellent play for a flat board.

Elegant Criss-Cross Squeeze Micke Melander, Sundsbruk, Sweden

Board 15. Dealer East. NS Vul

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

West	North	East	South
Dubinín	Piekarek	Gromov	Smirnov
—	—	—	1 NT
Double ¹	Redouble ²	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. One-suiter
2. Ready for business

In the match between Germany and Russia (R15 - Open), Smirnov from the German team executed a really nice piece of declarer play. The criss-cross squeeze he made is one of the most elegant that we have seen so far in Ostend. And for sure it wasn't obvious to play it the way he did it.

Dubinín started off with three rounds of hearts, the third one ruffed by Gromov in East, who immediately returned the jack of trumps, won by Smirnov with the ace. He then continued pulling the last trumps, and learned that West was 2-6 in the majors vs East's 3-1. It was obvious that he needed the queen of clubs to be onside to have a chance of winning the remaining tricks. Smirnov continued with a club to dummy's ace and then a club to the jack, which held the trick, arriving at the following position:

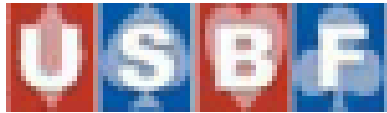
♠ 8	♠ —
♥ —	♥ —
♦ A J 6	♦ K 10 8 5
♣ 6 4	♣ Q 8
♠ —	♠ —
♥ J 2	♥ —
♦ 7 4 2	♦ K 10 8 5
♣ —	♣ Q 8
	♠ 10 4 2
	♥ —
	♦ Q 9
	♣ K

In this situation you could play for clubs 3-3, and if that didn't work you could try for the diamond finesse. However playing like that probably won't get you into the daily bulletin.

Smirnov next played his three spades, taking note of two hearts and one diamond from West. Declarer followed suit on the first one from dummy and then discarded the jack and six of diamonds. East who was in great trouble, discarded the five and eight of diamonds and then chose to discard his eight of clubs. But even if East had pitched a diamond the criss-cross squeeze would have brought home the game.

On the king of clubs, the queen fell from East, clearing the suit, so dummy's six could score the last needed trick. Well done, Smirnov!

An alternative is a diamond to the ace and a club to the jack, then the remaining spades.



The 2010 USBF TRIALS

Chicago, June 18-27

John Carruthers, Toronto

Twenty-three teams entered the Trials to select USAI for next year's Bermuda Bowl. Five of these teams were pre-seeded into the Knockout Rounds based on their performance over the past year. These top five seeds were:

1. NICKELL: Frank Nickell-Ralph Katz, Bob Hamman-Zia Mahmood, Eric Rodwell-Jeff Meckstroth
2. DIAMOND: John Diamond-Brian Platnick, Brad Moss-Fred Gitelman, Geoff Hampson-Eric Greco
3. FLEISHER: Marty Fleisher-Michael Kamil, Bobby Levin-Steve Weinstein, Lew Stansby-Chip Martel
4. MELTZER: Rose Meltzer-Kyle Larsen, Alan Sontag-David Berkowitz, Mark Feldman-Michael Rosenberg
5. ROBINSON: Steve Robinson-Peter Boyd, Adam Wildavsky-Doug Doub, Fred Stewart-Kit Woolsey

The top three seeds had byes to the quarterfinals, the next two seeds to the Round of 16. The remaining 18 teams were divided into two equal groups of nine teams – they played a round robin within their group, dropping the bottom three teams, then played each of the qualifiers from the other group. The top eight teams of these 12 qualified for the Round of 16 (essentially there were eight byes into the Round of 16, each of the top three seeds occupying two of those spots).

The wood began to fall immediately, with No. 6 seed Richie SCHWARTZ-Matthew Granovetter, Russ Ekeblad-Ronnie Rubin, Jim Krekorian-Drew Casen, No. 9 Jim MAHAFFEY-Mike Passell, Sam Lev-Jacek Pszczola, Michael Seamon-Peter Weichsel and No. 10 Mark GORDON-Pratap Rajadyakhsha, Curtis Cheek-Joe Grue, Joel Wooldridge-John Hurd failing to make the Knockout Round of 16. That meant eight world champions already on the sidelines.

The original No. 20 seed, Jonathan WEINSTEIN-Franco Baseggio, Clement Jackson-Josh Sher, Bob Etter-Alex Kolesnick accounted for No. 4 MELTZER and No. 7 Roy WELLAND-Chris Willenken, Howie Weinstein-Steve Garner, Billy Cohen-Ron Smith before succumbing to DIAMOND in the semifinals. FLEISHER defeated pre-tournament favourite, No. 1 seed and current Bermuda Bowl champions, NICKELL in the other semifinal to set up a youth v. experience final. Not that 'experience' was all that old, nor 'youth' inexperienced.

The following deal comes from the final, won by FLEISHER over DIAMOND 260-218. It's a good lesson hand:

Board 46. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

♠ Q 3
 ♥ A J 6 2
 ♦ 10 3
 ♣ Q 7 5 3 2

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

♠ 8 7 6 2
 ♥ K 9 5
 ♦ 8 7 5 2
 ♣ 10 8

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

West	North	East	South
Moss	Weinstein	Gitelman	Levin
—	Pass	Pass	1 ♦
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West	North	East	South
Martel	Greco	Stansby	Hampson
—	Pass	Pass	1 ♣ ¹
4 ♠	Double ²	Pass	5 ♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Strong, artificial, forcing
2. Values

The natural opening meant that Levin, in theory, had a leg up in the auction when four spades came back around. He doubled, and Weinstein would have done well to follow Edgar Kaplan's advice: "I expect my partners to take out my takeout doubles." If Levin could indeed have a balanced hand in the 18-19 range for his double, perhaps he should have bid four no trump for takeout; if his double was takeout, Weinstein should have pulled.

Since Moss needed the heart ace onside for his contract, he guessed the clubs without difficulty for plus 590.

Hampson, on the other hand, expressed his strength at his first turn, then pulled after Greco showed values. Martel led a high spade, ruffed by Hampson. Declarer cashed two high trumps and took the losing heart finesse. Stansby continued spades and Hampson, now desperate, ruffed and played ace and another club. West won the king and gave East a club ruff for down one.

Hampson was unlucky to find trumps 4-1 and the heart king offside, but he misplayed the hand. To make his contract he needed clubs 3-2 with the king (or jack-ten doubleton) onside or the doubleton king of hearts onside. It is imperative to try clubs first, after drawing all the trumps. If clubs are unfavourable, you can still try hearts. But with four club tricks in the bag, the heart finesse is no longer necessary and much too dangerous.

Ah, don't you wish all your misplays resulted in 11-IMP wins? Hampson left only 3 IMPs on the table (he'd have won 14 by making dive diamonds), but they were the most painful 3 IMPs he lost in the event.

NEWS & VIEWS

BetterBridge I by Bakhshi

English International David Bakhshi (one of our members), has just released an app for the iPhone, iPod Touch and iPad. It is called BetterBridge I, and comprises 16 deals constructed and analysed by David. There are ten declarer play hands and six focusing on defence. The user is presented with the bidding (Standard English and Standard American auctions can be displayed), and then given the chance to play the deal before taking advantage of a 'show' facility which demonstrates the suggested line of play or defence.

For more information, go to:

<http://itunes.com/apps/mooedutainment>,
or email: support@moo-edutainment.com

2010 Lederer Memorial

The Lederer Memorial Trophy is an annual event for eight invited teams from England and abroad. This year's event will be held at Young Chelsea Bridge Club, 32 Barkston Gardens, London SW5 (Tel: 020 7373 1665) on Oct. 30-31. Spectators are very welcome to watch matches at the table, or on VuGraph with lively and witty commentary from the likes of Ian Payn and David Bird, or at www.bridgebase.com.

50th Gold Coast Congress Grant

An anonymous donor has pledged \$5,000 to the 2011 Gold Coast Congress, to be used for promoting bridge amongst the 'rank and file', and not to be used to offset general operating costs. Additionally, a \$250 prize will be awarded to the person making the best suggestion for the use of the \$5,000. Suggestions should be sent to Kim Ellaway at manager@qldbridge.com.

WSB in Philadelphia

The World Series of Bridge will be in Philadelphia this October. The championship runs from October 1-16 2010. The tournament is open to members of good standing in their NBOs. The events include Mixed/Woman's/Open/Seniors, with both pair and team games. Also, there is a two-week ACBL Regional Tournament running concurrently for those so inclined.

Philadelphia is one of the world's most dynamic city destinations, where big city excitement meets hometown charm. Famous as the birthplace of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness". Philadelphia is known for its walkability and easy-to-navigate streets and is filled with cultural, culinary, artistic and ethnic treasures. The playing

site is centrally located among Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, and a collection of the city's finest restaurants, all within easy walking distance.

Ist Asia Cup

Patrick Choy reports that China will host and finance an all-Asia Bridge Open Teams Championship for the Ningbo Cup. The event will be used to spur interest in having bridge made part of the 2014 Asian Games. WBF Zones 4, 6 & 7 will participate. More information will be made available as the details are settled.

June Issue of IBPA Bulletin

Our apologies to members who receive hard-copy Bulletins. Errors in printing and mailing resulted in the May issue being mailed twice instead of the June issue. The real June issue will be mailed with this one. All members with email addresses also receive the notification about the online version.

...Editorial, continued from page 1.

who won and newspaper reporters with the latest deal played expertly by the competitors.

As momentous as these changes have been, it is our contention that the biggest single change in bridge over the past 40 years has been the rise of professionalism. In the late 1960s, Ira Corn had a vision of the USA wresting control of the Bermuda Bowl from the Blue Team – to make that vision a reality he hired a coach and six of the best young American players of the time to come to Dallas to work, train and play full time as the Dallas Aces. Under Corn's direction and Joe Musumeci's coaching, the Aces won World Championships in 1970 and 1971 and the world has not been the same since. Malcolm Brachman and George Rosenkranz followed Corn in hiring top players, and suddenly, bridge became a viable profession. Who would have guessed then that professional players from Egypt, Iceland, Poland and China would be winning World Championships and earning a pretty good living playing bridge in the USA by 2010? Or that USA/North America would have won 14 of 23 Bermuda Bowls since 1970?

Despite some qualms regarding professionalism by the authorities, there is no question that it has been good for the game. Firstly, the level of play by the players not quite at World Champion level has increased dramatically in the past 40 years or so. Secondly, there are now thousands of people earning a living playing bridge. As important as the changes in other areas of the game have been, professionalism in bridge has actually changed more lives than all the other changes combined.

It is impossible to predict the turns that bridge will take in the next 40 years. Whatever they turn out to be, one thing is certain, they will be interesting.



Correspondence

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

John:

In your editorial, you say: "Why should this be? Regardless of the rationale, having two Trials appears to support the view that the professionals, who dominate the USBF Board of Directors, desire two paydays rather than one. That may not be the case, but that's how it looks."

Had you asked anyone that question, you would have found that your guess at the answer is completely wrong. In fact, in 2007, the USBF Board proposed doing away with the Rosenblum year Trials. Since I have the foolish notion that Boards of Directors represent their members, I convinced the Board to take a poll of USBF members about whether they would prefer to have a Trials in the Rosenblum year to select one of the Bermuda Bowl teams in the following year, or not.

Even I was surprised by the number of people who responded. Over 61% of the 193 people to whom we sent email "ballots" responded (included in the non-responses were some people whose email addresses were no longer current). Over 77% of those who responded preferred to have a Trials in the Rosenblum year. Relevant to your assumption that it is the professionals who want two Trials instead of one, 85% of the amateurs and 73% of the professionals were in favour of two Trials.

So, in fact, the USBF holds two Trials when we could hold only one because a very substantial part of our membership prefers it that way. Since we lose money on the Trials, this decision was definitely not based on economic motives. Nor was it driven by the opinion of professionals, who, incidentally, far from dominate the USBF Board. In fact, in 2007, when this decision was made, the only professional serving on the USBF Board was Bob Hamman.

I'd add that not only could you have found out the facts by asking me, you could also have easily found out that your assumption that the USBF Board is dominated by professionals was completely off base had you bothered to look on the USBF website at the list of Boards - there have never been more than two professionals on the Board, and frequently only one. I recognize that editorials are merely the expression of someone's opinion, but they really should be based on accurate facts if anyone is to take them seriously.

Yours, Jan Martel, USBF Chief Operations Officer, Davis CA

The first thing I did, of course, was look at the USBF website to find out who was on the Board, and replied to Martel that I didn't intend to quibble with her, but of the eight names on the Board, I counted five professionals, two clients and one ACBL/WBF person. She countered...

Excuse me? Perhaps you count professionals differently than I do. Pollack is definitely an amateur (actually he isn't on the Board, but you must be including him to get to eight). Beatty may now be playing professionally, but that is very recent and only once in a while, and I wouldn't be at all surprised to find that he isn't getting paid. Bjerkan almost always plays as an amateur. Moss and Jacobs are clients (not professionals) and Joan is an amateur. The only real professionals are Passell and Weinstein. In 2007, the relevant year for your claim that professionals influenced the decision, I, Pollack, Beatty, & Gerard were amateurs, Hamman a professional, and Meltzer & O'Rourke clients.

Firstly, it is hardly surprising that a large percentage of your members want two Trials - a large percentage of your members are professionals, as I count them. In the just-completed Trials, for example, there were 14 professional teams in the top 15 seeds. To me, that means 14 clients and 70 professionals (give or take a few) out of 90 players. You may call some of those professionals 'amateurs' or 'semi-professionals', but you are splitting hairs; I call them professionals. You do indeed count professionals differently than I do. Secondly, a Board need not have a majority of one faction or another to be 'dominated' by one of those factions. Thirdly, I merely said, rather mildly, "...that's how it looks."

Dear John:

I was very impressed with your fabulous Editorial in the IBPA Bulletin. Within the next twenty-four hours, I am going to compose a blog and am taking the liberty of quoting some (or all) of your article on Team Selection. I know it has been a very controversial subject - especially between the Americans and Canadians. Your thoughts are quite provocative (besides very sound and extremely candid). It was refreshing to see someone speak up rather than pussy-footing on eggshells! You were so on target in your Editorial. Bobby and I were shocked at your forthright stance and salute your candour. It should be very educational for those who understand what you were saying.

Thanks for listening. Cheers to you and Katie,
Judy Kay Wolff, Las Vegas