



BULLETIN

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Editorial

The Buffett Cup, the biennial bridge match between Europe and America, could one day become to bridge what the Ryder Cup is to golf. That is the dream of Paul Hackett and the other principals involved in the Buffett Cup. That it has not yet achieved anything close to that lofty status was evident from an incident at U.K. Customs and Immigration at Cardiff International Airport, where David Berkowitz and Alan Sontag the Customs officer had not heard anything about a Europe v. America bridge match, and it was being held only a few kilometres away. The Americans had to be rescued and vouched for by Chief Organiser Patrick Jourdain. However, we must remember that the Ryder Cup did not achieve the prominence it now has overnight either – it took about 25 editions before that happened.



It is already a very good event, but let's look at how the Buffett Cup can be improved. First a word about the current format and scoring: each team has six pairs who play Teams, Pairs and Individual matches. All boards are scored at point-a-board and the result of each match (varying in length) is scored by Buffett Points (2 or 4 per match). Over the four-day event 198 Buffett Points are available. In Louisville, the scene of the first Buffett Cup, one commentator called the scoring "more difficult to comprehend than Special Relativity." In Cardiff for the second edition, "the Bulletin staff don't understand the scoring either," according to their own words.

Improvements to the format:

- o Whereas golf is an individual game, bridge is a partnership game. To break up that essential bridge unit to play as individuals does not, in my view, add to the competition. Partnerships must be formed anyway – one must still play the game in pairs, even in an Individual. So, let's do away with the 'Individual' format. The Singles in golf's Ryder Cup would then be equivalent to the Pairs in bridge's Buffett Cup. We, the fans, want to see Hamman-Zia and Meckwell take on Sementa-Duboin and Fantunes, rather than some random pairings like Hamman-Levin playing against Helgemo-Duboin. It must be said, however, that Paul Hackett and many of the players like the Individual format. Hackett says Bob Hamman is in favour of a random draw for all partners in all matches - there would be no set partnerships at all were Hamman to have his wish.
- o The Pairs competition should be head-to-head, rubber-bridge style. It is difficult for the layman (and sometimes even a bridge player) to understand that one pair is competing directly with a second pair at another table, not the pair at their own table, so let's have the pairs compete with each other at the same table.
- o For Teams, as in the Ryder Cup, we could have two formats: IMP scoring and Board-a-Match scoring. The Ryder Cup has Foursomes (alternate shot) and Four-Balls (better ball between the two partners), so this could be the bridge equivalent. Other formats are possible as well.

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Improvements to the scoring:

In an attempt to simplify the scoring for non-players, Buffett Points have been devised. This has had the opposite effect, merely creating a further level of complication, as do IMPs or Victory Points. So...

- o The pairs should simply be scored at total points, with the players knowing the score (using the convention card to determine dealer and vulnerability) and whether they have to play conservatively or aggressively near the end. To ameliorate any discrepancies if the cards run in one direction, three American pairs and three European pairs would sit North-South, and three each would sit East-West.
- o The team matches should have two formats, IMPs and BAM, scored normally (no VPs).
- o Each match is worth one point, period. No new scoring.

Event Design:

Day 1 – Three sets of team-of-four matches comprising 16 boards per match, thus 48 boards per day. Therefore, there would be three matches for each of the three sets, nine in all, with one point per match, and with draws possible, as in the Ryder Cup. Scoring at IMPs within each match.

Day 2 – Again, three sets of matches of 16 boards, but each individual board scored at BAM, another 9 points available.

Day 3 – Three sets of Pair matches, head to head, total point scoring, with 6 points available for each set, thus 18 in all.

So, 36 points would be available in all, a big simplification (and great improvement) over the 198 available currently.

That's the basic structure for a three-day event. It could be made a four-day event (as it is now) with another Pairs or Teams day. A third Teams day could have the same scoring format as one of the other days, or a mixture, or it could even be scored at total points or by the Patton method (a combination of IMPs and BAM converted to Victory Points). Three Teams days, one each scored at Patton, IMPs and BAM and a total points Pairs day would be interesting.



Julian Pottage, Porthcawl, Wales
Mark Horton, Bath, England
John Carruthers, Toronto

After Dublin in 2006 and Louisville two years later, this year's Buffett Cup was held in Wales, at Miskin Manor, near Cardiff. Europe continued the tradition of playing the perfect host, allowing the visitors to win and take a 2-1 lead in the series. The score was 109-89.

The teams were the best-ever. For Europe:

- Daniela von Arnim-Sabine Auken (Germany)
- Boye Brogeland-Erik Sælensminde (Norway)
- Giorgio Duboin-Antonio Sementa (Italy)
- Fulvio Fantoni-Claudio Nunes (Italy)
- Jason Hackett-Justin Hackett (England)
- Geir Helgemo-Tor Helness (Norway)

For North America (all from the USA - with nods to Pakistan and Canada):

- David Berkowitz-Alan Sontag
- Fred Gitelman-Geoff Hampson
- Bob Hamman-Zia Mahmood
- Bobby Levin-Steve Weinstein
- Jill Levin-Jill Meyers
- Jeff Meckstroth-Eric Rodwell

Pair...Impair (JP)

This was board 3 from the first match at table 5:

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

♠ A 10 6 2
 ♥ A K
 ♦ 10 7 3 2
 ♣ A 10 6

♠ K J 9 3
 ♥ Q 8 5
 ♦ 6
 ♣ K Q 7 4 2

♠ 7 5
 ♥ 10 9 7 6 3 2
 ♦ 8
 ♣ 9 8 5 3

♠ Q 8 4
 ♥ J 4
 ♦ A K Q J 9 5 4
 ♣ J

West	North	East	South
<i>von Arnim</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Gitelman</i>
—	—	—	1 ♦
Double	1 ♥ ¹	Pass	2 NT ²
Pass	4 ♥ ³	Pass	4 ♠ ⁴
Pass	6 ♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. 4+ spades
2. Strong diamonds
3. Key card ask
4. No key cards outside diamonds

Von Arnim led the club queen (Roman, showing the king). Declarer has a choice of plays, taking account of West's takeout double. One is to eliminate the clubs, draw trumps and run the spade queen. This ensures success if East has the king (unlikely), if West has the jack or if East has the doubleton jack.

Bearing in mind the lead and the double, Gitelman chose a simpler line, a squeeze, for which the position of the spade jack was irrelevant. He ducked the opening lead, won the heart switch and drew trumps. He then cashed the remaining heart winner and the ace of clubs (a good

move to remove any ambiguity in the endgame). The run of the diamonds forced West to surrender.

As the cards lie, declarer can succeed just by playing a spade to the queen and later a spade to the ten – but a squeeze is much more fun and here the better line.

Such is the standard of the players that all six North-South pairs bid and made a slam.

Diversity and Synchronicity (JC)

Could there be three people more different than Alan Sontag, Zia Mahmood and Fred Gitelman? Sontag, a full-time bridge professional, is effusive, the world's fastest top-class player and full of personality. He has been a great player for 40 years – Sontag has been in six World Championship finals and has won them all. Zia, a playboy until he married Lady Emma, has since settled down and has sired two children. He is a wonderful spokesperson for bridge, a great sportsman and the single most likely top-class player to make an extraordinary bid or play found by no one else. Zia has two World Championships and three seconds. Gitelman, Mister BBO, is quiet, diffident, and deliberate and by the time he is the age of the other two, will have a few World Championships and be a member of the Bridge Hall of Fame as well. Fred has three seconds in World Championships and an IOC Cup win.

They are an American, a Pakistani and a Canadian, all living in the USA (okay, Zia lives in London as well) and striving to win World Championships playing for America. They do however have a few things in common - all three are brilliant bridge players. Look at the following example, Board 7 from Round 3 of the Teams.

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

Match 3A

West	North	East	South
Zia	Justin H.	Hamman	Jason H.
—	—	—	1 ♥
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

You have to love the way the Hacketts play – they bludgeoned their way to three no trump on a

completely natural auction. Was Jason worth two no trump with two of the world's best card players on defence against him? That's another story.

Zia led the eight of clubs, second from bad suits, and Jason won the ace over Hamman's jack. Declarer led the heart ten and Zia pounced. He won the king and shifted to...the spade king!

With the clubs still blocked (Jason didn't yet know that, but Zia did), this presented an insoluble problem for declarer. He won the ace immediately and played a diamond to the queen, losing to the king. Zia continued the attack on spades, leading the two to the nine and ten. Not knowing the count in any suit (the twins play four-card majors), Hamman prudently cashed the spade queen and heart ace for one off.

Somewhat uncharacteristically, at the companion table, Meckwell ground to a halt in three clubs after a Precision one-club opening from South. Rodwell made nine tricks to win the board handily.

Ironically, Hamman was worried that he might lose the board to three no trump down two, while Rodwell was concerned that he might lose the board to three no trump making. Thank goodness for teammates.

Match 3B

West	North	East	South
Sontag	Auken	Berkowitz	von Arnim
—	—	—	1 ♣ ¹
Pass	1 ♦ ²	Pass	1 NT ³
Pass	2 ♣ ⁴	Pass	2 ♥ ⁵
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Strong, artificial, forcing
2. 0-7 HCP
3. (16)17-18 HCP
4. Major-suit enquiry
5. 4/5 hearts

The first two tricks at table B were similar to those at table A, except that Daniela von Arnim led the heart queen at trick two rather than the ten. At trick three, Alan Sontag played...the king of spades!

Von Arnim won the ace and tried a diamond to the nine, guessing the suit. Nevertheless, it was a Pyrrhic victory as Sontag led the deuce of spades to Berkowitz, who cashed out for one off, as had Hamman.

At the comparison table, Nunes and Fantoni had balanced with two hearts after Weinstein-Levin's one no trump had been passed to East. Bobby Levin as North balanced in turn, with a takeout double, when this came round to him, and Stevie Weinstein was charmed to pass and collect 500. He also hoped it would be enough to win the board – it was!

Match 3C

West	North	East	South
<i>Gitelman</i>	<i>Sælensminde</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Brogeland</i>
—	—	—	1 NT
Pass	Pass	2 ♠ ¹	2 ♥ ²
Double ³	2 ♠ ⁴	Pass	2 NT ⁵
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Diamonds + either major
2. I have hearts
3. Pass or correct (pass with hearts/bid two spades with spades)
4. I have spades
5. I hope you have some points as well, partner

When Boye Brogeland came in with two hearts, he let Gitelman-Hampson off the hook. However, he was in a rather better position than his two counterparts, whose partners had blasted to game. His opponent at the companion table, Jill Meyers, had also reached three no trump and had also gone down one, though more conventionally. Giorgio Duboin had also led a club and Meyers had cashed three clubs before leading a heart. (Doesn't this seem a better start than that employed by the other declarers? After all, the club layout is an open book to the defenders.) Nevertheless, when Duboin as West had won the king and shifted to a low spade, Meyers could not avoid two spade losers, two heart losers and one diamond loser for one off.

Thus, if Brogeland could make eight tricks he would win the board. With more to go on than the other Wests, Fred Gitelman led the four of diamonds and declarer played dummy's ten and won the queen over Geoff Hampson's jack. Without cashing any clubs, Brogeland turned his attention to hearts, leading the ten to Gitelman's king.

You will have guessed what Gitelman did next – he of course shifted to the spade king! Brogeland ducked in dummy and put the nine on the two of spades continuation (he knew that Gitelman was capable of playing the spade king from king-ten-third or –fourth).

Geoff Hampson won his spade ten and shifted to the seven of diamonds. Brogeland played the nine, forcing the king; Gitelman then cleared diamonds.

Brogeland was in big trouble now. When he cashed a high club, the storm clouds gathered as East followed with the jack. On the king of clubs, Hampson showed out, discarding a heart. Brogeland could have legitimately gone one off by overtaking the club ten with the queen and cashing the spades, but how was he to know the queen was falling?

Declarer did not overtake the club ten, instead playing small from the dummy, and Hampson discarded another heart. When Brogeland exited from his hand with the heart queen, Hampson was able to win the ace and

cash the thirteenth diamond for one off and a half on the board.

Had Hampson discarded the spade queen on the club ten, he could not have been prevented from scoring two heart tricks and the long diamond for two off and a win on the board! That would have been a treat.

Teams Match 4 (JP)

The final match on Tuesday provided an exciting climax to the day. This was Board 23:

Board 23. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>von Arnim</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>
<i>Sontag</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1 ♣ ¹	Pass	1 ♦ ²	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 ♦ ³	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	3 NT	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Strong, artificial, forcing
2. 0-7 HCP
3. Hearts

Both sides bid efficiently to four hearts, making the strong West hand the declarer. Both North players led the ten of diamonds, covered all around. Both declarers drew three rounds of trumps ending in dummy. From here the paths diverged. One led to an endplay against North, the other to an endplay against South.

Von Arnim led the ten of clubs, covered by the king and ace. She then played a diamond to the nine. South won and returned a diamond. Declarer won in dummy and ran the seven of clubs. North won and correctly led a low spade. Von Arnim also judged correctly and called for the ten – 620 to Europe.

Sontag also played a club at trick five. He played the seven and overtook it with the eight, losing to the nine. Fantoni, having given the matter considerable thought, played back a low club. Sontag won, ruffed a club and tackled the diamonds. South won and returned the suit. Put in with the fourth round of diamonds, Nunes had to lead a spade. Sontag had no choice but to play South for the king – 620 to the USA and a well-earned push.

The Defence Does Not Rest (JC)

Opportunities for competent defence abound. Rarer are occasions when both sides have the opportunity to shine on the same deal. One such opportunity arose on the following deal...

Board 25. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Gitelman</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Helegemo</i>
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
1 ♣ ¹	1 ♥	1 NT ²	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		
1. Precision			
2. 8+ balanced, heart stop			

Geoff Hampson for North America led the heart ace, both to take a look at dummy and to possibly cut down ruffs. Despite his stopper in dummy's source of tricks, Hampson realised the necessity of shifting to a spade and did so at trick two: seven, ten, jack, ace.

Tor Helness saw five potential losers, which might be reduced to four if he could get clubs set up in time. He duly led the club two to the three, six and king.

Fred Gitelman continued the good work begun by Hampson by leading the diamond two to East for another spade play. Thus West could cash a spade trick when in with the club ace. Down two, plus 300 for East-West.

That pesky ten of hearts is a very confusing card. At the other table (the 'J Table')...

West	North	East	South
<i>Jason H.</i>	<i>Jill Levin</i>	<i>Justin H.</i>	<i>Jill Meyers</i>
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
1 ♦	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Jill Meyers led the club six against Justin Hackett's three no trumps. Justin won in dummy and played the diamond ace and another to the king, allowing Levin a Smith Echo and Meyers a discard. What would you do as South, playing upside down count and attitude?

Levin discouraged in clubs, and Meyers discarded the ten of hearts. She intended it as informative, whereas Jill Levin took it as discouraging. When Justin next played a spade, Meyers ducked and Levin won the ace over the queen. Believing Meyers to have discouraged in hearts, Levin continued clubs and three no trumps was home with an overtrick.

It's a good hand for "Apportion the Blame."

That ten of hearts played a pesky role at another table as well.

West	North	East	South
<i>Sontag</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1 ♣
1 NT	Pass	2 ♠ ¹	Pass
3 ♣ ²	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		
1. Range enquiry			
2. Maximum (2NT=minimum)			

Antonio Sementa led the club seven, won by declarer with the king. A diamond to the king was followed by a spade from the dummy. Giorgio Duboin showed his World-Champion class, rising with the king and shifting to the ten of hearts. Declarer had no way home from here, did he?

The BBO commentators suggested someone go for a very strong coffee for poor Sementa, one of the world's greatest card players, who ducked the heart jack when Berkowitz played it! A cow flew by. Plus 660 East-West.

No one suggested this as a hand for "Apportion the Blame."

Flawless (JC)

Board-a-match offers many chances for unusual and risky actions, both in the bidding and card play. On Day 3, the following board occurred in Match 1 of the Individual:

Table 1A. Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Zia</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Justin H.</i>
—	—	Pass	1 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Although not much board-a-match is played these days, even less in Europe than in North America, note Tor Helness' appreciation of the form of scoring in bidding three no trump as opposed to four spades. Zia also found a very aggressive BAM lead, the heart queen. At IMPs, nearly all would lead a club – to beat the contract, clubs is the suit to do it, unlikely as that may be. To get all the tricks you're entitled to, however many that may be, the heart queen is superior if the contract is cold.

Justin Hackett won the heart lead and made a good start by leading a diamond to the jack and David Berkowitz's king. East returned a heart and Hackett started on the spades, but cashed the club ace after the spades. When he did so, all chances of 12 tricks went down the drain on the lie of the cards. He was playing for East to be squeezed in the minors, for which he'd need to hold both the king and queen of clubs.

Since neither Zia nor Berkowitz had led a club honour when given the opportunity, it was more likely the honours were split, thus running the spades without cashing the club ace would have led to success (as it would if East had held both club honours anyway). Before the final spade is cashed:

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

When the spade seven is cashed, East must discard a club to protect the diamonds, and South discards his heart; West lets go a club. Declarer now crosses on a diamond and cashes the last diamond, squeezing West in hearts and clubs. It's a non-simultaneous double squeeze.

At Table 1B, things went differently...

West	North	East	South
Sementa	Hamman	Duboin	Rodwell
—	—	Pass	1 NT
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Hamman eschewed the three no trump call found by Helness, breaking his own Robert's Rule #2: "If three no trump is a possible bid, make that call." Rodwell's three-spade bid promised four spades, so that was the preferred strain. Antonio Sementa also led the heart

queen and Rodwell had a problem. To wit, he had 11 tricks whether the diamond finesse won or lost.

Rodwell drew trumps and led a diamond to the jack. In an effort to cut communications for the impending squeeze, Duboin returned the diamond ten (Sementa had played the eight to the previous trick). The dynamics were now altered. Rodwell ran the spades without cashing any high honours in the side suits. This ending was reached:

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

On the final spade, Duboin (East) must discard a heart to keep the diamonds and clubs. Rodwell discarded the club two and Sementa discarded a club. Now declarer played a heart to the king upon which East had to throw a club, baring the king. The queen of diamonds now squeezed West between hearts and clubs. It was just a differently-timed non-simultaneous double squeeze.

And finally, at Table 1C...

West	North	East	South
Auken	Weinstein	Jason H.	Meckstroth
—	—	Pass	1 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Stevie Weinstein decided to play a little poker (he's pretty good at that too!) with three no trump. Jeff Meckstroth won the heart queen lead and immediately played six rounds of spades, then led the diamond jack, ducking Jason Hackett's king. In this ending, Jason returned a diamond:

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

On the diamond return, Meckstroth won the ace and cashed the heart king, forcing a club discard from East.

Then the diamond queen forced a club discard from West. It was yet another variant of the non-simultaneous double squeeze, although very similar to his usual partner Eric Rodwell's.

Only a club lead prevents 12 tricks for declarer.

The other three declarers made 10, 11 and 12 tricks respectively, either through non-optimal declarer play or defence. Only Meckstroth and Rodwell were flawless as declarer.

Masterplay (MH)

In Round 7 of the Individual section of the Buffett Cup, Bob Hamman demonstrated that his powers have in no way diminished.

Dealer East. None Vul

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

North avoided the fatal club lead, preferring the five of hearts for the two, king and ace. Declarer crossed to the king of spades and ran the ten of diamonds. When that passed off peacefully he played a diamond to the jack and cashed the ace, North discarding the two and four of clubs. Now declarer cashed the ace of spades, extracting a vital exit card from North, and then crossed to dummy with a diamond and played the six of hearts. When South followed with the four declarer played the three. North, down to the queen-nine-eight of hearts and the ace-queen-eight of clubs, could win, but in due course he had to give declarer a trick with the king of clubs – and the fifth diamond was the game going trick.

At the other table East was unwilling to show his diamond support and when he passed over North's three clubs, USA had won the board.

There were many more interesting deals - see www.buffettcup.com for the Daily Bulletins.

The 4th Buffett Cup will be held in Chicago in 2012.

WORLDWIDE DEFENCE

**Amarjit Wadhawan
New Delhi**



Mr. Arun Jain of Delhi showed great skill in defending the following hand, from the Worldwide Bridge Contest played at Delhi Bridge Association on 5th June 2010.

Board 21. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Amarji	Arun Jain	Mukesh	A.K. Jha
—	Pass	Pass	2 ♠
Double	Pass	2NT ¹	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Lebensohl

West took a shot at three no trump, though it was an overbid after partner's Lebensohl. It was interesting to note that if West had bid three clubs, East would have bid three hearts and West could raise to four hearts. As the cards lie, the contract makes on the club finesse.

East received the lead of the spade king, ducked, and the spade queen continuation was won in dummy with the ace. Three rounds of diamonds were played, ending in hand. As South has no entry, ten tricks were there for the taking. But see what happened on the table.

Declarer played the jack of hearts and ran it (if South has the heart ace, you can never make the contract). Arun Jain won the trick smoothly, but with the ace, which made the declarer very happy (temporarily).

After winning the heart ace, Jain returned a low club, which went to the queen. Now declarer had one spade, two clubs and four diamond tricks and could make two more tricks with the marked heart finesse. So declarer went to hand with the diamond nine and led a heart to the nine. The roof fell in when Jain won with the queen and returned another heart, locking declarer in dummy and defeating the contract for an absolute top.

It was a brilliant defence by Jain. If he wins with the heart queen, declarer is cold for ten tricks and they would have got a big zero in Pairs.



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

537. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

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

West led the four of spades, taken by dummy's queen. Declarer could only count six tricks. There was no point in playing on diamonds at this stage, as they could provide at most two tricks, so clubs had to be attacked.

Declarer crossed to hand with a heart to his queen. As the bidding suggested that West probably had the ace of clubs, declarer played a low club and called for dummy's king when West played low. After that held, the question for declarer became whether he should play on clubs or diamonds. As the former wins whenever West began with a doubleton club or ace-queen-third, a 70% chance if West has at least ten high card points, declarer called for a low club next.

West took the ace and exited passively with a heart. After conceding a club to East's queen, declarer claimed nine tricks.

538. Dealer South. E-W Vul. (See top of next column.)

Perhaps North was a little forward in bidding to game immediately, but he hoped that his club suit would prove useful. After West led the jack of spades, declarer counted six top tricks outside diamonds, so three tricks from the diamonds were needed to make the game.

Declarer took the first trick with the ace of spades and led a low diamond to dummy's king, which won. Everything now relied on the next play in diamonds.

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

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

Some would play a diamond to the jack, which would fail as the cards lie for West would win with the bare ace and East's remaining Q-9 would then be worth two tricks. As the cards lie, declarer would fail in his mandate of making nine tricks because he would not make the three diamond tricks required for game.

This declarer noted that playing a diamond to the jack or ten relied on the suit breaking 3-3. Instead he made the optimal play of ducking the second round of diamonds, playing a low card from hand. This still makes the contract when diamonds are 3-3. As this deal shows, as long as the defenders cannot score three club tricks, declarer would also make the contract when West started with a doubleton ace of diamonds too.

What are the odds once East follows to the second diamond? Assuming that diamonds are no worse than 4-2 and West started with the jack and ten of spades, playing the ten of diamonds will succeed a little less than 45% of the time. Ducking the second round of diamonds is at least 10% better.

539. Dealer South. E-W Vul. (See top of next page.)

West led the king of spades against what seemed a straightforward contract. The original declarer ruffed the spade lead with the seven and led the eight of trumps to the king. When East showed out, the contract could no longer be made.

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

♠ —
 ♥ A J 10 8 7
 ♦ A K J 10 8
 ♣ K Q 2

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1 ♥
1 ♠	2 ♠	4 ♠	6 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Whenever West won a trick with the trump queen, he would play another spade. Declarer would have to ruff with an honour, thereby assuring West a second trump trick.

All that was required to make the slam was to play the ace of trumps at trick two. When East shows out, declarer continues with the jack of trumps. It will not matter whether West decides to cover, declarer takes three rounds of trumps and then plays his minor-suit winners. West can take his remaining trump whenever he wishes but declarer, with a trump left in each hand, will be in control.

Playing the ace of trumps first also wins when East holds all four trumps. Adopting this approach in trumps is correct because it is declarer who must avoid being forced to ruff a spade with a trump honour when one defender has four trumps.

540. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	1 ♥	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♦	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♥	Pass	5 NT
Pass	6 ♦	Pass	7 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Three spades set that suit as trumps and asked for a cue bid. South then checked on aces and, finding that North had the missing two, he made a grand slam try with five no trump. When North cue bid his king of diamonds, South bid the slam.

West led the two of trumps and declarer paused to make a plan. He had twelve tricks and would need to set up a long heart in dummy. If the hearts were 4-2 he would need three entries to dummy, two to ruff hearts and another to cash the good heart. He had one entry in trumps, one in hearts and one in diamonds. Consequently, he would have to play on hearts before drawing trumps.

Declarer's first step was to preserve dummy's trump entry and play the five of trumps at trick one. After winning the trick with the ten. Declarer cashed the king and ace of hearts and a heart was ruffed high. Dummy was re-entered by playing the six of trumps to dummy's nine and a second heart was ruffed with the queen. Next, declarer drew West's remaining trumps and claimed the balance. He made six trumps, three hearts, three diamonds and a club.

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The WBF Executive Council, in its meetings in São Paulo last year, resolved that for the purpose of dealing with the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA), particularly participation in a bridge event in future Asian Games and for gaining a foothold in the Olympic Games, the member NBOs of Zone 4 and Zone 6 would merge into a unified continental Asian Zone. Members would retain their representation in the WBF Executive Council and their respective eligibility for participation in World Teams Championships.

This decision came into effect when Zone 4 President Ghassan Ghanem, Zone 6 President Khunying Chodchoy (Esther) Sophonoponich and Mazhar Jafri, WBF Vice-President met in Dubai last December to sign a Memorandum of Understanding. It was agreed to lobby the OCA for inclusion of Bridge in future Asian Games under the aegis of the Asia Pacific Bridge Federation, which would hold the Asia Cup Bridge Championships on a four-year cycle starting in 2010. Consequently, the NBOs of Zone 4 joined the Asia Pacific Bridge Federation as Associate Members and elected Esther Chodchoy as President of APBF.

The Chinese Contract Bridge Association (CCBA) agreed to host the First Asia Cup Bridge Championships 2010 in Ningbo, an industrial port city about a 100 km south of Shanghai, from 30th August to 5th September, 2010. The Jiangbei District People's Government of Ningbo sponsored the entire event to the extent that a five-star Smile and Natural Hotel was completely booked for this purpose, offering complimentary full board and lodging to all team members, their officials and zonal delegates, coupled with free return transportation from Shanghai and other nearby airports and railway stations. The organisers also arranged complimentary sightseeing programs.

The formal opening ceremony featured dignitaries of the Ningbo City government and CCBA officials giving speeches in Chinese with simultaneous translations into English. The tremendous turnout of 34 teams representing 21 NBOs of Zone 4, 6 & 7, 19 Open Teams

and 15 Women Teams, spoke of the success of these well-organized and well-conducted Championships. The following bridge officials were present: Xiang Huacheng, President, CCBA; Wang Yong, VP, CCBA; Esther Chodchoy, President, APBF; Chen Ze Lan, Deputy Director & VP, CCBA; Patrick Choy, VP, WBF; Mazhar Jafri, VP, WBF. WBF President Jose Damiani attended the closing ceremony and prize-giving banquet of the Championships on 5th September.

A round robin of 16-board matches was played to determine the winners - Indonesia won the Ningbo Cup in the Open series, while in the Women's series, China lifted the Cicheng Cup.

Chief Tournament Director Anthony Ching and Chief Bulletin Editor Robert Zajac from Hong Kong and their teams ensured the smooth running of the championship, with live coverage of VuGraph matches on BBO and a Chinese web site. To read the daily bulletins, go to this link:

<http://www.ccba.org.cn/Tour/TourBulletinList.aspx?tourid=432>

It was also decided to explore the possibility of holding the 2nd Asia Cup Bridge Championships in 2014 in Bahrain.

M. Azwerul Haque, VP and Secretary, BFAME

THE NINGBO & CICHENG CUPS

Patrick Huang, Taipei

Sartaj Hans, Sydney

John Carruthers, Toronto

Geir Olav Tislevoll, Auckland

This first all-Asia bridge competition was held in late August/early September. All nations from the two WBF Zones in Asia, BFAME and PABF, were invited to send teams to compete in the Open Teams for the Ningbo Cup and the Cicheng Cup for Women's Teams. As has

become usual in Pacific Asia bridge competitions, countries from the South-West Pacific Zone were also invited to compete and Australia and New Zealand accepted.

Nineteen teams from the three WBF zones competed for the Ningbo Cup, with Indonesia first (378 VP), Chinese Taipei second (366 VP) and China Hong Kong third (351 VP). Indonesia was the deserving champion, by dint of winning 17 of the 18 round robin matches. Their only loss was an unexpected 12:18 defeat at the hands of Singapore.

In the Cicheng Cup for Women's Teams, China ran away from the field of 15, scoring almost 85% of the available (368) Victory Points. The final table: China 312, Indonesia 274, Chinese Taipei 267.

Almost Precision Bidding (PH)

Chinese Taipei met Indonesia in the opening match of the round robin and suffered a 10:20 VP loss. The following deal saved us from a blitz.

Ningbo Cup. Round 1. Chinese Taipei v Indonesia. Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

♠ 3
♥ 10 8 6 5
♦ K J 10 3 2
♣ J 10 2

♠ A K J 10 5
♥ J 4 2
♦ —
♣ K Q 9 8 4

♠ Q 9 7
♥ K 7
♦ A Q 8 6
♣ A 7 5 3

♠ 8 6 4 2
♥ A Q 9 3
♦ 9 7 5 4
♣ 6

West	North	East	South
Yang	Lasut	Huang	Manoppo
—	—	—	Pass
1 ♠ ¹	Pass	2 NT ²	Pass
4 ♣ ³	Pass	4 ♦ ⁴	Pass
5 ♦ ⁵	Pass	5 NT ⁶	Pass
6 ♠	Pass	6 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Precision, limited
2. 16 points up, balanced (I hate to bid two clubs, the only alternative)
3. 5-5, maximum
4. Cue
5. Cue, emphasis on Heart control.
6. Heart king

The best contract on this hand is six clubs by East. Since I didn't respond two clubs to the one-spade opening, we were booked for either missing a cold slam, or ending up in the wrong slam. Luckily, Manoppo chose to lead a diamond into my tenace and 12 tricks were soon claimed.

Asbi and Tobing sat East-West for Indonesia at the other table. They rested in three no trump and Chinese Taipei won 11 IMPs. Had Manoppo led a black suit, Indonesia would have gained 11 IMPs instead of losing 11.

Unsheathing the Claws (JC)

Cicheng Cup. China v Hong Kong. Round 8. Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

♠ Q 10 7 6 2
♥ 10 4 2
♦ K J 4
♣ K Q

♠ A J 9
♥ A Q 8 7
♦ 3
♣ J 8 6 5 3

♠ 5
♥ J 9 6 5 3
♦ Q 10 9 8 7 2
♣ 9

♠ K 8 4 3
♥ K
♦ A 6 5
♣ A 10 7 4 2

West	North	East	South
Wu	Tiffany	Wang	Sally
Shaohung	Tse	Ping	Wang
—	—	Pass	1 ♣
1 ♥	1 ♠	4 ♥	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	5 ♥	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Tse led a trump, usually a good idea whenever declarer plans a cross-ruff or your side has the balance of power, just not on this particular deal. Wu played low from the dummy and won the ace over South's king. She led a diamond toward the dummy, North ducking and South winning the nine with the ace.

South switched to a spade and declarer won with the ace. Declarer now played a heart to the jack. Had South followed to that, declarer would have been in a position to ruff dummy's diamonds good and make the contract with the loss of just one trick in each minor.

As it was, declarer now was lacking the entries to set up diamonds without loss. Thus, she played a diamond from the dummy, discarding a club on it, and was soon one off whatever the defence play. One diamond ruff low and the heart queen established dummy. Minus 100.

At trick four, declarer was in a position to make the hand. She needs to ruff a spade, ruff a diamond, ruff a spade, and ruff a diamond with the queen of trumps. Then, with diamonds established, she leads a trump to the nine to allow the trumps to be drawn. Declarer makes seven trump tricks, three diamonds and the spade ace. Alternatively, a heart to the nine immediately has the same effect.

Was that the indicated line of play? Perhaps. How likely was it on the actual play that South had played the heart king at trick one holding the ten as well? The BBO commentators thought it unlikely. However, since if

South holds the king-ten, the appearance of the dummy makes it appear that declarer has ace-queen to five, and South's play is irrelevant. Nevertheless, some of the time, some Souths would play the ten, so maybe the winning play was indicated.

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
Nancy	Sun	Shirley	Wang
Neumann	Ming	Chang	Hong Li
—	—	Pass	1 ♠
1 ♥	1 ♠	4 ♥	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	5 ♥	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Sun Ming found the opening lead to beat five hearts legitimately, the king of clubs. A club continuation was required, however, and when North shifted to a spade, declarer was in with a chance.

Declarer won the spade ace and played a diamond, again ducked to South's ace. South played a club, tapping the dummy, but declarer was able to counter with a diamond ruff, a spade ruff, and another diamond ruff, this time with the heart queen, setting up dummy's suit. When the heart king fell under the ace, it was rather more obvious here than at the other table to lead a trump to the nine. Plus 650 meant 13 IMPs to Hong Kong.

Analyse This (JC)

One of the more interesting deals of the event was this one. In the match between New Zealand and Thailand, Geir Olav Tislevoll, formerly of Norway, declared an aggressive, but reasonable, six spades.

Ningbo Cup. New Zealand v Thailand. Round 9. Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

♠ A Q 10 9 5
♥ A 5 3
♦ 10 8 6 2
♣ 5

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

♠ 7 4 3
♥ —
♦ A K J 9
♣ A K 8 7 6 4

West	North	East	South
—	Tislevoll		Ware
—	1 ♠	2 ♠ ¹	4 ♥ ²
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	6 ♣
Pass	6 ♠	Pass	Pass

1. Michaels
2. Splinter

Michael Ware was certainly not shy about bidding slam on these cards. Double dummy, six spades can be made on any lead, but the single-dummy analysis is very complex.

East led the heart king and Tislevoll ruffed in dummy and played a spade to the nine, a very good start. Still not knowing what East's minor was, he now played a diamond to find out. If East had followed and West had ruffed the diamond ace, whether from three or four trumps, declarer could then pick up the remaining trumps without loss and finesse for the diamond queen. He would score six trumps, the heart ace, three diamonds and the ace-king of clubs.

When East actually discarded on the diamond, it was almost certain she was 1=7=0=5 (if she'd had 1=6=0=6, surely West would have doubled for a club lead – South had shown heart shortness in the auction). Tislevoll won the ace of diamonds and played the two top clubs. West was in real difficulty here – neither a heart discard nor ruffing helps, and West did find the essential diamond pitch. Declarer also pitched a diamond.

(If West ruffs the king of clubs, declarer overruffs, plays ace and another heart ruffing in the dummy and with West reduced to the king-jack of spades and the diamonds, almost any sequence of plays excluding the ace or queen of spades or wasting the diamond entries to the dummy leads to success. If West instead discards a heart, declarer does likewise, and this time another spade finesse and the ace of hearts again reduces West to spades and diamonds in preparation for the trump coup.)

Now when declarer led a low club, West must pitch a heart if declarer has kept his heart loser, denying him the heart ruff, but pitch a diamond if declarer has discarded a heart. This time West did err, throwing another diamond.

Declarer ruffed, played the ace of hearts and ruffed his third heart. West was down to three trumps and the queen-other diamond. When Tislevoll next led a club, West was squeezed in trumps and diamonds!

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

If West ruffs in the diagrammed position, declarer overruffs and has a choice of endplaying him in either

diamonds or spades. If West discards again, the king and another diamond, forcing a ruff, leads to a trump endplay. Very cute.

At the other table, East-West, Martin Reid and Tom Jacob were allowed to declare five hearts doubled for minus 500, so that was 10 IMPs to New Zealand.

Finding Their Stride (SH)

An exciting hand that got Indonesia up and running and the Aussies losing pace was...

Ningbo Cup. Round 10. Australia v Indonesia. Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

At our table the bidding went:

West	North	East	South
Nunn	Lasut	Hans	Manoppo
—	—	—	1 ♦
2 NT	4 ♠	5 ♥	6 ♥
Pass	6 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Knowing about the heart void in dummy, Tony didn't make a Lightner double. I led a club and declarer soon notched up 12 tricks.

At the other table Tobing felt no such compunction...

West	North	East	South
Tobing	Nagy	Asbi	Lilley
—	—	—	1 ♦
1 ♥	1 ♠	2 ♠	4 ♥
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 ♦
Pass	6 ♠	Pass	Pass
Double	6 NT	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Nagy-Lilley had some void-showing agreements over four no trump, but not one that covered three key cards and a void... Tobing doubled and Nagy envisioned long diamonds with the diamond ace-queen opposite.

Indonesia won 18 IMPs when six no trump was down two.

Virtue Unrewarded (GT)

First, a lead problem. I'll give you your hand and two auctions so you have twice as many clues. You are South in both cases.

Ningbo Cup. Round 13. Chinese Taipei vs. New Zealand. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

♠ 2
♥ 10 8 7 6 4
♦ Q J 6 5
♣ Q J 6

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Yuang	Tislevoll	Huang	Ware
—	—	1 ♣ ¹	Pass
1 NT ²	Pass	2 ♣ ³	Pass
2 ♦ ⁴	Pass	2 NT ⁵	Pass
3 ♦ ⁶	Pass	4 ♣ ⁷	Pass
4 ♦ ⁸	Pass	6 ♣ ⁹	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Precision
2. 8-13 balanced
3. Inquiry
4. 8-10, four hearts
5. Asks after second suit
6. Diamond suit
7. Ambiguous, could be cue bid for diamonds
8. Neutral
9. Hoping for something useful in the black suits

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Reid	Chung	Jacob	Herstein
—	—	2 ♣ ¹	Pass
2 NT ²	Pass	3 ♣ ³	Pass
3 ♦ ⁴	Pass	3 NT	Pass
4 NT ⁵	Pass	6 ♣ ⁶	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Strong, artificial, forcing
2. 7+ balanced
3. Natural
4. Unwilling to insist on 3NT
5. Quantitative
6. Choice of slams

Your lead?

Here is the full deal:

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

Herstein (Taipei) led the spade two. Jacob won, cashed the ace-king of trumps, the three red winners, and exited

with a trump to South. He had to play a red suit, allowing declarer to win three tricks in dummy to get rid of all his spade losers. Plus 920.

Michael Ware (NZ) in the Open Room led a low diamond. Now Patrick Huang could have won by cashing all his aces and kings (!), and exiting in trumps, giving the same awkward situation for South. However, that is only the right line if the defender with three trumps has specifically a singleton spade.

Huang followed a better line, cashing the trump honours, the red suit winners, and then exiting with a trump. The defender with three trumps will have to return a red suit, or spades, and may be forced to give a spade favour. If North has three trumps, he must have the spade king for the declarer to succeed, and if South has three trumps, declarer must guess South's spade holding. As it was, South could safely exit in spades, and when Huang tried the queen of spades, the percentage play, he went two down, minus 100, 14 IMPs to NZ.

Let's hope that the Asia Cup will become a fixture on the bridge calendar and that it will help lead to bridge becoming a part of the Olympics and other sporting events.



From the 4th to the 12th of September 2010, in the town of Itaipava, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the 57th Brazilian Open Bridge Championships took place. This year, the event brought together several World, South American, Argentine and Brazilian Champions.

The competition began with the Pairs Tournament, which took place on September 4th and 5th. The leading positions were: 1. Andrea Junqueira & Hamilton Kabe, 2. Diego Brenner & Eduardo Barcellos, 3. Roberto Figueira de Mello & Mauro Machado.

On Sunday night, one could only hear about bridge, partners making last-minute arrangements...with all relishing the imminent start of a new open teams championship.

On Monday the 6th, the Teams Championship started, with 18 teams in an all-play-all Round Robin for four intense days. Since the first card, the game was very hard, especially for some of the favourites who could not overcome the qualifying stage.

In the last day of the Round Robin, three teams were fighting for first place: "d'Orsi" (Marcelo Amaral-Fabio

Sampaio, Miguel Villas Boas-Joao Paulo Campos and Fernando Lema-Guilherme Junqueira) who took the pole position at the end of the second day and never abandoned it, "Ipanema" (Paula David-Sylvia Figueira de Mello, Mauricio Machado-Amilcar Magalhes) who finished in second place and 4BM (Marcelo Branco-Pedro Branco, Roberto Barbosa, Paulinho Brum and Roberto Figueira de Mello), who finished third.

Three of the other favourites were fighting for fourth place. Finally, the Brenner team (Diego Brenner-Eduardo Barcellos, Cristiano Fonseca-Joao De Deus, Gracia Poncioni-Ottavio Pinto) eventually finished in fourth place, the "Chagas" team (Gabriel Chagas-Carlos Pellegrini, Pablo Lambardi-Pablo Ravenna), finished in fifth place and a little further back were the 2009 Champions, "Leão" (Mauricio Figueiredo-Marco Toma, Manoel Peirao-Federico Kladt, Renato Rodrigues-Leon Carvalho).

The finals began on Friday the 10th and were played as a 96-board double Round Robin of 16-board matches. The carryover was 15 VP for first in the Round Robin, 10 VP for second and 5 VP for third, while the fourth received no points. The final order was 1. d'Orsi, 2. Ipanema, 3. 4BM, 4. Brenner.

During the 17th match of the Qualifying Stage of the Teams, Pablo Lambardi from Argentina executed this brilliant coup.

Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

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

1. Sets spades as trumps
2. Minimum/negative

West led the heart three; East won the jack and continued with the king. South ruffed in his hand with the six of spades. Now declarer played the spade seven,

using the nine as a dummy entry, and continued by playing the queen of diamonds.

Lambardi correctly thought that if East had the king of diamonds doubleton or third he would cover, but as this did not happen, he decided to win the trick with his ace of diamonds. Then declarer played three rounds of trumps, eliminating them; West discarded three hearts and dummy let go two diamonds and a club. The six-card end-position was:

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

South let the club ten run and it held the trick, but he had to take one last precaution, for if West had king to four clubs, a second club finesse would not provide him the two discards he needed to eliminate his two diamond losers. However, Lambardi had already solved the problem. After winning the club ten, he continued with his two remaining trumps. On the first one, West threw the nine of diamonds, but on the second one he did not have a defence and surrendered.

Bravo Maestro!



Correspondence

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

Hi John,

I have been surprised by the numerous errors in recent IBPA bulletins (June, July & August), hence the title of this email ("Have the Bulletin Proofreaders gone AWOL?"). I am sure I am not the only person commenting on this aspect, so rather than give you a large list I will just note a couple from each bulletin.

June 2010:

Page 6, 1st column, diagram. West has 14 cards and both South and East have the spade five.

Page 15, 1st column, 3rd paragraph below the 1st diagram. The first sentence says say East leads a club, but the third sentence clearly assumes East led a spade.

July 2010:

Page 3. Problem 4. The bidding is wrong as it is South who opens one spade, not West. Also, in the solution

diagram both South and East have the diamond two (and the three is missing).

August 2010:

Page 3. 1st column. Paragraph below the bidding. In the last sentence 'West' should be 'South'.

Page 3. 2nd column. Paragraph below the second diagram. 3rd sentence. South did not have two spade tricks, she had one spade (the ace) and one diamond (the ace).

I have not yet received the September bulletin, but hopefully the situation will have improved.

Best wishes, Tony Gordon, London

Mea culpa, Tony, and you were indeed the only one. I am pleased to offer you the proofreader job. I can promise you long hours and no remuneration. Are you interested?

NEWS & VIEWS



Jan van Cleeff Launches BridgeTopics

A new online bridge magazine has been founded: BridgeTopics.com. Its aims are education and bridge news. The anchorman of the magazine is many-times world champion Eric Rodwell. You can register online to get a free sample.

Eindhoven (Oct. 15-29, 2011)

From the major European cities, book to Eindhoven International Airport. From outside Europe fly to Amsterdam Schiphol Airport and take the train to Eindhoven from Schiphol. Room rates (including breakfast) NH Conference Center Koningshof: Single 95 Euro, Double 109 Euro. Bookings can be made by contacting Mrs. Paula Duim: p.duim@nh-hotels.com 00-31-(0)40-2581825

Larry Cohen's New CDs

In mid-October Larry will have 2 new CDs published. Each disk (Advanced & Intermediate) has 60 deals to play interactively (using Fred Gitelman's software). - \$19.95 - available at: www.larryco.com or major bridge supply houses.

Copenhagen Invitational

The website for this tournament is at: www.copenhagen-bridge-invitational.com. Those following poker may be interested to hear that Gus Hansen will participate in our Pro-Am tournament partnering Tom Hanlon.

WBF Press Items

See www.ecatsbridge.com for...

- (1.) results, Daily Bulletins and blogs from Philadelphia
- (2.) info regarding the ECatsBridge for Children in Need Simultaneous Pairs in November.

40TH WORLD TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

• 40TH BERMUDA BOWL • 18TH VENICE CUP • 6TH SENIOR BOWL • 8TH TRANSNATIONAL OPEN TEAMS (OCTOBER 24TH - 29TH)

VENUE

The venue NH Conference Centre Koningshof is situated in Veldhoven, five kilometers south of Eindhoven. Surrounded by beautiful lush greenery, the NH Conference Centre Koningshof is the largest and most centrally-located conference hotel in the Benelux region with more than 6000 m² of modern meeting-room capacity and 509 hotelrooms. The Koningshof has a swimming pool, sports hall, squash courts, solarium and saunas, fitness room, restaurants and bars, and outdoor all-weather tennis and beach volleyball court. The Genderstein golf club is just a five-minute walk away. The busses (which stop in front of the hotel) can bring you to Eindhoven city center.

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Standard Single	€ 95,00 (including breakfast)
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