



# BULLETIN

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## Editorial

Last month we talked about possible improvements to the World Series of Bridge. Chief among them was to separate the Junior Championships into their own event, as they have been in the past. Secondly, to run the Senior events in parallel with the Open and Women's events, as they are done in Bermuda Bowl years. More details include:

- anchor the tournament around the main events, the Rosenblum Cup and the Generali Open Pairs by starting the tournament with the Rosenblum
- run the Rosenblum, McConnell and Rand Cups, then the Open, Women's and Senior Pairs in parallel
- lengthen the Senior events
- shorten the Open Pairs slightly
- reduce the huge advantage of 'drop-in' pairs in the Open and Women's Pairs by (i.) introducing carryover into all pairs events, and (ii.) allowing only the Rosenblum, McConnell and Rand finalists the right to drop into the Generali Open Pairs, Women's Pairs and Hiron Pairs, respectively, at the semifinal stage.

Here is my suggested scheme for a 15-day World Bridge Series:

Day	Open Teams	Open Pairs	Women Teams	Women Pairs	Senior Teams	Senior Pairs	IMP Pairs	Mixed Teams	Mixed Pairs
1	RR		RR		RR				
2	RR		RR		RR				
3	RR		RR		RR				
4	KO64		KO16		KO16		1/2		
5	KO32		KO8		KO8		3/4		
6	KO16		KO4		KO4		5/6		
7	KO8		KO2	Q1/Q2	KO2	Q1/Q2			
8	KO4			Q3/Q4		Q3/Q4			
9	KO2	Q1/Q2		SF1/SF2		SF1/SF2			
10		Q3/Q4		SF3/SF4		SF3/SF4		Q1/Q2	
11		SF1/SF2		F1/F2		F1/F2		Q3/F1	
12		SF3/SF4		F3/F4		F3/F4		F2/F3	
13		F1/F2							Q1/Q2
14		F3/F4							F1/F2
15		F5							F3

The last three events can be jockeyed around to accommodate slight changes.

## Membership Dues for 2011

Happy New Year to all members! We wish you a healthy and prosperous 2011. Dues remain unchanged from last year at US\$42 and an extra \$45 for hard copies of the Bulletin. Your prompt attention to payment is appreciated. See Treasurer information on the masthead.

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# LONDON SEVENS

## THE 2010 LEDERER MEMORIAL

Paul Lamford, London

Last year's London Rugby Sevens at Twickenham attracted 80,000 people and made the Guinness Book of Records for the most spectators dressed as superheroes!

The attendance at Young Chelsea for this year's Lederer was not quite as large, but the presence of two players active on the London scene, Zia, who held the record of seven wins and Andy Robson, who was one of his nearest challengers on six, meant that thousands logged on to watch the action on Bridge Base. Throw in many other top players including the ubiquitous Victor Silverstone, also with six wins, Erik Sælensminde and the Scots, Coyle and Matheson, and it was clear that there was going to be some good bridge.

There was a tough defensive hand as early as match one:

### Ruff and Tumble

Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Salisbury	Sandqvist	Tedd	Charlsen
1♥	2♠	Pass	Pass
Double	Redouble	3♥	3♠
4♥	Double	All Pass	

Two tables reached the pushy four hearts by West; Salisbury was doubled. Indeed, North seemed to do a lot of bidding on an 11-count! Zia was in Four Hearts against Cliffe and Burn.

Against Salisbury, Sandqvist led the king of diamonds. Declarer won and exited with the queen of clubs, won by South, who naturally enough led the jack of diamonds. Salisbury covered, and North had to discard to beat the contract. When he ruffed and exited with a club, Salisbury could ruff, run the queen of hearts, and had just enough entries to establish the long club and enjoy it for plus 590.

Burn did better by exiting with the five of spades at trick three instead of leading the jack of diamonds, and Zia put in the eight. North won with the nine, and now exited with a spade, fatally, and Zia had ten tricks. A club would have been fatal as well – North gets endplayed, forced to lead a spade or allow the long club to be developed. However, North can exit with a heart, playing his partner for the nine, and declarer has no way home.

### Unlucky Slam

Zia and David Gold were very unlucky in the second round when they bid an excellent slam against the Women's Olympiad Gold Medallists

Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Stockdale	Gold	Brown	Zia
Pass	Pass	Pass	2♣ <sup>1</sup>
Pass	2♦ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	2NT <sup>3</sup>
Pass	3♠ <sup>4</sup>	Pass	4♣ <sup>5</sup>
Pass	4♠ <sup>6</sup>	Pass	6♣

1. Strong, artificial
2. Neutral
3. 22-23 balanced (24+ goes through two hearts)
4. Minor-suit slam try
5. Sets clubs, optional Key Card Enquiry
6. I like my hand; I have one key card

David Gold modestly told me that the methods here were Zia's idea. In response to four clubs, North would have bid four diamonds had he not liked his hand for slam. Zia's six clubs was the logical choice.

The operation was a success but the patient died. West led a spade, and Zia won, tested the clubs and tried the diamond finesse, conceding one down when neither behaved. A 90% slam had failed.

Bakhshi and Forrester had an invitational auction with less science. Bakhshi raised a similar two no trump to four no trump, and Forrester declined, having already upgraded his hand. West, Barry Myers for London, found the lead of the eight of diamonds; declarer played low, risking the contract, and East won with the king. Now Frank To had a tough choice of major suit switch, but guessed wrongly to lead the queen of spades. The longer

major would have worked better here, but partner could have a card in either, and the queen of hearts will not be enough. Forrester had no later problems, giving up a club and making eleven tricks.

### Grand Opening

We did not have to wait long for the best bid hand, and as Seven is the theme of this article, it is appropriate that the only pair to bid and make seven no trump should get the award. The opening bid was the key to success here:

#### Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

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

West	North	East	South
Zia	Justin	Gold	Jason
—	—	1NT	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♥	Pass
7NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

There is a bit of a myth that Zia is a law unto himself in the auction, but he showed that he could bid constructively on this hand. However, it was Gold's judgement that made it all possible. 1NT was 15-17 – both the excellent Richard Pavlicek hand evaluator (at <http://www.rpbridge.net/xhel.htm>) and the K&R hand evaluator (at <http://www.jeff-goldsmith.org/cgi-bin/ knr.cgi>) rate East's hand as over 15 points, the former rating it 16.

Zia transferred to spades and Gold re-evaluated again, accepting with a jump to three spades. He did have a super-break of three clubs available, showing a superb hand for spades, so he was limited by failing to do that. After two cues, West bid RKCB for spades, then asked for specific kings that had not been previously cued. East showed the king of hearts, and Zia could count six spades, three hearts, two diamonds and two clubs, and indeed, was able to claim when spades broke 2-1. It would have been a travesty if he had suffered another 3-0 break in a ten-card fit.

Some thought the awards this year were for relatively low-key performances, but Andy Robson had an opportunity on this deal:

### Treble Chance

#### Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Justin	Allfrey	Jason	Robson
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

Many pairs were in six hearts, and on a minor suit lead there are enough entries to establish and enjoy the diamonds. Justin Hackett found the most testing start, a spade, and Andy won and ducked a diamond. East won and returned a second spade, won in the dummy. Andy won and cashed two rounds of hearts, fatally, as the hearts were 3-1 and the diamonds 4-2. The correct line, I believe, is to cash the heart ace and the diamond ace (you have no chance on a 5-1 diamond break) and ruff a diamond high. Now they are known to be 4-2, and when you cross to the king of hearts, you know the trumps are 3-1 as well. Now you can fall back on your last chance that spades are 3-3 by ruffing a diamond high, crossing to another heart in dummy, throwing a spade on the long diamond, ruffing out the spade, and finally using your ace of clubs to enjoy the thirteenth spade. So, the third, unlikely, chance would have worked.

"Very disappointing," was Andy's comment about missing the winning line.

### Power of Ten

#### Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Zia	Forrester	Gold	Crouch
—	—	2♥	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♣*	Pass
3NT	Pass		

This hand was a fascinating clash between Zia and Forrester, with the latter coming out on top, as he did in the event as a whole. A big win in the last round gave the Gold Cup team a clear victory, allowing Andy Robson to equal Zia's record of seven wins.

Two no trump was an enquiry: the three-club response was another Zia idea, showing either a good weak two or a bad weak two. No doubt Zia could have asked again, but instead chose the final contract.

With an awkward lead, Tony Forrester chose the king of clubs, and Zia won and fired back a club, which Forrester ducked. In dummy for the first and possibly last time, Zia took the diamond finesse as that was the most likely source of tricks. Forrester won and faced an awkward problem. Exiting with the jack of spades would have worked, but he cashed the queen of clubs (on which dummy threw a heart) to avoid being thrown in with it, and then exited with the jack of spades, This should have been fatal.

Zia put on the queen, and needed to unblock the ten from hand. Declarer can get home in two ways then, by leading the king of hearts, and when North wins and returns the jack of hearts, declarer ducks and North is endplayed. Or Zia could cross to the ace of spades, cash the minor suit winners and exit with the three of spades. If that were the ten, North would duck it (!), but as it is declarer must come to his ninth trick in the majors. Zia did not know the diamonds were 5-1 at this time, but that jack of spades exit might have given him a clue to the layout. Another candidate for best-played hand went begging, and we won't name the defender who switched to the queen of diamonds from North early in the play. I think that declarer was the only one to make this difficult 3NT.

1	<b>Gold Cup Winners</b> (Allfrey, Robson, Forrester, Crouch, Bakhshi)	251
2	<b>Olympiad Gold Medallists</b> (Smith, Brock, Senior, Dhondy, Brown, Stockdale)	230
3=	<b>All Stars</b> (Zia, Gold, Sælensminde, Gillis)	223
3=	<b>Crockfords</b> (de Botton, Malinowski, Hackett, Hackett, Sandqvist, Charlsen)	223
5	<b>Shapiro Spring Fours</b> (Tedd, Salisbury, Denning, Shields)	202
6	<b>London</b> (Burn, Cliffe, Myers, To)	190
7	<b>Young Chelsea</b> (Hillman, Bennett, Rosen, Jones, Bowdery)	185
8	<b>Presidents' Team</b> (Teltscher, Priday, Silverstone, Dixon, Coyle, Matheson)	176

## 25<sup>th</sup> NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL BRIDGE CONGRESS



Alan Taylor, Auckland

### Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

Jeff Miller was declarer in one no trump from the South seat. Sam Coutts led a diamond to Steve Boughey's king and Boughey returned the suit. Coutts took the Jack and played the ace of diamonds and a fourth diamond. Miller then played a heart to dummy's king which East allowed to hold. Declarer came back to hand with a spade to the ace and led another heart to the queen. This time, East took his ace. East exited with a spade, which Jeff took with the king to continue the spade jack to West's queen, guessing that layout nicely. The position now was

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

We now have an extreme rarity. West cashed his diamond and declarer was the victim of a defensive double squeeze. If he pitched dummy's heart, then West could play the ace of clubs and cross to East's king, and the heart nine would be cashed. So South must discard a club from dummy but East now pitched his heart and declarer can:

1. Pitch a spade – setting up West's seven
2. Pitch a club – setting up East's five.

A super ending which won a **PLAY OF THE DAY**.



# WORLD UNIVERSITY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Kaohsiung, Taiwan  
Patrick Bogacki, Reims, France

## AUSTRIAN OPEN PAIRS

Fritz Babsch, Vienna



This prestigious tournament was won by Doris Fischer/Bernd Saurer; it was their first victory in the Open Pairs. The tragic hero was Heini Berger. The pair Berger/Guttman led until the very last board when this board came along:

Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Berger	—	Guttman	—
—	—	Pass	1♥
2♦	Pass	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	—

Heini Berger led the queen of clubs. The declarer took the queen with the king, entered dummy with a spade and played the jack of hearts. When it held, declarer ruffed a diamond and played the ace of hearts and another heart. Guttman (East) won and returned a club. Declarer (Gerhard Schmidt who has played for more than fifty years) could not believe that Berger would lead a stiff queen (that is what he told me) played the ace, and Berger's title was gone.

The frequencies show plus 680 nine times and plus 710 once (but against five declarers West led the diamond ace, so the losers in clubs went away) and eleven plus 650s. Four pairs played in slam (seven hearts, seven clubs, six hearts and six clubs, and all went down). In four hearts, only five declarers played the clubs from the top but eleven finessed: Berger/Guttman just had the wrong opponent.

Results:

- |                    |       |
|--------------------|-------|
| 1. Fischer/Saurer  | 60,89 |
| 2. Burg/Eichholzer | 60,69 |
| 3. Berger/Guttman  | 60,52 |

Located south of the Tropic of Cancer, Kaohsiung is a tropical city with temperatures largely in excess of 30°C ; humidity is around 80%. The port of Kaohsiung is one of the biggest in the world, and is important particularly in container transport. The city is home to the National Sun Yat-sen University, host of the 5<sup>th</sup> World University Bridge Championships, organised by FISU (Fédération Internationale des Sports Universitaire). The French delegation comprised three pairs, Cédric Lorenzini-Christophe Grosset, Alexandre Kilani-Simon Poulat, Thibault Coudert-Aymeric Lebatteux, and a non-playing captain, the author of this article.

After a brilliant debut against Indonesia, a 25-4 win, our first big test was against Poland, which we lost 7-23, but we recovered to beat Japan 24-6 and USA B 21-9. We were holding to our plan of a 19-VP average.

### Stunt Flying

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

West	North	East	South
—	Poulat	—	Kilani
—	2NT	Pass	3♣ <sup>1</sup>
Pass	3♦ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	3♥ <sup>3</sup>
Pass	3♠ <sup>4</sup>	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	—

1. Puppet Stayman
2. One or two four-card majors
3. I have spades
4. Me too

Simon Poulat played six spades from the North hand. After the six of diamonds lead was taken in dummy, declarer led a spade to the ace and saw the queen appear. Visualising the distribution, he played the club jack to the ace, then cashed the king, drawing the queen from West. The top hearts and a heart ruff followed, then two diamonds ending in the dummy:

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

It sufficed now for Poulat to play the eight of clubs to force West to lead into the king-ten tenace in trumps, to make his slam. Although his handling of trumps was not certain, Poulat was with the odds in playing as he did.

We next played the two Chinese teams and USA A. We beat China A 22-8 and lost to China B 11-19. Our seventh match, against USA A, one of the favourites, was a turning point in the tournament for us. A board which contributed to our victory was a grand slam reached in just a few bids by Cédric and Christophe, but missed at the other table.

### A Beautiful Grand Slam

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

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

1. Exclusion Key Card Blackwood
2. Two key cards, no club queen

Our plan of attack was still holding strong; we were second 13VP ahead of third. In the eighth match, a 19-

11 victory over the English did not change anything – we are still comfortably in second, 14 points from Poland, but 12 ahead of Germany and we have 15 on USA A.

For our ninth match, against Israel, the team is not at its best: the players have not slept well and one of them is unwell – we are not used to Chinese food morning, noon and night! We lose 1-25, but these young persons' character allows them to rebound with two 25-VP wins against Chinese Taipei A and Germany B. Poland is well in front, averaging 21 VP per match ; we are 16 behind Israel for the second spot.

### The Last Day

We gain on Israel as they lose to Germany 5-25, and eventually pass them, but they have an 'easy' last match while we have Germany – we can afford a 12-18 loss and claim second place. We lose 10-20 and anxiously await the result of Israel-Indonesia. Israel wins 18-12 and we secure second place and the silver medal. The players have demonstrated great character, wonderful esprit de corps and have been a great joy to their captain.

To finish, here's a superb example of how to make the declarer stumble in three no trump:

### Strange Ladies

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

West	North <i>Grosset</i>	East	South <i>Lorenzini</i>
INT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Christophe Grosset led the four of spades and declarer played the ten from dummy. Cédric Lorenzini did not cover - he wanted to deny declarer a later entry to the hearts. In dummy with the ten of spades, declarer played a small heart to the jack, ducked in tempo by Grosset! And that was the end. Not able to imagine such a Machiavellian scheme, declarer next cashed the ace and king of hearts and was not able to recover.

# COME OUT WITH YOUR HANDS UP!

**Jim (Flash) Gordon,  
N. Burlington, VT**



*(IBPA member Jim Gordon died in his hotel room on the first evening of the World Bridge Series in Philadelphia. This was his final bridge article.)*

The recent Italian Teams Clubs Championship gave VuGraph spectators the chance to see four great pairs slug it out, head-to-head, for an extended match. Five of the six segments featured Duboin-Sementa vs Helgemo-Helness and Bocchi-Madala vs Fantoni-Nunes. That Allegra pulled out a 1-IMP victory over Angelini on the final board of the match was icing on a very rich cake.

The second board of the match provided one of the more interesting layouts that we've seen in quite a while:

Sitting West, you hold:

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

Partner opens one diamond and RHO overcalls one no trump. You call two clubs, Mitchell Stayman for the majors. LHO jumps to three no trump, ending the auction. Your lead...? (Would you change your choice if we revealed that there's only one card that leaves declarer no counter?)

Helgemo chose the nine of spades and dummy hit with:

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

Declarer let this ride around to his queen (partner playing the three) and played the spade seven to the ten in dummy (Partner discarding the seven of diamonds). Next came the diamond two: four, jack, six and the spade jack to your ace (Partner discarding the nine of clubs). You're back in the spotlight, and again there's only one card that leaves the defence in control.

♠ K  
♥ K 9 3  
♦ 5  
♣ J 10 4 2

♠ 8 2  
♥ J 8 5 4  
♦ 9  
♣ 6 5

After long thought, Helgemo chose the heart jack, which wasn't the needed card, but which left Madala unsure of the position of the heart ten. When he chose to play

Helgemo for that card (and ran the heart to the queen in his hand), he could no longer come to nine tricks. The full layout:

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

The hand is rich in complexities. From the auction, declarer can be reasonably sure that the major-suit aces are split between the two defenders. To succeed, declarer needs dummy entries. His initial plan is to lead diamonds twice, but he may adjust this as the distribution is revealed. On this layout, or if East holds the ace of spades doubleton, the winning play at trick one is the ten from dummy. The only holding in which that loses is if East holds the singleton ace. (All of which helps explain Helgemo's choice of spot card for his lead.)

As for the winning lead/shift, fans of Kelsey (as well as of old-time crime movies) might have recognized the fascinating variation on a surround play represented by the eight of hearts. The complete (and totally unlikely) winning line on the lead of the nine of spades is the ten of spades, a diamond to the jack, the queen of clubs, ducked all around, and the queen of spades. If West takes the ace and returns a spade, declarer wins the king and East has no good pitch in this position:

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

(East still to play to trick five.)

If East pitches a heart, declarer leads a small heart from dummy. If East ducks, he'll be end-played when declarer ducks the second round of hearts. If East rises with the ace and exits with a heart, the third round of hearts will leave declarer in dummy and force another pitch from East.

*Continued on page 10...*



# IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

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

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

West led the jack of clubs and declarer called for dummy's queen, won by East with the ace. He shifted to the ten of hearts. Declarer tried the king but West took the ace and played a second heart to East's queen who then got off play with a trump. As declarer had an unavoidable diamond loser, he finished one trick short.

"There was a simple way to make ten tricks," said North. "You had to play low from dummy at trick one. If East overtakes the jack with the ace and shifts to a heart you can discard your two small diamonds on the clubs. If East allows West to win the first trick, you cannot be defeated as long as the diamonds are 3-2. Suppose West continues clubs to the queen and ace. You ruff, draw the trumps, cash the ace-king of diamonds and, when they prove to be 3-2, cross to dummy with a trump to discard a heart on the king of clubs."

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

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

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

West leads the king of spades. Declarer started with an uncomfortable number of minor-suit losers, three. All would be well if trumps were 2-2, for then two clubs could be ruffed in dummy without any risk.

So, declarer drew two rounds of trumps and was disappointed to find that it was East who had started with three trumps headed by the jack. Declarer continued with the ace and king of clubs and ruffed a club with the nine of trumps. Next he cashed the ace and king of diamonds before playing his fourth club.

If it happened that West showed out on this trick, declarer could ruff with dummy's last trump certain that East would have to follow suit. When it was West who produces the thirteenth club there was no point in ruffing, because East would overruff and declarer would eventually lose a diamond. Instead he discarded a diamond, because, on the bidding and play to date, East had to have started with at least four diamonds. That meant that even after East had shed a diamond on the club he still had one diamond remaining. So, nothing could then prevent declarer from scoring his twelfth trick by ruffing a diamond in dummy.

## 551. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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



West	North	East	South
—	—	—	INT
3♦	Double	Pass	3♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

North's double was negative. When South admitted to holding four heart, North drove to slam because he believed that South would hold very few, if any, high cards in diamonds.

West led the ace of diamonds and switched to a low trump. The bidding suggested that West probably began with seven diamonds. This argued against ruffing two diamonds in dummy with low trumps. Declarer saw that his plans for making his contract relied on one of the majors breaking 3-2 and the other major being no worse than 4-1. So, he drew two rounds of trumps with the ace and king.

This favourable outcome gave declarer a fair chance of surviving a 4-1 spade break; he ruffed a diamond low, returned to hand with the ace of spades and ruffed his last diamond with the queen of trumps. After returning to hand with a club to the king, declarer drew East's last trump and cashed the queen of spades. When West discarded a diamond, declarer simply played a spade to the king and ruffed a spade, setting up the fifth spade. As the ace of clubs was available as an entry to cash the good spade, declarer made four spades, four trumps, two diamond ruffs and two clubs to fulfil his contract.

#### 552. Dealer South. N-S Vul.

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

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

West led the jack of clubs. Declarer saw that his best chance for a twelfth trick would come from the diamond suit. There was another problem too, if he played the queen of clubs, drew trumps and played on diamonds, then the defenders might find a spade shift before he

could unblock the diamonds; West would then cover the second diamond and the suit would only play for two tricks.

So, declarer called for a low club from dummy at trick one and took the trick with the ace. Now another difficulty was that the only entries to the closed hand were in trumps. So, declarer led the ten of diamonds next and passed it to East's queen. East returned a club to the queen, removing one entry to dummy.

Declarer now drew trumps in four rounds, discarding a low spade from dummy, and then led the nine of diamonds. West correctly covered the nine with the jack, hoping that his partner held the eight of diamonds. However, declarer took this with the king of diamonds and returned to hand with a low diamond to the eight in his hand. All that remained was to cross to the ace of spades and throw a spade on the ace of diamonds.



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*...Jim Gordon, continued from page 7*

If East pitches a club, declarer leads a club honour from dummy. East must duck, else declarer has three tricks in clubs, ending in dummy. After East ducks, declarer reverts to diamonds and East will be thrown in to lead from his heart holding.

If East pitches a diamond, declarer leads dummy's remaining diamond and East will be end-played to lead a club or a heart immediately or at the next trick. Finally, if West ducks the queen of spades, declarer overtakes in dummy and leads another diamond to again threaten an end-play.)



## OZ BRIDGE

**Paul Marston,  
Sydney**

*(From the Weekend  
Australian)*

### Deal 1. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	2♠
Pass	2NT	pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	pass	5♦
Pass	6♠	Pass	

A trump coup is used to overcome a situation where you cannot repeat a successful trump finesse. Here, you are in six spades and West leads the ace of clubs and continues clubs. You win in dummy and play a spade to the ten, which wins - you needed that slice of luck, but you are still not in the clear. When you cross to dummy and repeat the spade finesse, West shows out, leaving you badly placed. Since you have no more trumps in dummy you have no easy way to neutralize East's king-nine. Your only hope is resort to a coup.

Accordingly, you cash two top hearts and trump a heart. Then you return to dummy with a diamond and trump a club. When you finally go back to dummy with your last diamond, your coup is complete - all you have left in hand is the ace-queen of spades. East's king is doomed.

Of course six no trumps would have been a lot easier, but who cares?

### Deal 2. Dealer West. EW Vul.

♠ 8 4  
♥ A K Q 5 4  
♦ A K 8 4  
♣ K 9

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

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

Deal two is from the recent Spring Nationals at Randwick Racecourse in Sydney. Ron Klinger found himself in six spades after the auction above. North faced an awkward decision over three clubs; both three hearts and four hearts were flawed so he compromised with three no trumps. Four clubs was Stayman. It is true that six diamonds would have been a lot easier, but who cares?

West cashed the ace of clubs and played a club to dummy's king, Klinger pitching a diamond. When Klinger played a spade to the ace, he decided that West's ten was a singleton and played accordingly. He returned to dummy with a heart and ran the eight of spades, with West showing out as expected. Next came the king of hearts and a heart ruff followed by a diamond to the king and another heart ruff. Finally, it was back to dummy with a diamond to the ace, resulting in this position:

♠ —  
♥ Q  
♦ 8 4  
♣

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

♠ K J  
♥ —  
♦ Q  
♣ —

On the heart queen lead from the dummy, the coup was complete. East could not profitably ruff, since declarer could over-ruff, draw the last trump and cash the diamond queen for his twelfth trick. Nor could East discard to defeat the contract - Klinger would then discard the master diamond queen and be left with the king-jack of spades poised over East's queen-nine.

## ONCE IN A LIFETIME

Knut Kjærnsrød, Tored, Norway

The two boards that follow are from a match in the Norwegian League. They are not particularly interesting if taken separately, but in conjunction they represented an occurrence that I have never before encountered in my 54 years of playing bridge.

The first was the penultimate board of one of the matches.

### West Dealer Neither Vul.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q J 7 6 5 4 3 2 ♥ 8 6 5 ♦ 10 ♣ 9</p> <p>♠ A 10 ♥ K J 4 ♦ K 9 7 5 4 2 ♣ A 2</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 9 ♥ A Q 10 7 ♦ A 3 ♣ K Q J 10 6 3</p> <p>♠ K 8 ♥ 9 3 2 ♦ Q J 8 6 ♣ 8 7 5 4</p>
---	---

West	North	East	South
1NT	3♠	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	5NT	Pass
6♦	pass	7♣	Pass
7NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

North led the diamond ten and there was obviously nothing to the play.

The second board, the last of the match, was this:

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ A Q J ♥ J 10 7 4 ♦ J 2 ♣ Q 7 6 3</p> <p>♠ 10 8 7 5 ♥ K 9 8 6 ♦ 10 6 5 ♣ 9 8</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ K 3 2 ♥ Q 3 ♦ K Q 9 ♣ A K 10 5 4</p> <p>♠ 9 6 4 ♥ A 5 2 ♦ A 8 7 4 3 ♣ J 2</p>
--	--

With North-South vulnerable, my partner in East opened one club, and no one had anything to add. He proceeded to take his obvious seven tricks.

I have never experienced playing the highest and the lowest contract of the game on two boards in succession, making exactly. Furthermore, we were the only pair of ten to bid and make these contracts. No one else bid either seven no trump or one club.

## BID MADLY, PLAY SAFE

Mark Horton, Bath, UK

England's David Kendrick is well known for his uncompromising bidding style. On this deal from the 2010 Premier League a typically-spirited approach to the auction meant he had to tackle an ambitious contract:

### Dealer West. NS Vul.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 9 6 3 ♥ A 9 3 ♦ A Q 10 5 ♣ J 6 5</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ A Q J 10 8 7 4 ♥ 10 8 7 5 ♦ K 6 ♣ —</p>
---	--

West	North	East	South
	<i>Mestel</i>		<i>Kendrick</i>
3NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass	4♣ <sup>2</sup>	4♠
Pass	Pass	5♣	5♠
Pass	6♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Gambling
2. Pass or correct

West led the king of clubs and declarer ruffed. How would you tackle the play?

Assuming the spade finesse is onside (only the most optimistic Rabbi would hope to find West with a singleton king) you will need four diamond tricks. The obvious line is to cross to dummy with the ace of hearts and run nine of spades. If the finesse is onside then you can run all your trumps before playing on diamonds.

Time to look at the full deal:

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 9 6 3 ♥ A 9 3 ♦ A Q 10 5 ♣ J 6 5</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 5 ♥ Q 4 ♦ 8 4 2 ♣ A K Q 10 8 7 3</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">♠ K 2 ♥ K J 6 2 ♦ J 9 7 3 ♣ 9 4 2</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ A Q J 10 8 7 4 ♥ 10 8 7 5 ♦ K 6 ♣ —</p>

As you can see, provided East gets rid of the king of hearts at some point this approach is destined to fail.

David spotted an improvement on this line, and at trick two he played a heart to the nine and jack. He ruffed

the club return, crossed to dummy with the ace of hearts and ran the nine of spades. Now, with the count rectified the run of the spade suit squeezed East in the red suits.

♠ —  
♥ 9  
♦ 4  
♣ J 10 7 3

♠ 9  
♥ 7 6  
♦ —  
♣ 9 8 4

♠ —  
♥ K 8 4  
♦ 7 6 3  
♣ —

♠ 10 3  
♥ J 10  
♦ —  
♣ 6 5

**“All the Bridge That’s  
Fit to Print”**  
**Phillip Alder, Hobe Sound, FL**  
*From the New York Times*

**Board 4. Dealer East. Both Vul.**

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

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

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

♠ Q J 10 3 2  
♥ A J 10  
♦ A 5  
♣ A 6 5

West	North	East	South
—	—	1♥	INT
Pass	Pass	2♦	2♠
3♥	3♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Jeff Meckstroth is known as one of the world’s most imaginative declarers. He again proved that his reputation is justified in the diagrammed deal, which was from the final session of the World Open Pairs in Philadelphia.

After a competitive auction to three spades, in which East had shown a red two-suiter, West led the diamond ten, covered by the queen, king and ace. Meckstroth felt that the trumps were 4-1, and if so, an opponent with ace-king-fourth would surely have doubled. So Meckstroth led the spade deuce from his hand, bringing down East’s king. East returned a diamond, which ran to dummy’s jack. Declarer called for the club queen, picking up East’s second singleton king.

West, after taking South’s spade queen with his ace, shifted to a heart to the queen and ace. This led Meckstroth to believe that the West hand had 4=3=2=4 distribution. If it were 4=3=3=3, West probably would have tried to cash a diamond trick. Declarer took his spade jack to give this position:

Next, on the spade ten, Meckstroth carefully discarded dummy’s last heart, not the diamond. Then came a club, and when West played the four, South called for dummy’s seven. When that held the trick, declarer cashed dummy’s three club tricks, discarding both of his heart losers. Meckstroth had won 11 tricks: three spades, one heart, two diamonds and five clubs.

Notice why Meckstroth kept dummy’s diamond. If West had played his club eight or nine on the second round of the suit, forcing dummy’s ten, declarer would have needed a way back to his hand to play a club to dummy’s seven. This had to be via a diamond ruff.

Plus 200 proved to be worth 56 match points out of 70. That 80% score was entirely due to Meckstroth’s perfect card reading.

**FRENCH INTER-CLUB FINAL**  
**Olivier Beauvillain, Ambon, France**

In the final of the French Inter-Club Championship, a team of French Juniors (Nicolas L’Huissier-Godefroy de Tessières; Adrien Vinay-Paul Séguineau) led most of the way, some Victory Points ahead of the defenders, the powerful Zimmerman team, with Fantoni-Nunes and Levy-Multon (Hervé Mouiel died during the season). The following board changed the course of the match. It was during Round 6 of 7 and the sixth board of 14 in the match.

First, do you bid over an Italian Weak No Trump, which could be off-shape, at favourable vulnerability with:

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

Points in favour of bidding: a long suit, favourable vulnerability, you can pick-up a partial battle or score game with a fit, very good opponents so you must try to get something somewhere.

Points against bidding: a bad suit, not such a good hand, a penalty is in view, very good opponents; so it is dangerous to bid.

The complete board:

**Open Room. Dealer North. NS Vul.**

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

Of course, it was better not to speak, but if you are a junior, you can risk a Two-Diamond Multi...

West	North	East	South
<i>L'Huissier</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>de Tessières</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
—	INT	2♦	Double
Pass	Pass	2♥	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Two diamonds was a major one-suiter, the first double showed values, and the second double more values and North's pass was "nowhere to run". The play started with the ace-king of diamonds, the second round trumped by declarer, who played a trump to North's seven. Back came a club, ducked to the king, and another club, won by the queen. Declarer played another trump to South's jack; South played a spade to North's king. North pulled trumps, and then on the last one :

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

Declarer must discard from West, the dummy, on the last heart: a diamond is clearly bad, so is a spade because of the tenace position over East's jack, so declarer must discard a club. However, now on the diamond jack, East was squeezed for six down, 1400 to North-South. A compound guard squeeze against dummy and declarer is pretty rare, and when it is worth 17 IMPs and a title, rarer still.

And some more:

In the Closed Room, the uncontested auction went...

West	North	East	South
<i>Levy</i>	<i>Vinay</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Seguineau</i>
—	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

East knew that the club king was not in North's hand, so he led the club ace and continued the suit. Declarer, pretty happy, cashed the trump jack...and got shocked. He played the diamond ace, catching the queen, and entered his hand with the king of spades. All he had to do now was to play a diamond; East has no defence: if he ruffs, he can only get a long trump and if it discards a black card, declarer can take the king and take a ruff in the non-discarded black suit. That's ten tricks: two spades, five hearts, two diamonds and a club. Declarer, still shocked, missed it, he could have cut down his loss to 12 IMPs...but still no championship.

**BE CAREFUL  
WHEN YOU LEAD  
Vlad Racoviceanu, Bucharest**

This is a deal which demonstrates the great skill of the declarer. If only he could bid as well as he plays the cards!

**Dealer South. Both Vul.**

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

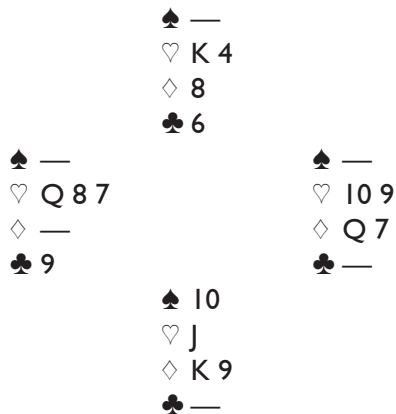
West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣ <sup>1</sup>
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♠ <sup>2</sup>
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Questionable cue bid in partner's suit
2. Could still be five, six or seven

With what he thought was no better choice, West led the club ace. Then the declarer found the best way to fulfill the contract, giving up on ruffing diamonds. He ruffed the club ace and drew three rounds of trumps,

ending in the dummy. The club jack with a diamond discard followed and one of the opponents will win with the queen. No return could disturb declarer.

Suppose West returns a heart upon winning the club queen: declarer wins the ace, plays the club king and ten, discarding a heart and a diamond. Declarer then plays the diamond ten to the ace and the last trump. The position:



West must discard a heart on the ten of spades, a diamond goes from dummy, and East is obliged to discard a heart as well. With hearts now guarded solely by West, the king of diamonds forces him to give up hearts or clubs.

If West instead returns a diamond upon winning the club queen, declarer wins the ace, crosses to the heart ace and cashes the two high clubs. The same diagrammed position is reached but declarer is in the dummy instead of his hand. He crosses to the king of diamonds in hand and plays the last trump. This time, East and West must give up their guards in hearts on the same trick!



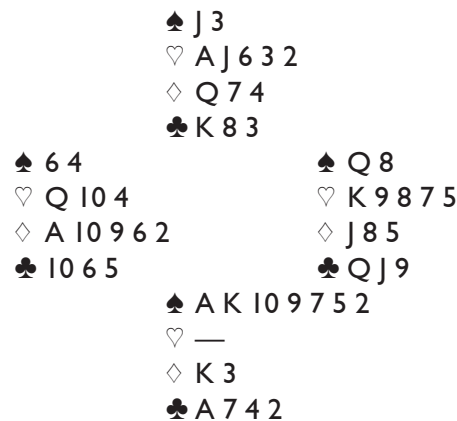
**ORLANDO  
MAGIC**  
Barry Rigal, NYC  
John Carruthers,  
Toronto

### CARDINAL MORTON

There was no way to escape the clutches of John Morton, the Archbishop of Canterbury and Henry VII's ingenious Lord Chancellor. According to Morton, if you lived extravagantly, you could obviously afford to pay the king extra taxes; if you lived frugally, you equally as obviously had money saved to be able to afford those same taxes.

Had Justin Hackett lived in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, perhaps he might have found a way to foil the grasping Cardinal...

### Dealer West. EW Vul.



West	North	East	South
<i>Justin H.</i>	<i>Dick Bruno</i>	<i>Jason H.</i>	<i>Peg Kaplan</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

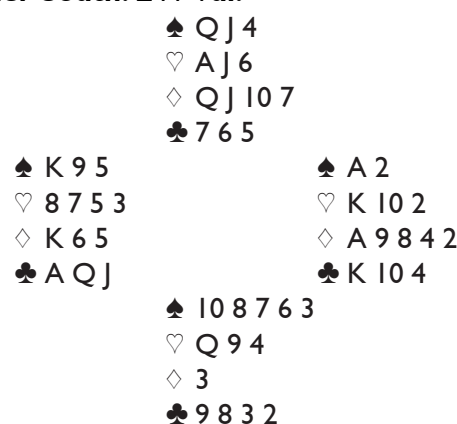
Justin Hackett led the five of clubs which went to the jack and ace. Declarer drew trumps in two rounds and led the three of diamonds. Thwarting the impending Morton's Fork Coup, Hackett flew up with the ace and continued clubs, knocking out the vital entry to the diamond queen. That was 450 to North-South.

The Hacketts' teammate, declarer at the other table, made 12 tricks by executing the successful Morton's Fork Coup for plus 480 and a win on the board in the Open Board-a-Match Teams.

### DANNY BOY

Dan Gerstman made a terrific defensive play on this board from one Semifinal of the Senior Knockout Teams, helping the Morse team on to a berth in the final.

### Dealer South. EW Vul.



West	North	East	South
<i>Ohman</i>	<i>Gerstman</i>	<i>Denard</i>	<i>Landen</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
INT	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Gerstman found the spade queen opening lead, a good start for his side. Declarer, Bruce Ohman, ducked the

spade in both hands, South, Lou Finkel, encouraging, and won the spade jack continuation with the ace.

Declarer played a diamond to the king and a second diamond, ducking Gerstman's ten. Gerstman then found the only card in his hand to defeat the contract, the jack of hearts! It was a different kind of Morton's Fork. At the table, declarer played the king of hearts, winning the trick. Next came a low heart from the dummy, South playing the nine. Gerstman overtook the nine with the ace, necessary, and played his remaining spade (also necessary), setting up the suit while partner still had the heart queen as an entry. Declarer could do no better than eight tricks for minus 50.

Had declarer ducked the heart jack, Gerstman would have continued diamonds to set up a second winner in the suit to go along with two heart tricks and a spade.

Declarer might have made things a trifle tougher on the defence had he crossed to hand with a club and played a heart toward dummy. However, having found the sequence of plays he did, that would likely have been no impediment to Gerstman.

At the other table, remarkably, the play went the same way to the first five tricks. On the heart jack, however, John Sutherlin ducked in dummy so the defenders set up a second diamond trick. In the other semifinal match, Kyle Larsen also found the switch to the heart jack.

Declarer does better to duck the first diamond, denying the opponents the opportunity to win two diamonds tricks and two heart tricks.

## SERENDIPITY IN BRIDGE - BOARD 27

**John Carruthers, Toronto**

*(To my friend Raman Jayaram)*

Going into the final board of the Orlando Reisinger, the SMIRNOV team (Smirnov/Piekarek; Weinstein/Garner; Henner-Welland/Welland) held a tiny lead over CAYNE (Cayne/Seamon; Duboin/Sementa; Versace/Lauria), the only team that could overtake them: SMIRNOV had a score of 32.34 and CAYNE 32.22. The decimals were due to carryover. The American method is to award one point for a win and one-half for a draw.

Since it was Board-a-Match, CAYNE needed to better SMIRNOV's result on the board - win the board if SMIRNOV tied the board, and tie it if SMIRNOV lost the board. There were to be no half-measures: if SMIRNOV won the board or CAYNE lost the board, SMIRNOV would be the 2010 Reisinger champions.

Each of the ten teams in the final played six boards against each of the other teams, three in each of the final sessions. So, for the 18<sup>th</sup> and last round of the third and final day (two days of qualifying, with cuts made after each day), CAYNE would face BATHURST

(Bathurst/Zagorin; Bertheau/Nyström; Bramley/Demirev), while SMIRNOV played JACOBUS (Jacobus/Bates/Wold; Drijver/Brink).

Following the trend in major U.S. events in recent years, there were many foreign players as well as Americans on those four teams: Italians, Germans, Swedes and Dutchmen. An interesting sidelight was that the American teams which won the previous two World Championships, in 2009 and 2010, NICKELL and DIAMOND, had failed to qualify for the final. That's how tough an event the Reisinger is.

Because the event was being broadcast on BBO, it was necessary for the boards to be played simultaneously at all tables during the final for security reasons, which was effectively Barometer scoring. The teams were permitted to compare scores after every round, and so knew the score after 24 of 27 boards. By the time Board 27 was put into play, they knew the event was close, but not just how close. It could not have been a more exciting finish.

Shall we have a look at the board in question?

### Board 27. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

You will notice that seven hearts is cold with clubs 4-2. Indeed, seven no trump is makeable with a squeeze in the black suits on South. We'll deal with that later. First, in the CAYNE v. BATHURST match...

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Bramley</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Demirev</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠ <sup>1</sup>	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♥	Pass
5♥ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	6♥ <sup>3</sup>	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Fourth-suit forcing
2. Do you have good trumps?
3. Yes, I do

The Italians never really came to grips with the hand. Had Duboin known he was facing seven solid hearts and a bit of a club fit, he might have bid more strongly;

had Sementa known he was facing such good clubs and both pointed-suit aces...

That was not a good result for CAYNE. At their other table, facing Versace/Lauria, Peter Bertheau and Fredrik Nyström play a souped-up relay system, probably the most complex system played in top-level bridge today, Meckwell and Ekeblad-Rubin notwithstanding. Many of their relay responses are two-way, indicating an 'either this, or that' holding that partner can always either ask about, or tell the difference between the two options. They also have a great partnership simpatico. Let's see how they did...

West	North	East	South
Bertheau	Lauria	Nyström	Versace
—	—	—	Pass
1♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	1NT <sup>2</sup>	Pass
2♣ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	2♦ <sup>4</sup>	Pass
2♥ <sup>5</sup>	Pass	4♦ <sup>6</sup>	Pass
4♠ <sup>7</sup>	Pass	5♥ <sup>8</sup>	Pass
6♥ <sup>9</sup>	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Strong, artificial, forcing
2. A: Spades, unbalanced, or B: Hearts, balanced or semi-balanced (no void, no singleton)
3. Ask
4. Hearts
5. Ask
6. 2=7=2=2, 8 ZZ points (A=3, K=2, Q=1)
7. Ask
8. One ace, one king, three queens; the heart king and either the ace-queen of hearts or neither the ace or queen of hearts
9. See explanation below

One would have thought that Bertheau/Nyström would have had a slight edge over the other three involved pairs in their chances of reaching the grand slam, but it was not to be. What went wrong? After five hearts, Bertheau knew, *or should have known*, that he was facing the precise hand he was – ♠Qx, ♥AKQxxxx, ♦xx, ♣Qx - only the heart jack was in doubt. But in Peter Bertheau's own words, "I was tired, it was the last board, we were late and in time trouble, and I miscounted."

The board was a half for CAYNE at plus 1010 for East/West. CAYNE was still in with a chance, but would need SMIRNOV to lose the board for them to win the event.

West	North	East	South
Smirnov	Drijver	Piekarek	Brink
1♦	2♠	4♥	4♠
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

Smirnov/Piekarek had a good news/bad news result here, plus 1400, beating all the (non-vulnerable) small slams, but losing out to seven hearts, and probably seven no trump. A half on the board was thus very unlikely – they would win the Reisinger if their counterparts did not bid a grand slam at the other table, and lose the

Reisinger if they did. Their fate was in the hands of Roger Bates and Edie Wold, two very good professional players, but not a regular partnership.

West	North	East	South
Bates	Garner	Wold	Weinstein
1♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♥ <sup>2</sup>	Pass
3♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	5♠ <sup>4</sup>	Pass
5NT <sup>5</sup>	Pass	7♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Strong, artificial, forcing
2. Sets hearts as trump
3. 0 or 3 key cards for hearts
4. Asks about spades for a grand slam (Bates) or for specific kings (Wold)
5. Third-round spade control (Bates) or the spade king (Wold)

Bates and Wold had the kind of bidding misunderstanding that only experts can have. A non-expert pair would have bid five no trump and then, receiving either a one-king or a specific-king, six-club response, depending on system, would have bid seven. It seems that Wold believed five spades rather than five no trump to be the Key Card continuation.

Nevertheless, it meant a win on the board for JACOBUS over SMIRNOV and the title for CAYNE. The final score was CAYNE 32.72, SMIRNOV 32.34.

For SMIRNOV to lose took quite a parlay: one of the relevant pairs had a misunderstanding to arrive at the grand slam (only three of ten pairs did so) and another relevant pair with the methods to get there with certainty did not. Serendipity indeed.

It is possible that seven no trump would have succeeded – one likely line of play is to win the lead in dummy, cash the pointed-suit aces and run hearts after cashing the heart ten and crossing on the club queen. You make it whenever clubs are 3-3 or South guards clubs and holds either pointed-suit king. A tiny residual chance appears when diamonds are 5-1.

Alternatively, you could try the clubs first, then cash the spade ace and run the hearts. That makes seven in a similar number of cases. However, you'd need to cross to hand on a heart – that would be embarrassing if hearts went 5-0.

The board was played six other times - only in CAYNE v BATHURST was the board a half. It was played once in four hearts(!), three times in six hearts, once in seven hearts (Aa/Molberg for GORDON), and once in seven no trump (el Ahmady/Sadek for JACOBS). El-Ahmady made seven no trump by adopting the first line of play mentioned above. The el-Ahmady/Sadek auction was simplicity itself. With the opponents silent: 1♦-1♥-3♣-3♥-3♠-4NT-5♣-7NT. That was not so serendipitous.