



BULLETIN

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Editorial

There has been, in our view, an astonishing and significant development in the world of bridge. To see what it is, read the communiqué from the Bridge Federation of Monaco (FMB) on page 10.

The development is that the FMB proposes to enter the team of Pierre Zimmermann (Switzerland)-Franck Multon (France), Tor Helness-Geir Helgemo (Norway) and Claudio Nunes-Fulvio Fantoni (Italy) as their representative in future European and World Championships. No financial or logistical details were revealed.

Upon first reading the communiqué, I thought this was a terrible turn of events. Part of the mystique of World Championships is that it is country versus country and to read that Iceland won the 1991 Bermuda Bowl or China the 2009 Venice Cup is exciting. Less so to read about Team Smith beating Team Jones, no offence to Smith or Jones. Do you remember who won any of the transnational Rosenblums, for example? We do remember, however, that Poland defeated Brazil in the first (1978) Rosenblum, before the advent of Transnationalism.

When I shared the FMB communiqué, without comment, with a few people whose opinions I respect, they agreed with my initial assessment. One said, "It's like buying your own island, only cheaper." Then I had second thoughts, seeing it as nothing more than another incremental step along the continuum of increasing professionalism in World Championship bridge. The genesis occurred in the early days with Ely Culbertson and his 'professional' teams and bloomed with Ira Corn and the Dallas Aces in the 1970s. Now we have sponsors winning World Championships with players from different countries on teams bearing their own names rather than Italy or the USA. Is this so different?

One does wonder, however, what the European Bridge League and World Bridge Federation will do about this. There are, after all, residency and in some cases, immigrant and/or citizenship requirements to represent one's country. In the past, we've had Bob Slavenburg (Netherlands) representing Morocco, Buratti-Lanzarotti (Italy) playing for Spain, and lately Zia (Pakistan) on the USA team. They all had at least residency in their adopted country, if only temporarily.

Hovering in the background of this incident will be the spectre of the International Olympic Committee. I daresay that their advice and opinion will be sought. If the WBF still has hopes of seeing bridge in the Olympics in the near future, how it handles this issue could, if not put it there, permanently impair its chances of that happening. From here, this issue looks like the first major challenge of Gianarrigo Rona's tenure as president. One thing is certain, regardless of how it's resolved, it's going to be an interesting story.

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PAHARPUR COOLING TOWERS

Winter National Bridge Championship

10th to 17th December 2010 at Netaji Indoor Stadium

Dr. Subir Roy, Kolkata

There were several innovations at this championship. Firstly, the major team event, the Ruia Gold Cup was split into two separate, simultaneous, events, Ruia Gold (Open) and Ruia Silver (Limited). Ruia Gold attracted 81 entries and Silver, 96. Secondly, prize money was introduced for the first time – as you can well imagine, this new wrinkle was greeted very warmly by the players! Thirdly was the introduction of the IMP Pairs event.

The Qualifying Round for the Ruia Gold Cup was a two-day, 12-round Swiss of 10-board matches. Twenty-four teams then qualified for the Super Swiss, playing 6 x 20-board matches over the next two days to qualify eight teams for quarterfinal play.

Formidables (Kiran Nadar-B. Satyanarayana; Subhash Gupta-K.R. Venkatraman; Rajeshwar Tewari-B. Prabhakar) were a model of consistency, winning the initial qualifying, finishing second (by less than 1 VP) in the Super Swiss, and dominating their first two knockout matches by 99 and 82 IMP. They were given a run for their money in the final by Poddar Developers (Dipak Poddar, Jitu Solani, R A Agrawal, M Athavale, N.R.K. Moorthy) before triumphing by 16 IMPs. With the win, Formidables receive a direct berth to the semifinals of the Selection Trials for the Indian Team in the BFAME Championship, which is the 2011 Bermuda Bowl qualifier.

When two people give you the same hand separately, it deserves a very serious look, especially when the players who give you the hand are well-known players and their analysis is sound.

Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

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

1. Precision: three-suiter with short diamonds
2. Setting the suit, slam invitational
3. Cue bid
4. Roman Key Card Blackwood
5. 2 key cards and the trump queen

The story, besides the fact that the hand was well bid and well played, is that on the brink of being “shown the gate”, team Sunil Machhar clawed their way into the Super Swiss thanks to this effort of Sandip Karmarkar.

With a control-rich hand and the singleton diamond, North sure got excited to hear a slam invitation and he just needed to check the spade quality, liked what he heard and came to the party. It was the upgrading of the South hand that set the ball rolling with his three spades, the wasted diamond queen notwithstanding.

The play was superb, Sandip judging the hand perfectly. Winning the club lead on the table, it looked like easy pickings, six trumps, the top two in each red suit and a couple of diamond ruffs. He pulled a trump...uh, oh, West showed out. Needing to ruff diamonds, Sandip played a low diamond. Back came a club from West which he ruffed in hand. A diamond ruff on the table, and the diamond ace appeared on his right. The moment of truth had arrived! Was RHO falsecarding with ace-king-deuce of diamonds?

Sandip considered East’s double of four clubs – would he have been so keen to double clubs with the ace-king of diamonds? Also, perhaps it was an application of Restricted Choice. He thus cashed the club king, pitching a heart, as West showed out. It was no longer safe to ruff another diamond since East was by then known (or expected) to be 3=2=2=6. So Sandip drew trumps, then ran the rest of the suit, making his slam on a red-suit squeeze on West.

In the three-card ending Sandip had the diamond queen and two small hearts and the dummy had the ace-king-five of hearts. West was like a grape being crushed in a

vat. With three cards remaining, what does he keep? He let out a little whine (wine). Well played, Sandip!

The main pairs event, the Open Pairs for the Holkar Trophy, consisted of eight sessions over three days (three, three and two sessions - pairs were eliminated after every two sessions). Qualified pairs were joined in the latter stages by pairs from teams eliminated in the Ruia Gold Cup. In the elimination rounds, 183 pairs, 108 pairs and 60 pairs (including losing quarterfinalists) respectively, produced a 28-pair (including losing semifinalists) final. The Blue Riband of Indian Pairs events was won by S.N. De Sarkar and Pranab Bardhan, who took the lead after the first final session and never surrendered it. The IMP Pairs was garnered by D. Chakravarty and D. Mukherjee.

In closing, let me relate a story from the days when Ferts and Strong Pass were in vogue – it is a peach. In the 1984 Winter Nationals at New Delhi, the Tolani team were playing Poysa in the Ruia Teams Final. The hotshot young pair of Jaggy Shivdasani and Rajesh Dalal were playing the Forcing Pass and Fert Spade, where Pass was 16+ HCP. Mario Rodrigues, parterning the late Sriram Sethi, was trying to work out the best defence to the Forcing Pass. Sethi told him, “We’ll just bid naturally”. End of discussion.

Now see what happened. Jaggy as dealer passed, showing 16+HCP. Next, Sriram Sethi bid...one club, showing 18+! They were playing Strong Club. Rajesh, not knowing how to handle this, passed. And Mario looking like a man going to his own funeral, also passed! Sriram Sethi almost had a coronary. He couldn’t believe his ears. How could partner drop his unlimited one club?

Anyway, one club made on the nose. Mario had a Yarborough. Jaggy-Rajesh missed a cold vulnerable four spades which their counterparts at the other table duly bid. In the War of the Systems, the Strong Club had prevailed over the Forcing Pass!

No prize for guessing who won that Ruia Gold Cup.



OZ BRIDGE

Tim Bourke, Canberra

MOON ON SQUEEZES

The two deals that follow are the latest I’ve composed for Anthony Moon, an English rubber bridge player, who is trying to write a comprehensive series of books on squeezes. See http://www.bridgesqueezes.co.uk/books_on_bridge_squeezes.htm

Anthony will provide some subset of his PDF files to reviewers. His contact details are: anthonytrevormoon@yahoo.co.uk.

Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

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

Following the position of making a passive lead against six no trump (a diamond would be fatal), West leads a spade. Declarer wins the king and cashes six rounds of clubs to reach:

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

Since he had not led one, declarer places the ace of hearts with West and East with 3=7=2=1 shape. On the next club, East and declarer throw diamonds while West parts with a spade. Declarer cashes the ace of spades now (he could have cashed it before playing on clubs) to leave:

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

On the final club, East throws the diamond queen, declarer parts with the ten of hearts and West is strip-squeezed in the red suits.

Another entry in this type of squeeze is the following, which might even be found at the table:

Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
2♥!	Pass	4♥	6♣
Pass	Pass	6♥	Double
Pass	6♠	Pass	6NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 6-9 HCP, 5+ hearts and 4+ either minor, not four spades

The jack of diamonds is led. Declarer should realise the situation is hopeless if West holds the heart ace. He also needs West to hold the king of spades and the queen-jack of hearts. Thus declarer takes two high diamonds and five rounds of clubs to reach:

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

When the club eight is played, West lets go the jack of spades, dummy the heart three and East the heart five. On the last club, East discards the spade king, dummy the diamond six and East the spade eight.

Now the ace of diamonds squeezes East in the majors. He must either blank the heart ace or come to a singleton spade, allowing declarer to run the suit by overtaking the queen with the ace.

Okay, so maybe it would not be found at the table! Perhaps Tim Seres would have found it.



BIG APPLE BRIDGE

Phillip Alder,
Hobe Sound, FL

From the New York Times

A POLISHED PERFORMANCE

Let's look at one of the best defences from last year.

Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Fleisher</i>	<i>Hand</i>	<i>Kamil</i>	<i>Greenberg</i>
—	1♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The declarer usually enjoys an advantage, but occasionally the defenders know more and can force declarer to guess. That was the case in the diagrammed deal, Board 21 of the second session of the Edgar Kaplan Blue Ribbon Pairs at the Fall North American Championships in Orlando in November.

In the auction, Gail Greenberg of New York (South) responded two hearts, showing either a weak hand with six spades or a balanced game-force; Jeff Hand of New York (North) invited game by jumping to three spades; and South corrected to three no-trump.

Marty Fleisher of New York (West) led the heart queen, Rusinow, promising the king as well. When he was allowed to win the trick and had noted his partner's discouraging signal, he guessed to shift to the spade jack. Declarer won with dummy's king, played a spade to her ace and led a third round, West winning with his ten and safely returning his last spade. Mike Kamil of Holmdel, N.J., (East) discarded his two remaining hearts and South threw a club.

If South had been willing to assume West held the diamond king, she could have got home by, for example, leading a heart to her ace, playing a diamond to dummy's queen and continuing with two more rounds of the suit. But Greenberg tried an alternative approach, leading a low diamond from the dummy to her ten and West's

king. When West returned a diamond to dummy's ace, declarer cashed dummy's club king to give this position:

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

Now South played a club to her ace. West saw that if he played low, he would be endplayed with his club queen, forced to lead away from his heart king into declarer's ace-jack. So Fleisher unblocked his queen.

Then South cashed her heart ace. East had to discard a club, but realized that if he threw the eight, he would be endplayed with his jack, forced to lead away from the jack-eight of diamonds into dummy's queen-nine. So Kamil unblocked his club jack.

South, hoping East still had the club nine, led her last club, but West took the final three tricks for down two. When did you last see each defender unblock in the same suit?

EVEN FOR HAMMAN ...

We have often seen Bob Hamman win more tricks than seems possible, but this deal from the Senior Knockout Teams surely sets a new high.

Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
	<i>Zia</i>		<i>Hamman</i>
1♣	1♦	2♥!	4♠
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass
1. Fit-jump			

At the other table, Ron Rubin (West) opened one no trump; North passed; Russ Ekeblad (East) responded two clubs; South jumped to three spades; and West's double ended the auction.

Rubin led the jack of clubs. Declarer won with dummy's ace and played a spade to his queen. West took his king and played a second club. South ruffed, cashed the ace of spades, and led his nine of diamonds. West won with his ace, cashed the spade jack and the heart ace, then played another heart to his partner's queen for down one.

Hamman was in four spades doubled. How could he possibly avoid losing the same five tricks? Well, West led the ace of hearts and East played an unclear five. West cashed the diamond ace and continued with the eight. Hamman won with dummy's king, then, believing East's signal, ruffed the jack of diamonds with his ten of spades. What happened next?

Most players would shrug their shoulders and cash the ace of spades. Not Hamman. Judging from his defence that West thought he had four winners, Hamman led the five of spades from his hand and the trick went spade five, four, two, three!

Hamman cashed his ace of spades, played a club to dummy's ace, and discarded his second heart on the ten of diamonds. He lost only one heart, one diamond and one spade.

Plus 200 and plus 790 gave the Rose Meltzer team 14 IMPs on the board. And that decided the match. Meltzer won by 16 IMPs, but if Hamman had gone down two tricks, Meltzer would have lost 7 IMPs on the board, a swing of 21.

A BIG DOUBLETON

**Michelle Brunner,
Stockport, U.K.**



This deal occurred at the Blackpool Congress in England, at the English Bridge Union's Year-End Teams.

Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
John	Tracy	Michelle	Bill
Holland	Capal	Brunner	Nichol
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	4♣	Double	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

After cashing two rounds of clubs, North had an unenviable decision as to how to continue the defence. Looking at all four hands, it is easy to see that a heart switch would have defeated the contract by two tricks following a trump promotion when the third round of hearts is played. North, not blessed with X-ray vision, chose to exit with what she thought would be safe - a trump. This had a catastrophic effect on South when declarer continued with five further rounds of the suit. With eight tricks played this was the position John had created.

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

While declarer casually pitched hearts from the table, South was mercilessly squeezed in the red suits. Unable to hang onto all four diamonds and the ace-queen of hearts in the five-card ending, Bill came down to a singleton ace of hearts.

Having read the position perfectly, John now played the five of hearts to the king and ace, setting up the heart nine for his tenth trick. Who could have predicted such a cruel fate for Bill? (Of course, had John's original heart holding been a mere eight-five doubleton with North holding the nine-two, Tracy would have been required to hang on grimly to this doubleton on the run of the trumps.)

A nicely-played hand, indeed, by the double Seniors world champion. Lesser mortals might have preferred to rely on the heart ace being with the overcaller or the diamonds breaking 3-3, but the bidding was all too revealing and John knows how to turn important information to his advantage. John Holland must surely be a serious contender for the best-played hand of the year award.

A LITTLE READING

Bob Pitts, North Wales

Some defensive manoeuvres are easy to overlook unless you are a very experienced player. Of course, as every bridge journalist will tell you, delving into the literature of the game can help in spotting these, as if it is a situation that you have not previously encountered, you may find it difficult to work out at the table.

Dealer South. Both Vul.

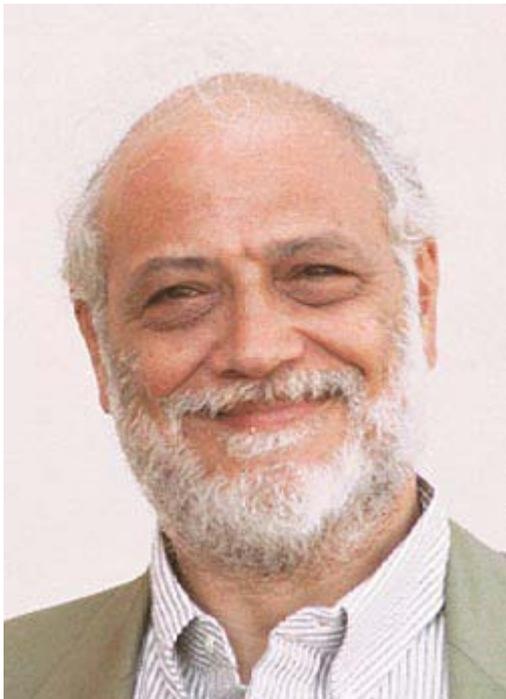
	♠ K J 3		
	♥ K Q 9 4 3		
	♦ J 3		
	♣ A J 8		
♠ Q 10 8 6		♠ A 7 2	
♥ J 10 7 6		♥ 5	
♦ A K		♦ Q 8 6 5 4 2	
♣ K 10 3		♣ Q 7 5	
	♠ 9 5 4		
	♥ A 8 2		
	♦ 10 9 7		
	♣ 9 6 4 2		

This deal came up in a local league match. After South passed, West opened a 12-14 HCP one no trump. North bid two diamonds to show a single-suited hand with a major and then passed South's conversion to two hearts.

West began with the spade six and declarer took a good view by ducking this, East taking his ace. A diamond was returned and West cashed the ace and king before playing another spade. Declarer won with the jack and stopped to consider. East had thought for a while before his final pass and so if, as seemed likely, he had a six-card diamond suit, there was a good chance that the trumps were breaking 4-1.

South could see that with only one entry to his hand, it would be impossible to genuinely take advantage of any favourable lie of the club suit, so he would need West not to spot a standard play. First, declarer cashed the kings of hearts and spades, and then crossed to the trump ace. Now a club was led to the eight in dummy and East won with the queen. A club return would be fatal, so he played back the queen of diamonds, which squeezed West. A club discard was out of the question and ruffing would allow dummy to throw the club jack, so West discarded his last spade. The diamond was ruffed in dummy and now queen and another heart threw West in to take the club finesse for declarer.

However, had West put up the king of clubs on the first round of the suit, declarer would have had no chance – perhaps he needs to read more bridge books?



THE RONA MANIFESTO

The charismatic incoming president of the World Bridge Federation, Gianarrigo Rona of Italy, is a brilliant administrator, organiser and people person. Here he conveys his thoughts on bridge.

Bridge: Hobby, Sport and Culture

The practice of Bridge, at least in its primitive form, pertains to remote ages, with some vestiges dating back to ancient times.

Bridge is the most widespread game in the world, and its fans outnumber those of any other game.

The reason for this is that Bridge is a universal game, that can be played by anyone anywhere, using the same language and technique, without requiring any particular tools except for the presence of four people and a deck of fifty-two cards.

A unique case among games, the cards are merely the necessary instrument to make the moves and do not constitute a fundamental element of the game. Nowadays, thanks to modern technology, the game can be played even without cards, at a distance, through a simple

computer and with the four players sitting in different places.

Bridge is a Hobby, a Sport and a Culture.

A Hobby, because it's a diversion, a game, a way to enjoy leisure, a playful activity in the fullest sense of the word.

A Sport because aside from the official validation of the IOC and beyond the etimological meaning of the word sport, if for one second we envision the sport concept not exclusively as a physical activity of action and movement, we will find in Bridge all the sport components: discipline, rigor, ethics, accomplishment, performance, competition, comparison, toil, diligence, study, training, exertion, sacrifice, stress.

Bridge constitutes an irreplaceable gym for the brain, which is precisely the reason why it has been coined as a mind sport.

All the components of the game, both theoretical and practical, are based on an absolute matrix of logics, mathematics and statistics. This demands from its players to exercise continuous reasoning, to improve their concentration, synthesis and analysis capabilities, to deal with constant problems of strategy, and to increase their memory skills.

It should be noted that during important tournaments that may last from ten to twelve hours per day for as much as ten to fifteen consecutive days, stress is not only psychological as related to fatigue and stamina, but also physical.

Finally, a Culture, because Bridge is substantially socialization and aggregation, its fundamental core is the partnership, and then the four players.

It is therefore essential to know one's partner, to establish a partnership, to forego a part of one's personality to merge with the partner's, to maintain relations with others, and assimilate new habits, attitudes, behaviors, different mentalities quite often pertaining to other countries, traditions and cultures.

Bridge promotes automatic socialization among people of different generations, sexes, social, education and cultural backgrounds and altogether different characteristics.

Bridge is ruled by ethical and practical standards, the compliance of which is the main object of the game and, in this sense, it has significant educational values, especially to the young.

In this respect, at the time when they are being trained and shaped for life, Bridge provides juniors with a substantial help to improve their analytical and synthetical skills.

Once the necessary assurance is acquired to interpret and evaluate data, and to formulate and make decisions, winning strategies in the programming and execution processes immediately follow, as well as the systematic awareness to avoid unnecessary risks and make the choices that offer bigger and better chance of success.



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

553. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

West led the jack of clubs. Declarer tackled this problem by counting his probable winners; five trumps, three hearts and two aces. He saw that the crucial point was to maintain enough entries to dummy to cash his winning hearts.

After taking the opening lead with dummy's ace of clubs, declarer cashed the ace and queen of trumps and then played the king of hearts. West took this with the ace and played a club to East's queen. The return of the ten of diamonds allowed declarer to win the ace of diamonds, unblock the jack of hearts and cross back to dummy with a trump to the king, drawing the last trump. Two club losers were parked on the queen and ten, giving declarer eight tricks. As he had two trumps remaining in hand, declarer had ten tricks.

If declarer had carelessly drawn trumps at tricks two and three with the ace and king, the contract would have failed on the given defence. Declarer would lack an entry to get back to dummy after unblocking the jack of hearts.

554. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
2♥	Double	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♣
Pass	6♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

All seemed easy after West led the king of hearts against six spades. Declarer took the lead with dummy's ace of hearts and played a trump to the ace, West showing out. As East had a certain trump trick, it might seem that declarer needs a successful diamond finesse to bring his contract home.

The original declarer found a better line. He ruffed a heart at trick three then cashed the king and queen of trumps before ruffing his last heart. Next he continued with the ace, king and jack of clubs. If East ruffed the third round of clubs, he would be left with only diamonds remaining in his hand and will be forced to lead a diamond. Declarer would then make two diamond tricks, four clubs, two heart ruffs and four trumps for the required twelve tricks.

When East decided to discard a diamond on the third club, declarer simply threw East on lead with a trump, discarding a diamond from dummy. This saw East forced to concede a second diamond trick as he had only diamonds left and had to lead away from his king of diamonds.

If East had turned up with four clubs, declarer would have fallen back on the diamond finesse.

2011 Dues Reminder

Members - If you've not already done so, please pay your 2011 dues to the Treasurer, contact details are on the masthead.

555. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	2NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West led the queen of spades, taken by declarer with the king. Declarer counted five top winners and saw that four club tricks would see him home. The main danger was a defender holding ace-third of clubs; he would hold up the ace for two rounds to kill dummy's club suit. However, if the second round of clubs held declarer would shift his attention to hearts and make nine tricks with three heart tricks and two tricks in each of the other suits.

Nonetheless, there was still one trap to avoid, which the original declarer missed. He led the three of clubs at trick two. East took dummy's king with the ace and returned a spade, clearing the suit for the defence. When declarer led the nine of clubs to dummy's queen he could no longer make the contract as the club suit was blocked and the king of hearts was offside.

Declarer should have played the nine of clubs to the king at trick two. East would win his ace of clubs and return a spade, as before. Declarer continues with the club eight to dummy's queen. When East shows out, declarer returns to his hand and lead the three of clubs to dummy's seven, finessing against West's ten.

556. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

West led the king of hearts. Declarer won the ace of hearts and drew trumps with the ace and jack before ruffing dummy's remaining heart. While it would be normal just to play East for long clubs, he saw no harm in gathering more information first. So, he played the king of diamonds. East won and returned the suit.

After West discarded a heart on the second diamond and East followed when the ace of clubs was cashed, declarer placed an original distribution of 0=8=1=4 on his left. Accordingly, he then led a low club towards the table and when West followed with the seven of clubs, declarer called for dummy's eight and made his slam.



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COMMUNIQUE (January 3rd 2011)

Since its foundation in 1967, the Monegasque Bridge Federation (FMB) has helped to establish Monaco's presence on the international scene, whether by participating in various international competitions or by organizing such events (European Championships, Olympiads, Bermuda Bowl) within the Principality, not forgetting the very popular International Teams Tournament each autumn.

Thanks to the impetus of its President Jean-Charles Allavena (Member of the Executive Committee of the European Bridge League) and members of the committee, the FMB has once again adopted a strategy of innovation to further its development. It is with great pleasure and pride that the FMB announces the signing of a long-term partnership with Mr. Pierre Zimmerman (See Note 1).

Within this agreement, a top-level team, Fulvio Fantoni and Claude Nunes (numbers 1 and 2 in the world ranking at the moment), Geir Helgemo and Tor Helness, Pierre Zimmerman and Franck Multon, will represent the FMB at the next European and World Championships (See Note 2).

But, above all, many local players will be involved in this project – whether by joint participation in various international competitions (European Open, American Nationals, European Teams Events), or through weekend training sessions in Monaco, or by the presence of these « Bridge Stars » at some local tournaments.

Furthermore, the FMB is currently considering, with Pierre Zimmerman, the possibility of organizing several international bridge events in Monaco.

This partnership, which obviously respects the rules of the European and World Bridge Federations as well as the laws and customs of Monaco is a very good example of the way bridge is developing. Its importance lies in the association of top-class players with the desire to promote the activities of the FMB and the creation of bridge events in the Principality.

In this way, the FMB hopes to enhance the international sporting renown of Monaco through the brilliant results of its leading team and by the establishment of new bridge activities, thus contributing to the economic activity of the Principality.

For further information, please contact : Jean-Charles Allavena, President FMB

Email : jcaconseil@libello.com

Tel: +33 6 80 86 91 03

- (1.) *Pierre Zimmerman, 55, is a property developer in Switzerland. For the last ten years his passion for bridge has led him to create and sponsor several top-level teams with whom he has enjoyed much success in national and international competitions (World Champions in the Transnational Open 2007 at Shanghai and in 2009 at Sao Paulo, Cavendish 2010, Vanderbilt 2010...) This new partnership with the FMB illustrates our common ambition to win yet more prestigious titles (European Open Championship, Bermuda Bowl, World Mind Sports Games).*
- (2.) *The ad hoc Committees of the European and World Federations will have to confirm their approval for the representation of Monaco by the Zimmerman team.*

20, quai Jean-Charles Rey – MC 98000 MONACO

Email : contact@federation-bridge.mc - Internet : www.federation-bridge.mc

NICE WORK IN NICE

Mark Horton, Bath, UK

In the semi-finals of the district Côte d'Azur *Mixte Quatre*, this deal, which featured some excellent card reading, helped Colin Brown's team of *Première Mineure* to finish third and qualify for the district final in March, ahead of a number of much higher rated teams.

Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North <i>Shadyro</i>	East	South <i>Brown</i>
—	—	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	2♥	Pass
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	6♣
Pass	6♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Since three hearts was ambiguous as to intent, when North then bid four diamonds, South thought that clubs were a possible strain, hence his jump to slam to give North a choice between the black suits.

When West led the two of hearts, prospects were poor, but East had only passed initially after a slight, but perceptible, pause – which was not lost on declarer. When East came in on the second round of the bidding, it was clear where most of the missing high cards would be located.

Declarer won the opening lead with the ace of hearts, crossed to the ace of clubs, ruffed a heart and ruffed a club. When East contributed the king, he cashed the king of spades on which East dropped the jack. Taking that at face value, declarer decided East had started with a 1=5=5=2 shape and after cashing the ace of diamonds he ruffed a heart and played three rounds of clubs, discarding diamonds from dummy. These cards remained: (See top of next column...)

When declarer played the jack of diamonds West was forced to ruff and lead into the spade tenace.

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

At the other table declarer, in the same contract, but against silent opponents, took the ruffing club finesse.

THE RED DEVILS

v.

THE SPURS

John Carruthers, Toronto

“Wot’s this, then?” I hear you say, or, as one of Elmore Leonard’s characters was fond of exclaiming, “Wuh duh fuh?” Man U is leading the Premiership and San Antonio is atop the NBA standings. Man U is undefeated as of this writing, with 15 wins and 9 draws; the Spurs are 40-8.

Okay, John Holland and Paul Hackett are from Manchester and Venkatrao Koneru (known affectionately as ‘Babu’ or ‘Colonel’) is from San Antonio. His partner on the following deal, Ira Chorush, is from Houston, but it’s been a while since the Rockets, Astros or Oilers were at all strong, so we’re deferring to Babu.

Here are two deals from recent championships where the two pairs bid to excellent slams. See which auction you prefer.

The Manchester United Red Devils – The Rand Cup for the World Senior Team Championship, World Bridge Series, Philadelphia, PA, Oct. 1-16, 2010



Round 1. Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

♠ 9 8 7 6 2
♥ K 10 5 2
♦ 9 8 5
♣ 8

♠ 10
♥ Q 9 8 4 3
♦ A Q J 4
♣ Q 5 2

♠ A K J 3
♥ —
♦ K 10 7 2
♣ A K J 4 3

♠ Q 5 4
♥ A J 7 6
♦ 6 3
♣ 10 9 7 6

West	North	East	South
<i>Hackett</i>		<i>Holland</i>	
—	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♦	Pass	6♦	Pass
7♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

**The San Antonio Spurs – The Bobby Nail
Life Master Open Pairs, Fall NABC,
Orlando, FL, Nov. 26-Dec Dec. 5, 2010**



Dealer South. EW Vul.

♠ A
♥ A Q J 8
♦ 8 7 5 4
♣ A J 9 2

♠ 8 5 4 3
♥ 10 5 4 3
♦ 10 6 3
♣ 7 3

♠ K Q J 10 2
♥ 9 7
♦ J 9 2
♣ K 10 8

♠ 9 7 6
♥ K 6 2
♦ A K Q
♣ Q 6 5 4

West	North	East	South
	<i>Koneru</i>		<i>Chorush</i>
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♥	1♠	Double!
Pass	2♠ ²	Pass	3♦ ³
Pass	4♣ ⁴	Pass	4♦ ⁵
Pass	4♠ ⁵	Pass	4NT ⁶
Pass	6♣	Pass	Pass

1. Support Double: three-card heart support
2. Strong hand; could be agreeing either hearts or clubs, or looking for a stopper for 3NT
3. Values in diamonds
4. Confirms clubs; slam try
5. Cue bids
6. More encouraging than five clubs

These were two terrific sequences. On the first, a beautiful, completely-natural auction led to a very good grand slam, which needed only two major suit ruffs in either hand to make and could survive anything but the worst breaks

There was a little science in the second auction, especially the four no trump bid, but judgement was far more important, as it was in the Red Devils' auction. The three-diamond bid was key, revealing the lack of wastage in spades. Here too, the breaks were favourable.

Well, who won, the Red Devils or the Spurs?

**THE
CHARLESTON**

**Dan Gerstman,
Buffalo, NY**



At the recent Charleston, South Carolina Regional Tournament, we had three boards of interest. On the first, playing with my wife Sharon, I naturally got to notrumps first:

Pairs. Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ A Q J
♥ Q 7 6
♦ K Q J 10 4
♣ K 2

♠ 7 5 4
♥ K 10 8 4
♦ 9 3
♣ J 10 9 4

♠ K 9 3 2
♥ J 9 5 3
♦ 8 6 5 2
♣ 6

♠ 10 8 6
♥ A 2
♦ A 7
♣ A Q 8 7 5 3

West	North	East	South
	<i>Sharon G.</i>		<i>Danny G.</i>
—	—	—	INT
Pass	6NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

On the club jack lead I lost one club trick and made 12. West lamented that she hadn't led a spade, but I pointed out that after losing the spade finesse, since she had the king of hearts with the club length, I had a Vienna Coup and she'd be squeezed in clubs and hearts. I did

not point out that I'd have refused the spade finesse, since it was Pairs and I'd have all 13 tricks if clubs were 3-2.

On the next board, Sharon played in three no trump and actually did the following at the table. And yes, I know four hearts was an infinitely superior contract:

IMPs. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

Sharon's LHO had opened one spade and after pass, pass, double, he bid two clubs. The rest of the auction is too embarrassing to repeat. Suffice it to say we finished in everyone's favourite contract.

West led the spade king, and when it was ducked, another spade to dummy's ace. Sharon led a heart to the ace, dropping the stiff king of hearts and then exited with a spade. Her LHO had a choice between cashing his spades so his partner could later be squeezed when Sharon cashed the ace-king of clubs or else just leading a random card in which case the spades were isolated and she could concede a diamond to East.

Finally, this excellent defensive effort by Sharon where, again the optimal contract was not reached, the opponents playing four spades instead of four hearts. Declarer did not play the hand to best advantage either.

IMPs. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Danny G.		Sharon G.	
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Two spades was a weak jump shift. I led the diamond queen: king, ace, seven and Sharon made the excellent return of a club. Declarer played a diamond to his nine and my jack and then the defence cashed the ace of hearts and forced the dummy with a club. This left the dummy with the ace of spades, the hearts minus the queen, the ten of diamonds and no clubs.

Declarer cashed the ace of spades and the good diamond (he should have ruffed it), pitching his last club, and then led the heart king followed by another heart. Sharon ruffed with her remaining spade, the jack, thereby setting up my nine for the setting trick. Obviously, playing in hearts from the North side would have protected the diamond king from attack and it would have been a simple matter to make five when the trumps split.

Of course, declarer should have made his contract anyway, by ruffing the good diamond, finishing the trumps and running the hearts for a club pitch.

THE GRØNBORG COUP?
Per Grønberg, Holte, Denmark

Theoretically speaking, how would you feel about playing a grand slam with a singleton trump ace in dummy and Q1085432 in declarer's hand? Is it possible to construct four hands in a way to making this possible? While you try to figure this out, look at the following hands from a session in the Blakset Bridge Center in Copenhagen...

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

My partner playing North bid a very sound seven no trump, which normally would produce 14 tricks. But it didn't. Later that evening in bed, sleepless, playing bridge in my mind, it suddenly struck me: How about a grand slam in spades? Well, it goes without saying that it cannot happen in practical bridge, but let's see how it goes with an opening lead in clubs.

You play the king, discard the club ace on the ace of diamonds and use your entries in dummy to reduce your trumps to king-queen-eight-seven, ending in dummy, which consists of a card in each denomination: ace; eight; jack; ten. Both opponents have shown three hearts and four diamonds. Therefore, you play dummy's club ten. East plays the nine of spades and you win the trick with the queen. The next trick is a trump: eight,

jack, ace, four, and you take the last two with the king-nine over the ten-five.

In my recollection, I've not seen a similar play before. And it's not likely to occur in the future (unless someone now has been inspired by this example and indications from the bidding). If this is a new coup, I suggest – lacking modesty at the age of 76 – that it be named Coup Grønborg.

The whole distribution was:

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



REVISITING ORLANDO

A Swiss Teams Sparkler

Barry Rigal, NYC

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

Both tables in our Swiss Teams match overreached somewhat to four hearts. Both Wests led a normal if unfortunate king of spades, and declarer was left to make the best of it. At one table, South won the ace of spades, drew trumps, and led a spade to West's queen and a thoughtful ten from East, Alex Ornstein. That persuaded Sue Picus to shift to the jack of diamonds, and now declarer was dead whatever he did.

At our table, declarer made the defence more challenging by ducking the first trick. Now should East follow with the ten as suit preference? I guess so, but East didn't think of that, and left West to do the best she could. She tried the ace of diamonds, but now the defence was dead. When West continued with the diamond jack, South could duck, and even if the defenders shifted, declarer could use spade and heart entries to ruff out the diamond king, so both club losers eventually went away on dummy's winners.

Tit for Tat Barry Rigal, NYC

You show me yours and I'll show you mine (trump coup, that is). On successive deals from the Kaplan Blue Ribbon Pairs final, the opportunity for a trump coup presented itself and both sides took advantage. The combatants were Danny and JoAnn Sprung and Jaggy Shivdasani/Wynn Allagaert.

Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Danny S.	Allagaert	JoAnn S.	Shivdasani
—	—	—	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦ ¹
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Non-minimum

On a heart lead, Jaggy took the ace, pitching a diamond, then ruffed three hearts in hand, using the club ace and a third-round club ruff to get back to dummy. Then he ruffed his last club with the queen of spades and passed the spade ten successfully. In the four-card ending, he exited with a diamond and sat back to wait for his ace-jack of spades.

Not to be outdone, Danny Sprung showed on the next deal that he knows a thing or two about trump coups. (See top of next page...)

On the lead of the king of hearts, Sprung won and unblocked the diamond queen, then crossed to the ace of spades, running the diamonds to discard clubs. Now came a club to the ten, jack and king. (Yes, perhaps if South wins the club queen to play a trump he does better.)

Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	Double	Pass
2♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

When North won the club king, he played the queen of hearts and another heart. Danny ruffed high and led a club from dummy. This was the four-card ending:

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

When South ruffed high, Sprung discarded, and finessed the seven on the trump return for plus 170.

The Big Comeback Phillip Alder, Hobe Sound, FL

The winners of the Senior KO Teams were LouAnn O'Rourke, NPC (Bates, Casen, Jacobus, Krekorian and Wold). In their semifinal against Meltzer (Larsen, Ekeblad, Rubin, Hamman and Zia), the O'Rourke team was down 25 IMPs with one set to play. This was the final deal:

Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bates	Hamman	Wold	Zia
1♦ ¹	Double	2♥ ²	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Two-plus diamonds.
2. Five spades and four hearts, not game-invitational opposite a minimum balanced hand.

West	North	East	South
Rubin	Casen	Ekeblad	Krekorian
1♥ ¹	Double	2NT ²	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Four-plus hearts, perhaps a longer suit outside
2. Limit raise with at least four hearts

When Wold (East) was the declarer, Zia (South) led his singleton club, covered by the queen, king and ace. Declarer played a spade from hand, South rising with his ace and shifting to a diamond. East won with dummy's ace, played a heart to his nine and led another club, South ruffing and playing a second diamond, ruffed. Declarer ruffed a spade, cashed the club jack, ruffed a club and ruffed a spade.

When declarer led the good seven of clubs from the dummy, Hamman (North) ruffed, but declarer overruffed and discarded the queen of diamonds on the spade jack.

Wold lost only one spade and two hearts. Note also that Wold could still have made his contract if South had not won the first spade trick. Wold could, for example, have crossruffed spades and diamonds, then endplayed North with his king of hearts to give dummy a couple of club tricks at the end.

In the other room, Casen (North) led a low trump. Rubin (West) won with his jack and played the queen of clubs: king, ace, eight. With the fall of the club eight, declarer could have led a diamond to his ace, drawn trumps with the aid of a second finesse, and conceded a trick to North's ten of clubs. But after crossing to his ace of diamonds, West ruffed a diamond and led a club from the dummy, which South ruffed.

Krekorian shifted to a low spade to his partner's king and Casen led the eight of hearts, leaving declarer with only losing options. If West finessed dummy's ten and cashed the ace, he would have then lost one diamond and one club. If instead declarer finessed the heart ten, played a club to his jack, and ruffed a club, he would have conceded two trump tricks.

Instead, West played dummy's ace of hearts, led the club nine to his jack, ruffed a club, ruffed a spade and led his winning club. But North ruffed with his king of hearts and cashed the king of diamonds for down one. Plus 620 and plus 100 gave the O'Rourke team 12 IMPs.

O'Rourke scored 76 IMPs to Meltzer's 23 to win by 28.



Correspondence

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

John:

Regarding No.552, Page 6, right-hand column, in "Strange Ladies"...

No doubt you will be inundated by readers who point out that Patrick Bogacki is wrong when he says that three notrump was unmakeable after a spade to the ten (excellent duck by Lorenzini), heart to the jack (wonderful duck by Grosset), heart to the king, ace of hearts. (South leads another heart from the dummy, which squeezes East in an unusual way.)

I am writing this up, but I do not think the fact that declarer could have still got home should detract from the defence, surely the forerunner for this year's junior award.

Regards, Phillip Alder, Hobe Sound, FL

John:

Subject:Address Update

Several years ago the local council gave our street a name and our house a number, much to my displeasure, I liked not being a number. However in their infinite wisdom the local post office is now returning mail that does not have that name and number on the address, so to ameliorate any snail mail contact please ensure that the following line is in the address: I, Rue du Pot de Vin.

Students of French slang will know that a 'Pot de Vin' is a bribe. However, in this case, the phrase refers to a cafe that used to exist many years ago at the crossroads where our road begins. If I have not been in contact over the past few months, then I apologise, this is due to the fact that I am working nine days a week at the moment. I do two days at the Golf Club as per normal and do lunch and dinner seven days a week for the count who lives in the chateau overlooking (owning) the golf course, this means I leave home at 8.00 in the morning and arrive home near 10.00 in the evening completely physically shattered. In addition to this I am trying to do some work in the bridge world which is consuming the vast amount of free time that remains.

I have a couple of hours off this afternoon and have found an open wi-fi connection and so I am trying to catch up on a couple of emails instead of a couple of hours of well-needed (and deserved, I might say) siesta.

In 2011, when I have some free time, I shall attempt to write about my exploits in the chateau as it is a different world, in fact a different century (or two) but for now I must away to other pressing emails.

Ron Tacchi, Vaupillon, France

NEWS & VIEWS



Heinz Guthwert

Heinz Guthwert died on November 29, 2010 at the age of 82. His mother was from Germany, and therefore Heinz was fluent in that language as well as in Finnish and Swedish. He was one of Finland's best theoreticians and bridge players. He was also a writer; he had a regular column in Hufvudstadsbladet, the main Swedish daily paper in Finland. In Bridgelehti (the official organ of Bridge League of Finland) he conducted the challenge matches, wrote about new bidding innovations and quizzed players with yearly Christmas double and single dummy problems. He was active to the end; in fact, one of his articles was in print at the time for his death. Heinz always used the Scandinavian way of card notation, D for queen and Kn for jack. He could not understand the influence of English in playing cards.

In the sixties, Heinz was twice a member of the Finnish open team and during that time Finland achieved their best placings in Open Teams European Championships ever, fourth place in Baden-Baden and sixth place in Ostende. Heinz won the Finnish Pairs competition in 1963 and three consecutive Finnish Teams competitions starting 1966.

Most bridge players in Finland will remember Guthwert for his incredible bridge hands that he remembered from a long time ago and also for what we Finns call Heinz' finesse. This is surely known in other places of the world with other names. It goes like this: In a suit, North has KJ9 and South A43(2). South needs all the tricks and 'knows' that the queen is in East's hand: Thus you play the jack and finesse if not covered, if covered you take the ace and finesse for the ten in West's hand.

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