



BULLETIN

www.ibpa.com

President:

PATRICK D JOURDAIN
8 Felin Wen, Rhiwbina
Cardiff CF14 6NW, WALES UK
(44) 29 2062 8839
president.ibpa@gmail.com

Chairman:

PER E JANNERSTEN
Banergatan 15
SE-752 37 Uppsala, SWEDEN
(46) 18 52 13 00
ibpa@jannersten.se

Executive Vice-President:

JAN TOBIAS van CLEEFF
Prinsegracht 28a
2512 GA The Hague, NETHERLANDS
(31) 70 360 5902
jvcleeff@xs4all.nl

Organizational Vice-President & Bulletin Production Manager:

DILIP GIDWANI
401 Mariden, 16th Road Bandra West
Mumbai 400 050, INDIA
(91) 22 98205 47150 Fax: 22 26002241
dilipgidwani@hotmail.com

Secretary:

HERMAN DE WAEL
Michel Willemsslaan 40
B-2610 Wilrijk, BELGIUM
(32) 3 827 64 45 Fax: (32) 3 825 29 19
hermandw@skynet.be

Treasurer:

HEATHER DHONDY
50 Great North Way
London NW4 1HS, ENGLAND UK
(44) 20 8203 2119
heather.dhondy@btopenworld.com

Membership Secretary:

JEREMY DHONDY
50 Great North Way
London NW4 1HS, ENGLAND UK
(44) 20 8203 2119
j.dhondy@btinternet.com

Honorary General Counsel:

WILLIAM J. PENCHARZ
Lacourarie, Barthelemy de Bussière
24360 Piegut Pluvier, FRANCE
+33(0)5 53 60 30 60
billpencharz@hotmail.co.uk

Awards Secretary:

BARRY J. RIGAL
Apt 8E, 22 West 26th Street,
New York NY 10010, USA
(1) 212 366 4799
barryrigal@mindspring.com

Presidents Emeritii:

TOMMY SANDSMARK (NORWAY)
HENRY FRANCIS (USA)

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Editor: John Carruthers

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Editorial

From time to time, we notice that other bridge publications do things differently than we do. Occasionally, we even discuss these matters with someone. Here's the reasoning behind some of what we do...

IMP v. imp

According to the Oxford English Dictionary, "imp" is a noun meaning "Child of the Devil; mischievous child". "Imps" is the nickname for the Lincoln City football team. On the other hand, IMP is an acronym for, among others, International Match Points. As acronyms are normally in upper case in English, we capitalize IMPs for bridge purposes.

Vulnerability Designations

There are three methods in common usage: (i) Love All/Game All, etc; (ii) None Vul./All Vul.; and (iii) Neither Vul./Both Vul. Method (i) came from tennis, one supposes, and (ii) from Ely Culbertson, who loved the term "vulnerable". Method (iii) seems more bridge-like as "neither" and "both" refer to the partnership rather than each individual player as "none" and "all" do.

Hand v. Deal

The Bridge World promulgates the convention of calling 13 cards a "hand" and 52 cards a "deal", one which makes immediate sense when you hear about it since it allows differentiation between the two.

Bidding Diagram Compass Points

Since we read left to right in English (and other Roman-alphabet languages), and the game of bridge proceeds clockwise, it make sense to have bidding diagrams in the order West/North/East/South, since the left-most hand is always West. However, it should be noted that some authorities such as The Bridge World, The Times and the New York Times still use the South/West/North/East layout.. Less popular and inconsistent is to begin the diagram with the dealer and go clockwise from there, e.g., even East/South/West/North.

Final Bid

Whether we use "All Pass" "End" or "Pass-Pass-Pass" seems largely a matter of personal preference. Ours is for "Pass-Pass-Pass". This reflects what actually happens at the table.

Designation of Cards and Bids/Calls

Should we use "Four Spades", "four spades" or 4♠? Should we write "the nine of diamonds" or the ♠9? Logically, we think, bidding and hand diagrams should use symbols and the text body should use text, but personal preference enters into it as well. As for upper- or lowercase to designate a bid, we use lowercase throughout simply because it unnecessarily complicates matters to use uppercase for a bid, but lowercase otherwise (when they are used as verbs or adverbs, for example). We do, however, use uppercase when referring to a convention, even if the convention contains a bid or call, such as "Negative Double". Although even this usage can be problematic, as for example, "Forcing Pass" or "forcing pass".

Am I nuts? Am I the only one who thinks about this stuff?

Address all IBPA Bulletin correspondence to: JOHN CARRUTHERS
P.O. Box 69, Harrow, Ontario, N0R 1G0, CANADA
Tel: +1 519-738-3031
email: ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca



FAME IS THE SPUR

Mark Horton, Bath, UK

Slava Grinuk (slava is Russian for ‘fame’) was a talented Russian bridge player who died an untimely death at 30 years of age. An annual tournament in his memory sponsored by some non-bridge-playing friends of Grinuk has been held in Moscow since 2003. The tournament has gone from strength to strength and this year Organizing Committee Chairman Pavel Portnoy and his team assembled another world-class field for the Top 16. They also decided to produce a Daily Bulletin, which is how I came to visit one of the most exciting capital cities in the world.

Sixty VP were at stake in every round and a win by 30 IMPs was enough for a maximum 60-0.

Here are a few highlights:

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Muller</i>	<i>Brink</i>	<i>de Wijs</i>	<i>Drijver</i>
—	1♠	Pass	2♣ ¹
Pass	2♦	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Artificial game force

East led the four of clubs and declarer won with dummy’s ace and took the spade finesse. When that held, he exited with a club and West won and played a trump. East took his king and exited with a trump. Declarer won in dummy, cashed the ace of diamonds and played a diamond to the nine. He was soon claiming

ten tricks and plus 420.

West	North	East	South
<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Tuszynski</i>	<i>Versace</i>
—	1♠	Pass	2NT ¹
Pass	3♣ ²	Pass	3♦ ³
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

- 6-9 with 4 spades or 10-11 with 3 spades
- Relay
- 10-11

Play developed along identical lines, but here declarer won the third round of trumps in dummy and advanced the jack of diamonds. West showed no emotion and declarer, not a follower of the theory expounded by Zia – if they don’t cover they don’t have it – ran it to East’s queen. One down and a big swing for the Poles.

Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Zmudzinski</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Narkiewicz</i>	<i>Versace</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♦ ¹
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. 4 hearts and 5+ clubs and a singleton

With South known to hold a shortage should East avoid a spade lead? It is asking a lot, but essentially the spade lead gave East/West no chance to defeat the contract. Declarer won with the ten, forced out the ace of clubs, lost a spade, won the next one, and played a diamond, plus 400 to pick up 5 IMPs.

Three no trump was only defeated at one table:

West	North	East	South
<i>Kwiecien</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♣	1♠	Double
Redouble	1NT ¹	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. 14-17

Knowing that a spade lead could only help declarer, East tried the king of hearts. At double dummy declarer can get home by ducking but that is an impossible play to find. Winning and attacking clubs saw West win and switch to a spade which left declarer without resource. Defeating three no trump was worth 6 IMPs.

Dealer South. EW Vul.

♠ K 2
 ♥ 10 8 5 4 3
 ♦ Q 5
 ♣ A K Q 10

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

♠ A 4 3
 ♥ A K 9 2
 ♦ A K 10 6 4
 ♣ 6

West	North	East	South
<i>O. Herbst</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>I. Herbst</i>	<i>Versace</i>
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♠ ¹
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♦	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♥	Pass	Pass

1. Artificial, strong

Of course six hearts was easy and declarer was soon claiming plus 980. Everyone reached a making small slam except de Wijs-Muller, who ventured seven no trump against Brogeland-Sælensminde.

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>de Wijs</i>	<i>Sælensminde</i>	<i>Muller</i>
—	—	—	1♣ ¹
Pass	1♠ ²	Pass	1NT ³
Pass	2♣ ⁴	Pass	2♦ ³
Pass	3♣ ⁵	Pass	3♦ ³
Pass	3NT ⁶	Pass	4♣ ³
Pass	4♦ ⁷	Pass	4♥ ³
Pass	4♠ ⁸	Pass	4NT ³
Pass	5♥ ⁹	Pass	7NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Strong, artificial, forcing
2. Positive with hearts
3. Relays (see text for the meanings of 4-9)

After the positive response of one spade, South relayed six times to discover that North was 2=5=2=4 with the ace-king-queen of clubs, the spade king and the diamond queen. There was also the chance that North might hold some other useful cards, the queen of spades, or one or more of the missing jacks.

When West led the eight of clubs declarer's first move was to test the hearts, as five tricks in that suit would be enough. When East discarded a club on the second round declarer knew that he would need to score five tricks in diamonds, which would bring his total up to 12. If the jack of clubs was only twice guarded that would give declarer an extra trick, so he crossed to the queen of diamonds and cashed two more clubs discarding hearts from his hand. When West discarded a spade on the third round declarer turned to diamonds and was able to reach this ending:

♠ K 2 ♥ 10 ♦ — ♣ 10	♠ J 10 8 ♥ — ♦ — ♣ J
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♠ Q 9 7 ♥ Q ♦ — ♣ —	♠ A 4 3 ♥ — ♦ 6 ♣ —
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The last diamond forced each defender in turn to discard a spade. That was worth 11 IMPs. (Of course it was impossible for West to find a spade lead, which breaks up the ending.) A candidate for an IBPA award perhaps?

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

♠ A 5 4 3
 ♥ Q
 ♦ A 9 7 6 2
 ♣ K J 3

West	North	East	South
<i>Bessis</i>	<i>Brink</i>	<i>Volcker</i>	<i>Drijver</i>
—	—	—	1♦
1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

North led the queen of spades and continued the suit, declarer ruffing and playing the queen of diamonds. South took the ace and switched to the queen of hearts. Declarer won in hand, drew a second round of trumps with dummy's ace, cashed to diamonds, pitching a club, and then played the king of spades, discarding another club. That left South on play, forced to lead away from the king of clubs or concede a ruff and discard. That

beautiful exploitation of South's failure to play the ace of spades after taking the ace of diamonds was worth 11 IMPs.

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Gawrys	Khiuppenin	Tuszynski	Kholomeev
—	—	—	3♥
4♦	4♥	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

South's preempt might have turned out well if North had doubled West's intervention, but it was hard to make that particular move. West led the king of spades and declarer won in dummy and played clubs to pitch his losing spades. West ruffed the third round and the contract was two down, minus 300, and a useful 5 IMPs to the leaders.

West	North	East	South
Pachtman	Lauria	Ginossar	Versace
—	—	—	3♥
4♦	6NT	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

East led his diamond to the queen and ace and West switched to the king of spades. When the smoke had cleared the contract was five down, -1100. It cost 14 IMPs and just about removed any lingering hopes the Italians might have had.

Dealer South. NS Vul

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

West	North	East	South
Gawrys	Khiuppenin	Tuszynski	Kholomeev
—	—	—	2♦ ¹
Double ²	2NT ³	Pass	3♦
3♥	4♣	4♦	4NT
5♥	5♠	Pass	6♦
Pass	Pass	6♥	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 18-19 balanced
2. Majors
3. Minors

This was the players' 111th board, so readers familiar with the meaning of 'Nelson' will be prepared for something to happen. I confess I have no idea what was going on. If West's double promised the majors then you would expect East to have bid spades over two no trump. Still, the contract was a mere seven down, minus 1700, a good save against the 2220 available to North-South, but still a loss of 5 IMPs as only two pairs bid the grand slam. Sergey Poroshin and Dmitry Volkov deserve praise for saving in seven spades – it escaped for minus 1400 and a 3-IMP pickup.

The Poles had a handy, but not quite decisive lead. The deals were quiet, but the Italians made steady gains, while the Poles lost points. When the last deal settled on the table their lead was down to just 10 VP.

Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Gawrys	O.Herbst	Tuszynski	I.Herbst
Pass	Pass	1♣ ¹	Pass
1♦ ²	Pass	1NT ³	Pass
2♣ ⁴	Pass	2♦ ⁵	Pass
2♠ ⁶	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣ ⁷	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♠	All Pass		

1. Polish
2. 0-7
3. Any game force
4. Relay
5. Unbalanced
6. Relay
7. Cue bid

North led the jack of spades and it was easy for declarer

to organise a heart ruff (not needed on the actual lie) for plus 450. Had Tuszynski gone on to the doomed slam the title would have gone to the Italians.

TOP-16 RESULTS \$US

1. Gawrys-Tuszynski (POL) 10,000
2. Lauria-Versace (ITA) 6,000
3. Herbst-Herbst (ISR) 4,000
4. Bessis-Volcker (FRA) 3,000
5. Brogeland-Sælensminde (NOR) 2,000
6. Khiuppenen-Kholomeev (RUS) 1,000

There is also a Top 40 event, which this year featured an appearance by the legendary Poker player Gus Hansen. The winners, who gain promotion to the main event in 2012 (and \$5000) were Vladimir Andreev and Valentin Kychanov.



Vestfold (in Norway the 10 teams represent their county) had a comfortable 12 VPs lead going into the last round. A draw against Vest-Agder meant that they could not be overtaken, and they duplicated their 2006 win. But Vest-Agder put up a good fight, and a big audience on BBO witnessed this beauty, in my opinion a worthy candidate for a "defence of the year" award.

Dealer West. EW Vul.

♠ A K 10 8 2
♥ 9
♦ A Q 10 7
♣ 8 3 2

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

♠ 7 6 4 3
♥ A K J 10 8 6
♦ —
♣ 9 7 6

West	North	East	South
Aalberg	O.K.Kopstad	Høiland	K.O.Kopstad
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Three declarers took 13 tricks; one was even in six spades. But one pair held declarer to nine tricks, and it was Tom Høiland in the East seat who set the BBO audience afire. First he found the club lead, and the four went to the ace. Aalberg returned club 5, and Høiland

played the king! Aalberg next overtook the jack with the queen, and in a flash the thirteenth club was on the table. A trump trick for the defence meant 11 IMPs for Vest-Agder. At the other table declarer got a trump lead and was never in trouble.

My second offering is a cute hand played by Vestfold's Ole Kristoffer Kopstad, in the penultimate round, against the Midt-Trøndelag 1, who were defending champions for the second year running.

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

♠ 7
♥ 10 7 6 5 4
♦ K 8 3 2
♣ 8 7 5

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

♠ K J 5 4
♥ Q 9
♦ 10
♣ A Q J 10 6 3

West	North	East	South
K.O. Kopstad	Molberg	O.K. Kopstad	Aa
—	Pass	2♣ ¹	2♠ ²
Pass	3♣	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Weaker than most play
2. Clubs; or diamonds and hearts

Aa tried the club ace, and continued with the queen to East's king. Spade ace and spade queen put Aa back into the lead, and another club was ruffed. The spade ten was won by the jack, and if Aa had played another club, O.K. Kopstad would have been OK playing with the odds. He ruffs, and since it is more likely that the heart queen is doubleton than the diamond king falling under the ace, he would have used his heart entry to take the diamond finesse. Ten tricks from the top!

So Aa offered a "Greek gift" by returning a diamond, thus giving O.K. an entry for the heart finesse. But declarer had other ideas. Having a good picture of the distribution around the table, he won the diamond queen, played two rounds of spades, and the diamond ace. Dummy kept ace-doubleton of hearts and the diamond jack, and North was subject to a show-up squeeze. He had to come down to two hearts to keep the diamond king, and the heart ace and king saw O.K. home. At the other table East made three spades, for a loss of 7 IMPs.

Double dummy, four spades is actually unbeatable! On a red-suit lead you cash two heart tricks and take the diamond finesse in the process, and play the spade queen (or ten). South is end played, and has nothing better to do than return a spade to east. He cashes his trump

ace and exits with another spade. With only clubs left south has to give east his tenth trick!

Premier League champions 2011: Ole Kristoffer Kopstad, Kjell Otto Kopstad, Gjermund Rekstad, Odin S. Svendsen, Jan Tore Solli Berg, Petter Tøndel and Daniel Ueland.



WHY ME, MR. NAKAMURA?

(From the Sydney Morning Herald)

In my view, this was the best played hand at the 2011 NEC Cup:

Round 11. Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

1. Natural, game-force
2. Cue-bids
3. 2 key cards plus the spade queen

Yoshiyuki Nakamura was South, playing with Masayuki Hayasaka. I was West and Matt Mullamphy was East. I led the seven of diamonds: four, ten, king. Nakamura played the spade jack: three, seven, six. How did he continue?

I was confident that I was about to score plus 50 I had a sure trump trick and the heart king over South's heart suit figured to be our second trick. Nakamura soon proved that my confidence was misplaced.

He took trick one with the diamond king and led the spade jack, which held. Then came the club ace, club king, a spade to the queen and the club nine, queen,

ruffed. He continued with a diamond to the ace and the spade ace. These cards remained:

<p>♠ — ♥ 4 2 ♦ Q 6 ♣ J</p> <p>♠ K ♥ K 10 5 ♦ — ♣ 10</p>	<p>♠ — ♥ J 9 7 ♦ J 8 ♣ —</p> <p>♠ 10 ♣ A Q 6 3 ♦ — ♣ —</p>
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South cashed the club jack, pitching a heart, followed by the diamond queen, ditching another heart. West could do nothing. In practice, I ditched a heart, but South played the fourth diamond, ruffed it and claimed. A very elegant and well-played plus 980. Next time, Mr. Nakamura, please choose someone else on whom to inflict your fine play. At the other table six spades was one down.

Two others made six spades, both on the four of clubs lead. There were 22 declarers who went one down in six spades, 11 on the seven of diamonds lead, seven on a low club lead and four on the spade two lead.

WHY ME, MR. ROGI?

(From www.ronklingerbridge.com)

This was a very well played hand from Qualifying Round 2 of the Open Pairs at the recent 50th Gold Coast Congress:

Board 25. Dealer West. NS. Vul.

<p>♠ K J 6 ♥ J ♦ A K 9 7 4 ♣ J 7 6 5</p> <p>♠ 9 8 ♥ 10 6 4 2 ♦ Q 8 6 5 ♣ Q 9 3</p>	<p>♠ A Q 7 3 ♥ A Q 7 5 ♦ 2 ♣ 10 8 4 2</p> <p>♠ 10 5 4 2 ♥ K 9 8 3 ♦ J 10 3 ♣ A K</p>
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West	North	East	South
Ron Klinger	Octavianus Wohon	Matt Mullamphy	Tommy Rogi
Pass	1♦	Double	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

After the given auction, a spade lead did not seem attractive, and so I began with the heart four. Matt Mullamphy took the ace and returned the heart five, nine, ten. As it happens, a third heart would have been fatal and so would a spade. I switched to the club three:

five, ten, ace. Declarer played the jack of diamonds, covered by the queen and won with the king, and ran five rounds of diamonds. This was the position with one diamond to go:

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

On the last diamond, East could not afford to let a spade or a heart go, and so he pitched a club. South discarded a spade and West a heart. Now came a club to the king and a spade. East could take two spade tricks, but when East played the heart seven, South finessed the eight and had nine tricks for plus 600 and a 90% score.

**TGR's AT
THE NEW CAVENDISH -
AUCTION PAIRS 2011
Peter Hasenson, London**

The second *TGRs at the New Cavendish Auction Pairs Bridge Tournament* was held on Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th January 2011. Tony Forrester, Geir Helgemo, Tor Helness, Zia Mahmood and Andrew Robson led a star-studded international field of 68 pairs, 20 of whom were seeded.

The auction itself, conducted by Ruth Zandberg, an auctioneer by profession, raised £51,150, with the top-priced pairs being Geir Helgemo & Thor-Erik Hoftaniska from Norway (£3,300), Peter Fredin & Gunnar Andersson from Sweden (£3,000), Thomas Charlsen & Tor Helness from Norway (£2,800) and Krzysztof Buras & Grzegorz Narkiewicz from Poland (£2,100). There was also a non-expert category, so if you were lucky enough to own one of those pairs you would get a fair payday even if they didn't finish in the absolute top places.

Results:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Einarsson/Jørgensen (ICE) | 60.0% |
| 2. Forrester/Herman (ENG) | 59.5% |
| 3. Teodorescu/Coldea (ROM) | 59.2% |
| 4. Molberg/Furunes (NOR) | 59.1% |
| 5. Hoftaniska/Helgemo (NOR) | 58.0% |

Tony Forrester and David Herman finished fourth last year; the following hand assisted them in taking the runners-up spot this time.

Session 1. Board 12. Dealer North. EW Vul. Matchpoints.

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

West	North <i>Herman</i>	East	South <i>Forrester</i>
—	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♣ ¹
Pass	4♦ ¹	Pass	4NT ²
Pass	5♣ ³	Pass	6♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Cue bids
2. Roman Key Card Blackwood
3. 0 or 3 key cards

Forrester won the opening lead of the diamond eight and led a club to the eight and queen. He ruffed the diamond continuation and played the ace and queen of hearts. A spade to the queen followed by another diamond ruff; spade to the king and then two trumps throwing clubs from dummy to squeeze RHO. Twelve tricks and 62 out of 66 matchpoints.

But... East missed an opportunity for a brilliancy award. He should have played the ten of clubs at trick two! However, suppose he had and the layout had been:

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

Overtrick! It's hard to be a brilliant bridge player!

Full details at: www.tgrsbridge.com

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IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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557. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West led the two of hearts against this seemingly routine contract. Declarer called for dummy's ten which was covered by the queen and taken in hand with the ace. After playing a diamond to the king, which East ducked, there was no point in continuing diamonds. Instead, declarer led a low spade from dummy to his ten. West took this with jack and exited with a heart. A second low spade West to East's queen and his heart return removed dummy's remaining stopper. When dummy's ace of spades revealed that West began with four spades, declarer had to concede defeat; he lost three spades, a heart and a diamond.

"That was unlucky," remarked declarer. "First the queen of hearts was in the wrong hand and the spades were 4-2."

"There was no luck involved," retorted dummy. "The way to make certain of nine tricks was to play the king of hearts at trick one. Then you can establish four diamond tricks to go with two hearts and the tops in the black suits."

558. (See top of next column.)

If South had begun with seven or fewer points, his first duty in responding to his partner's takeout double would have been to bid an artificial two no trump. Consequently, his actual response suggested at least

eight points and North was happy to risk bidding a game that might be a little thin.

Dealer East. E-W Vul.

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

West led the nine of spades to East's king and East continued with ace and another spade. The first decision point came when West ruffed declarer's queen of spades with the three of trumps. Declarer counted four trump tricks, two clubs and a spade ruff which meant that he needed three diamond tricks. Thus, if East held a diamond honour, declarer would need the suit to be 3-3. Given the weak two opening, it was more likely that West held both missing diamond honours and the odds were that they would be guarded at least twice. Further, the diamonds had to be established before the second club winner was dislodged.

This cogitation confirmed it would be best to end in the South hand after drawing trumps. So, declarer overruffed West's trump with the ace and, after drawing two rounds of trumps with the king and queen, he then played the ten of trumps to his jack. When declarer played a diamond next, West followed with the eight and dummy's ten held. After re-entering his hand with the ace of clubs, declarer played a second diamond and West inserted the queen. As he had no outside entry to the dummy, declarer called for dummy's three of diamonds and won the club exit with the king. After playing a diamond to the nine and jack, declarer had three diamond tricks and his contract.

559. Dealer South. E-W Vul.

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

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

North gave two old-fashioned negative responses with his first two bids before jumping to game to reveal a very weak hand with heart support,

West led the king of spades and declarer could count three black-suit losers. The only way to avoid then was to establish dummy's diamonds. So, at trick two, declarer cashed the ace of diamonds. Then he led the seven of trumps to dummy's ten. Declarer was delighted to see East follow with the nine of trumps. All he needed now was for the diamonds to behave. So he led the jack of diamonds from dummy. East followed with a low diamond and declarer discarded his nine of spades, removing that loser from the equation.

After winning the queen of diamonds, West tried the queen of spades. Declarer ruffed this with the ace, to save his low trumps as entries to dummy. After leading the four of trumps to dummy's six, declarer played the diamond ten. East did his best by playing low again and declarer correctly threw a low club from hand. All that remained for declarer was to ruff the fourth round of diamonds with the king and return to dummy with the jack of trumps. Dummy's nine of diamonds provided a resting place for declarer's second low club loser.

560. Dealer South. E-W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	INT
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

After this Texas Transfer auction, West led the jack of diamonds. Without thinking too much, declarer took this in hand with the king of diamonds and cashed the ace of trumps. As he now had four possible losers, he continued with a low heart. The good news was that West rose with the king of hearts. The bad news was that West shifted to the jack of clubs and now declarer had ten winners but not the entries to take them.

This could have been avoided by forming a plan. If declarer intended to cash the ace of trumps at trick two, then he should have won the first trick with dummy's ace. Then after the 3-0 trump division is revealed, declarer again leads a low heart. This time when West wins his king and plays a club, declarer unblocks dummy's queen of hearts and exits with a trump. West can play a second club but dummy ruffs and plays a third round of trumps. All that remains for declarer is to get back to hand with the king of diamonds and throw dummy's remaining diamond on the ace of hearts.



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THE 2011 NEC FESTIVAL

Barry Rigal, NYC

Twenty years ago the Japan Contract Bridge League hosted the Bermuda Bowl in the newly-opened Yokohama Grand Intercontinental Hotel. The 48 teams gathered together in Yokohama for the NEC teams included several people who had been present at that event – including your correspondent, whose first Bermuda Bowl this had been. I remember vividly that on my first afternoon in Yokohama, we suffered a small but noticeable earthquake; my first and last to date.

These were some of the more entertaining boards from the 16th NEC Festival.

Match 3. Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Yang	Isporski	Huang	Kovachev
—	1♠	Pass	INT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West	North	East	South
Iliev	Chung	Hristov	Liu
—	1♠	Pass	INT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Liu's two-spade call guaranteed a minimum in high-cards since he had a two-diamond Bart-style action available. Chung devalued his bare heart king and passed, and on a heart lead played to ruff clubs in dummy. When the high club spots appeared he took a diamond finesse, and pitched his winning club on the ace of hearts. He next led a trump to the king, and the 5-1 split meant he had just the diamond winner to come. That was eight tricks.

Kovachev played three notrump. He won the top club lead in dummy, led a diamond to the queen, and then passed the six of spades, which held – as I am sure he expected it to – then played a second spade up. What

could West do? He chose to win and play a heart and declarer won the heart king, then paused for about ten minutes before playing the ace of diamonds and another diamond to East. That player could exit with a club but Kovachev could then endplay West to lead either to his hand or dummy for nine tricks. A well-earned 10 IMPs.

Match 5. Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Yang	v Prooijen	Huang	Verhees
—	—	INT	Pass
2♦ ¹	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. FG Relay

West	North	East	South
Bakhshi	Chung	Gold	Liu
—	—	INT	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

How would you play four spades on a heart lead? Huang followed a line that combined technical expertise with table presence; he won, advanced the spade jack and went up with ace when Verhees ducked smoothly. Now he stripped off the clubs and exited with a heart, confident that he would come home whenever the queen of diamonds was onside or he had an endplay. Alas, not tonight Josephine. With the diamond honours wrong he had found the only lie of the cards where this approach would fail. (More would be needed in diamonds if South proved to have the spade king.)

In the other room after the transfer got East into the same position, Liu also led a heart, but when Gold advanced the spade jack, Liu covered; end of story. Twelve IMPs for NEDUK. Only five declarers were able to duplicate the unsuccessful line found by Huang. But if you switch the diamond queen and spade king, it looks to be the only winning line.

Match 8. Board 20. Dealer West. Both Vul. (See top of next page.)

Both tables reached five diamonds, Justin on a club lead, Kovachev on a spade lead. The key to the defence is that when East gets in with king of hearts, he must return a trump to kill the cross ruff. Hristov missed this, but

Justin drew a round of trumps himself, prematurely, on winning the ace of spades, and that was fatal. In the ending after declarer had ruffed two plain cards in dummy East could ruff a winning heart high and play back a trump to leave declarer with a losing spade at trick 13.

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

♠ Q 9 8 6
 ♥ A 9 8 2
 ♦ —
 ♣ Q 10 9 7 6

♠ K 10
 ♥ K 5
 ♦ Q 6 4 3
 ♣ J 8 5 4 2

♠ A 7 4 2
 ♥ Q
 ♦ 9 8 7 5 2
 ♣ A K 3

West	North	East	South
McGann	Isporski	Hanlon	Kovachev
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣ ¹
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠ ¹
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣ ¹
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

I. Relays

West	North	East	South
Iliev	Papa	Hristov	Justin
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

In the other room, a spade lead forced declarer to rush to take his discards; after he gave up a heart to East Hanlon played back a trump, and McGann erred by discarding a spade – he could surely have afforded a club? Now when declarer ruffed two spades in dummy he had set up his long spade, and at trick 13 he would be left with a winner, not a loser, and 12 IMPs to the Bulgarian All-Stars.

Match 9. Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

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

♠ K Q J 3 2
 ♥ 8
 ♦ K 7 2
 ♣ Q 8 7 4

♠ 8 7 5
 ♥ A 9 5 3
 ♦ Q 6 4
 ♣ 10 9 3

West	North	East	South
Yang	Li	Huang	Haitao Liu
Peng	Chung	Wang	Herstein Liu
1♥	1♠	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

Both Easts were delighted to try for penalties, and West obliged them, albeit no doubt with some misgivings. The defenders led hearts; Chung won and passed the ten of diamonds to West, who led back a low club instead of giving his partner the ruff. Declarer rose with king of clubs, and played a second diamond. Now although East could put West in for the ruff with ace of clubs, there was nothing the defenders could do. On a third diamond declarer could ruff a club and reduce to this ending:

♠ A 10 9 6
 ♥ —
 ♦ J
 ♣ —

♠ —
 ♥ Q 10 7 6
 ♦ —
 ♣ 6

♠ K Q J 3
 ♥ —
 ♦ —
 ♣ 8

♠ 8 7 5
 ♥ A 9
 ♦ —
 ♣ —

When declarer leads a diamond from hand, East can ruff high and exit with a club but is thrown in with a trump to be endplayed at trick 12 for plus 160.

By contrast, in the other room Yang had won the first diamond and played back a heart then won the ace of clubs to play another heart, so the endplay no longer worked. East had his two low ruffs and declarer was one down off the top; 8 IMPs for Taipei Weide.

The next deal was all about psychology and table presence.

Match 10. Board 22. Dealer: East. EW Vul.

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

♠ J 9 8 4 2
 ♥ A 9 5 2
 ♦ Q 8 3
 ♣ 10

♠ K 3
 ♥ J 10 8 3
 ♦ J 9 7 5
 ♣ Q 9 6

♠ A Q 5
 ♥ K 6
 ♦ A K 6 2
 ♣ 5 4 3 2

West	North	East	South
McGann	Isporski	Hanlon	Kovachev
—	—	Pass	INT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Papa</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Justin</i>
—	—	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

In three no trump on a spade lead to the king, if you duck and the defenders shift to a heart you need the clubs to behave. If you win and play on clubs, then, as here, East clears the spades and West gets in with his heart ace to run the spades at you. Both Easts gave the matter some thought after the first trick was ducked (also after mature reflection). Both continued spades; both declarers played clubs from the top – an error, since the finesse virtually guarantees the contract, while you would go down if West had the guarded club queen and the ace of hearts. No swing. at plus 600.

Finishing first in the qualifier was important for two reasons; you had your choice of opponents and you got to arrange the bracket so that you could pick which your opponent would be in the next round (or which team you wished to avoid). Oz Two pipped NEDUK for first place. They paired up Hackett and NEDUK if those two teams were to make it through – they did – then foolishly failed to beat the opponents they had handpicked, Heng Sha Ke Ji of China. This team repeated its giant-killing act by knocking off Bulgaria next...

Semifinal 2. Board 21. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Liu</i>
—	1♥	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Peng</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
—	1♥	Pass	2♣ ¹
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT ¹
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥ ¹
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass

1. Relays

Both tables reached four hearts on a spade lead. Isporski ducked the first spade trick, hoping for a useful switch from his perspective. As Victor Silverstone pointed out on BBO commentary, normally if declarer ducks in such positions you want to continue the suit – if that weren't the right defence you might not have been on lead!

As it was, when Peng shifted to a club, declarer had a home for his third-round diamond loser, and the play became very simple. Declarer actually played hearts from the top but fell back on the diamond finesse in due course.

In the other room, the defence also led spades. Declarer took the ace and led a club to the queen and ace. The defenders cashed a spade, and led a heart, at which point the position is worth another look.

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

When declarer finesses in hearts, as he did, and East wins the trick, he can shift to a club. But best play is to rise with the king, draw trumps and run a few more hearts. You come down to two diamonds and two clubs on the board and West must surrender! A perfect trump squeeze.

Of course, declarer has to find that play; he actually finessed in clubs and the ending was broken up. Does that mean declarer must succeed in the diagrammed ending against best play? No! There is a beautiful resource; believe it or not, to set the game East must duck the first trump – a play I know we'd all find, given time. Yeah, right. That was 12 IMPs to the All-Stars.

This was a lucky board for both North-South pairs; when Justin Hackett was South he rebid two no trump and Paul raised him to three. David Bakhshi led a small spade; oops. Now all Justin needed was one of the red suits to behave.

Van Prooijen played four hearts on a spade lead; he won and took a heart finesse, and Hanlon won and underled his club ace, after which the defence was dead. To be fair the winning options are not so easy to spot; playing West for the jack-ten-third of diamonds is not so attractive, is it?

The final was NEDUK (Netherlands/United Kingdom) versus Heng Sha Ke Ji of China

Final 1. Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Liu</i>
—	—	Pass	INT
Pass	2♦ ¹	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass

1. Stayman, game forcing

West	North	East	South
<i>Peng</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
—	—	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Both tables reached four hearts; van Prooijen, from the North seat, received a heart lead and took an early club finesse; Liu got a club lead. They led a spade to the king, drew a second trump and exited in spades. They won the trump return and played off his ace of clubs and exited in spades again, leaving West on play in the five-card ending.

West could lead a diamond and give up his side's second trick in that suit thanks to declarer's diamond eight, or he could lead a club for a ruff and discard for the tenth trick. All this requires the clubs to be 6-3 and diamond ace to be with the short clubs as well, otherwise the defenders can get a force going. Maybe declarer should not have gone for the endplay at all and just played on diamonds – albeit that that line fails, whereas this line works? But why quibble with success?

Final 3. Board 46. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Liu</i>
—	—	1♣	3♣
3♦ ¹	3♠	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		
1. Hearts			

West	North	East	South
<i>Peng</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
—	—	1♣	2♣
2♥	2♠	3♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Peng won the spade king lead, cashed the king of diamonds and drew three rounds of trumps. Then he led a spade up; Gold hopped up with the queen and returned the suit to ensure he would not be subject to any pressure in the endgame: down one. Once declarer cashed ace and king of hearts, he could no longer make the hand.

Van Prooijen showed how to do it. He won the spade lead in hand and played one top trump and the diamond king from hand, then crossed to a trump in dummy, as North pitched a spade, to ruff a diamond high. Now he played the ace of clubs and ruffed a club, then ruffed another diamond high. This was the ending:

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

When declarer ruffed a club in dummy North had either to let go a spade (in which case declarer would draw the trump and play on spades) or follow his actual choice of pitching a diamond. Now van Prooijen drew the last trump, cashed the ace of diamonds and led a spade towards his jack at trick 12 with North down to the queen-ten of spades. Very nicely done; 14 IMPs.

A large lead after three quarters was enough to persuade Heng Sha Ke Ji to take an early night and they conceded. The NEDUK team had not only played well, they had made life very hard for their opponents, and looked to be a very formidable squad. It is a good omen for the future of both English and Dutch bridge that Bakhshi-Gold and Verhees-van Prooijen appear to have formed solid and harmonious partnerships.



5th EUROPEAN OPEN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Poznan, Poland, 17th June - 2nd July 2011

Schedule of Play

Fri 17 th	- 12.00/20.00	- Mixed Teams Registration
Sat 18 th	- 10.30	- Mixed Teams Qualification
	- 20.30	- Opening Ceremony
Sun 19 th	- 10.30	- Mixed Teams Qualification
	- 12.00/20.00	- Mixed Pairs Registration
Mon 20 th	- 08.30/10.00	- Mixed Pairs Registration (cont.)
	- 10.00	- Mixed Teams (16 [^] Final/8 [^] Final)
	- 10.30	- Mixed Pairs Qualifying Session
Tue 21 st	- 10.30	- Mixed Teams (4 [^] Final/Semifinal)
	- 10.30	- Mixed Pairs Qualifying Session
Wed 22 nd	- 10.30	- Mixed Teams Final
	- 10.30	- Mixed Pairs Semifinal
Thu 23 rd	- 10.30	- Mixed Pairs Final
	- 12.00/20.00	- Open, Women & Senior (O/W/S) Teams Registration
	- 20.30	- O/W/S Teams Welcome & Mixed Prize-giving
Fri 24 th	- 10.00/13.00	- O/W/S Teams Registration (cont.)
	- 14.00	- O/W/S Teams Qualification
Sat 25 th	- 10.30	- O/W/S Teams Qualification
Sun 26 st	- 10.30	- O/W/S Teams Qualification
	- 12.00/20.00	- O/W/S Pairs Registration
Mon 27 th	- 08.30/10.00	- O/W/S Pairs Registration (cont.)
	- 10.00	- Open Teams (16 [^] Final/8 [^] Final)
	- 10.30	- O/W/S Pairs Qualification
Tue 28 th	- 10.30	- O/W/S Teams (4 [^] Final/Semifinal)
	- 10.30	- O/W/S Pairs Qualification
Wed 29 th	- 10.30	- O/W/S Teams Final
	- 10.30	- O/W/S Pairs Semifinal
	- 20.30	- O/W/S Teams Prize-giving
Thu 30 th	- 10.30	- O/W/S Pairs Semifinal
Fri 1 st	- 10.30	- O/W/S Pairs Final
Sat 2 nd	- 10.30	- O/W/S Pairs Final
	- 20.30	- O/W/S Pairs Prize-giving & Closing Ceremony

Right of Entry:

Bridge players from all WBF zones are entitled to participate, provided they are members in good standing of their Federation. All events will be TRANSNATIONAL and there will be no restrictions on the number of entries per NBO.

Registration:

All entries to the Championships tournaments must be submitted electronically (not by e-mail) on the website at <http://www.poznan2011.pl/>. All players must be registered by 31st May 2011.

The registration process will be started as soon as possible.

All entries will be automatically forwarded to the NBO of the applicant, and are subject to their approval. Applications submitted after the deadline of 31st May 2011 will be accepted only if technically convenient. Withdrawals of accepted entries must be sent by e-mail to registration@poznan2011.pl by the same deadline, to avoid payment of the entry fee.

Hotel Accommodation - Booking:

All details and reservations on the website: www.poznan2011.pl

Entry Fees:

To be paid by bank transfer (see below) or in cash (Euros or Polish Zloties) or by Credit Card at the Tournament Reception and Registration Desk at the venue:

Mixed Teams	€800
Mixed Pairs	€270
Open, Women's & Senior Teams	€950
Open, Women's & Senior Pairs	€400

The entries are calculated on the basis of approximately 20 Euro per person per qualifying session (and semifinal in pairs). There is no extra cost for players reaching the Pairs Finals or the KO phase of the Team events. Players from the finals of the Teams can drop into the Final of the Pairs event of the same category free of charge.

A 25% reduction on the entry fees will be offered to all players entering the four events.

The bank account to be used to pay the entry fees is:
BNP PARIBAS PRIVATE BANK

2, Place de Hollande

1211 Genève 11 - Switzerland

Bank account European Bridge League – nr. 30 97 300

IBAN CH 46 0868 6309 7300 04978

Swift Code: BPPBCHGG

Format of the Championships:

The Championships includes the following events:

- Mixed Teams and Mixed Pairs
- Open Teams and Open Pairs
- Women Teams and Women Pairs
- Senior Teams and Senior Pairs

The Pairs events, in every category (Open, Women's, Senior and Mixed), shall consist of three phases: qualification, semi-finals and final.

The Teams events, in every category (Open, Women's, Senior and Mixed), shall consist of two phases:

- qualification in which the teams are divided into groups and play a complete Round-Robin
- final by KO (Rounds of 32 & 16, quarter-finals, semi-finals and final).

All the competitions are transnational.



ACBL SEEKS NEW CEO

With the impending retirement of Chief Executive Officer Jay Baum, the American Contract Bridge League will be hiring a new CEO this year.

Search for ACBL Chief Executive Officer

The ACBL is looking for a dynamic chief executive to run our Memphis -based not for profit organization with approximately \$15 million in revenues and 61 home office employees and 40 full-time Tournament Directors. Our CEO will be working closely with a 25 member Board of Directors who are involved with many aspects of our organization. Applicants should have experience in all areas of small business management and will be expected to:

- manage a staff team
- generate revenues
- increase membership
- run a cost effective operation, which caters to the needs of our 165,000 person membership.

Critical Requirements:

- Bridge player familiar with the ACBL
- Relocation to the Memphis, TN area (Horn Lake, MS)
- Prior experience should be commensurate with position as CEO.

Application Process:

To apply, send an e-mail to acblceosearch@gmail.com with a cover letter detailing your qualifications, resume, and salary history and requirement. . The ACBL is an equal opportunity employer

THE ACBL IS LOOKING FOR A CEO

Bridge Player Familiar with ACBL

Relocation to Memphis, TN

Prior Experience

APPLY

acblceosearch@gmail.com

NEW TIMES BRIDGE DETAILS



What is Times Bridge?

The revamped bridge page on The Times website now features two innovative strands of video content, supplied by Atomized Entertainment, tailored to bridge enthusiasts of all standards, and offering significant additional value to digital subscribers. These two strands are:

1. LEARN BRIDGE WITH ANDREW ROBSON

As part of the Times Bridge 'upgrade', Andrew Robson has written and presented a 32-part video bridge course. This course will provide viewers with a compelling educational arc from beginner to accomplished bridge player. The first section ('Getting Started') will provide the basic educational tools from which to discover the game. Thereafter, the viewer will be given a step-by-step guide to the key skills of the game. As well as Andrew's engaging presence as guide and teacher, LEARN BRIDGE will include advanced visual graphics, animated bridge content and live bridge play to entertain the viewer on their path of discovery through the world's most popular card game. The full 32 part course, delivered over three months, will provide Times+ subscribers with over 2hr30mins of high quality bridge instruction.

CONTENT:

LEARN BRIDGE: 'Getting Started' - 8 x 4-9mins, from launch
 LEARN BRIDGE: 'Key Skills' - 26 x 4-9mins, twice weekly, Tuesdays and Thursdays, begun early March

2. ANIMATED BRIDGE

The Times will deliver the world's first Animated Bridge column, a daily 3-6 minute video animation of selected bridge hands. The newspaper bridge column has been in existence for nearly a century. What Times Bridge will do, using the latest gaming technology, is take this much loved format into the digital age. Instead of a flat piece of text, the column will appear on the website with movement and audio, incorporating all the rich detail – the deal, the bidding, the play – of this absorbing game. Andrew Robson's commentary will accompany every hand, allowing the viewer to follow the game through the mind of the expert player. Content will be balanced between basic and advanced concepts to appeal to the full spectrum of bridge players. Every Sunday will feature a 'Bridge Club Hand', contributed by bridge clubs from across the UK and Ireland (12 in total).

CONTENT: New Animated Bridge hands, seven days a week: a total of 84 Animated Bridge hands.

ANDREW ROBSON

Times bridge columnist Andrew Robson is Britain's best-loved bridge teacher. He will be the figurehead leading the launch of Times Bridge, acting as the key presenter of our bespoke online content. While maintaining a parallel career as an international bridge competitor, Andrew has a special talent as a bridge instructor, teaching the game to children and adults alike, from beginner to expert level. He also runs the popular Andrew Robson Bridge Club in London's Parson's Green. As Omar Sharif says, "No one else has the capacity to explain bridge more clearly than Andrew."

PRODUCED BY ATOMIZED ENTERTAINMENT: Producer, CONRAD BRUNNER, conrad.brunner@atomized.tv



Correspondence

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

There has been a trend in recent years for bridge organisations, especially the World Bridge Federation, to take a very dim view of players' appealing tournament director rulings. To say that the appeals process is discouraged is to understate the case. There has even been discussion in Europe and North America about abolishing the appeals process altogether. Curiously, many players are in favour of this, perhaps having been subject to miserable appeals decisions. A correspondent from the Sydney area presents the case for keeping the process intact.

To the editor:

The Appeals Process in Bridge

At the 2011 National Open Teams in Australia, the daily bulletin announced that an international director, Maurizio De Sacco, "had agreed to speak on the advantages of disposing of appeals". He informed the meeting the World Bridge Federation is considering abolishing the appeals process; how they plan to adjudicate disputes is not yet fully clear.

We all recognise that the appeals process is flawed, and many players won't bother to appeal, accepting a director's decision with the same supine stoicism as a five-nil trump break – it may be outrageous but nothing can be done about it. Unless bridge players and administrators find satisfactory means to replace the appeals process, the game of bridge will be the loser as the treatment could be worse than the ailment.

It is my opinion that the standard of directing is very high in Australia. In my experiences they are mostly courteous, competent, approachable and in good humour. But they are not infallible. Surely in a cerebral sport like bridge we need to have rational determining procedures providing fair and equitable judgement processes that we can all be comfortable with.

The problems of appeals are manifold and complex; similar to those in wider society; people are reluctant to serve on Appeals committees (as on juries) and many are unfamiliar with the complexities of the laws, have limited understanding of deliberative, judicial procedures, allowing personal prejudices to override cool analysis, let alone detached dispassionate judgements.

I propose a three tiered process in all disputed rulings:

1. The director consults with other directors (at local level they could even be linked by mobile phone to a senior director).

2. If the client is not happy at a local level they are referred to a State Panel. At a State event; to a National panel. At a major National event, the issue should be referred to a discrete panel consisting of the Chief Tournament director and two experienced players.
3. If the client still feels aggrieved, the appellant posts a bond for a formal appeal to an external, independent panel not involved in the tournament. To assure independence, this can be done by email including international arbiters and may take up to 72 hours to complete. If the appeal is successful, the appellant's bond is refunded and the tournament committee wears the cost. The full issue is posted on the National Website. The result may not change but justice may not only have been achieved but seen to be done.

This addresses the fundamental concerns any new form of appeals must include: fairness, independence, transparency and accountability.

Perception of fairness and equity is all important. In any dispute it is not enough to assure us that consultation has occurred and all concur. We need to have a separation of powers; an external independent panel of adjudicators who have some understanding of due process and fair judicial procedures. Whenever there is a dispute, it is important that it be resolved by independent, disinterested and competent judicial arbiters. A cornerstone of our system of democracy is the separation of our system of justice from our system enforcing the laws.

Transparency and accountability can be achieved by having all final decisions publicly posted. This is not only instructive for all directors but also exposes demonstrably-poor decisions and makes everyone accountable. If they know that their decisions will be published, all participants will sharpen their wits and think twice before supporting a bad decision.

Giving up all rights of appeal gives directors unaccountable powers. If we do not act now, we may rue this day, as regaining our rightful process will be very difficult once we forfeit it simply because we can't be bothered.

Charles Klassen, Pennant Hills, NSW, Australia

IBPA members: Please let your NBOs know your thoughts about this. - Ed.