



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 Willemslaan 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:

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Editor: John Carruthers

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Editorial

I'd never have guessed that IBPA members are more interested in whether we use "All Pass", "End", "Pass-Pass-Pass" or nothing at all to end an auction than are interested in Pierre Zimmermann's attempt to represent Monaco in European and World Championship play with Tor Helness-Geir Helgemo from Norway, Italians Claudio Nunes-Fulvio Fantoni, Franck Multon from France and himself, a Swiss. One supposes it proves that, as journalists, we are more interested in how bridge deals are presented on the written page than we are in the machinations of prominent bridge players and the politics of bridge.

For the top bridge players, those who compete nationally and internationally, the opposite is true. While they may be merely annoyed at an auction that begins with South or North rather than with West, the Monaco story has them up in arms. Sentiment is divided within this group, with many seeing this development as good for the game (read "good for professionals"), while others see it as a deterioration of pure competition.

Those in favour see it as merely (i.) a further step along the continuum of professional team bridge, successfully begun in earnest by Ira Corn and the Dallas Aces in the 1970s, (ii.) an extension of the World Bridge Federation's tendency toward more and more 'transnational' events, (iii.) nothing more significant than Real Madrid signing Cristiano Ronaldo to play football for them. Those against the attempt cite the purity of the game, the sanctity of the Bermuda Bowl and Olympiad being events for national champions, and decry the path we are already on, where Italians play in the French Club Team Championship and Norwegians play in the Italian Club Team Championship. Indeed Helgemo and Helness (and Boye Brogeland) played for Italy (Angelini) in the most recent European Champions Cup.

These Norwegians are all fine fellows and I would cheer lustily for them in most events; this time, however, I found myself cheering heartily for the Dutch (who won) against Italy in the final. It felt wrong to me that Norwegians were playing for Italy in a European Championship. Initially, the European Champions Cup was for club teams representing the top finishers in the European Team Championship, a laudable structure. This design quickly became perverted, with most nations sending their national championship teams; a further perversion is the importing of foreign talent, resulting in the Champions Cup becoming a rather devalued competition. The European Bridge League seems to be taking no visible action to restore the original intent.

To me, it's more interesting to watch teams representing nations play each other as opposed to individuals. Doesn't (almost) everyone relish a USA-Italy final? No offense to Nick Nickell or Maria-Teresa Lavazza, but a Nickell-Lavazza final just does not have the same cachet. In football, the FIFA World Cup is the world's biggest sporting event, with more total attendees and viewers than even the Olympics. Is there any doubt that this is because it is Spain versus the Netherlands, or Brazil versus Germany and not Barça against Ajax or Flamengo against Bayern? The WBF could take a page from FIFA's book – once you represent one country in open competition, that is your choice for life. Alright, agreed, such a stricture may not be plausible in bridge, where a long international career can span four or five decades, as opposed to 10-15 years in football, but let's at least maintain the integrity of national teams competitions.

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

THE 50TH GOLD COAST CONGRESS

Broadbeach, Australia
February 26-March 5, 2011
Barry Rigal, NYC
John Carruthers, Toronto



The Venue - Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre

The authors were invited to the golden anniversary of the immensely-successful Gold Coast Congress to assist with the Daily Bulletin, ably edited by David Stern. Whilst other tournaments around the world see falling attendance, the Gold Coast Congress increases its table count every year. There are a number of factors: glorious weather, a superb venue, tons of reasonable accommodation nearby, restaurants of every description within easy walking distance, good competition for all levels of skill and not least, terrific tournament organisation.

THE PAIRS

Born to Blush Unseen? (BR)

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Hans	Betty B	McGann	Steve B
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	Double	Redouble	2NT ¹
Double	3♣	3♥	4♣
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass
1. Minors			

Many a Bloom is born to blush unseen, as the poet says, but fortunately Steve and Betty Bloom have team-mates who can relay their deeds of derring-do.

When Betty led the club ten, Sartaj Hans knew that with spade ruffs looming and an unpleasant diamond shift from South on the horizon, he needed to tread carefully. He covered the club ten in dummy and captured Steve's queen with his ace (ducking in dummy and awaiting South's play is better), then drew trumps and played on spades. South followed up the line in trumps (suit preference) then pitched a discouraging diamond nine on the first spade, and a suit preference diamond deuce on the second. Betty got the picture; when she won the ace of spades she underled her clubs, playing the seven, overtaken by Steve with the eight for the fatal diamond shift and one down.

This was a clear top for North-South; at every other table in the main final, ten tricks were taken in spades or hearts by East-West (even when East was declarer and a diamond lead would have defeated the contract).

To and Fro (JC)

The opening leader was endplayed at trick one on this deal, but as he knew trumps were breaking 5-0, he decided his ace was the best shot...

Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	Sundelin	—	Carruthers
1♦	1♥ ²	Pass	1♣ ¹
2♦	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Clubs or 12-14/18-19 balanced
2. Transfer to spades
3. 12-14 balanced and 2/3 spades

After the lead of the diamond ace, West continued with the queen. East ruffed it; not a terrible start for me. A club to the ace and a spade to the ace followed. It was very difficult at this point for West to envision the whole deal. I led a spade to the king, East splitting his honours and then led a heart. West played low and I gave him a frisson by inserting the eight. For just a moment, he

believed his partner would win the nine. When the eight held, I simply ran hearts through East, restricting him to one more trump trick.

It had been a table tennis match. Had I played the nine of spades rather than the ace on the first round of the suit, I don't think the defence can prevail; on the other hand, had West split his heart honours, declarer is doomed. It was plus 590 for North-South.

Pairs Final Tussle (BR)

The final set saw five pairs fighting it out at the top. Tislevoll-Ware (aided by an appeal decision in their favour) had a decent lead over Bach-Del'Monte, with Kanetkar-Brown, Sun-Feng and Hooykas-Rankin all set to make a charge.

Brian Callaghan gave me the following problem; how would you defend four hearts here?

Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♣	Double	3♣
Double	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

As North, you can see dummy's (West's) cards. After a low club lead, dummy plays the king. You win the ace...but declarer ruffs the first trick and plays a low heart to your partner's eight and dummy's two. Do you overtake – and if so, what do you play?

Here is the full story; as you can see, declarer has no more than nine tricks...unless you or your partner win the trump and play a second club. If you do, declarer ruffs, cashes the ace of hearts, crosses to a spade honour and draws the last trump, emerging with ten tricks via two club ruffs, three hearts, and five spades. Note that four spades has absolutely no play at all; the 4-4 fit plays much better than the 5-4 fit.

The winning defence (to prevent partner erring) is to overtake the trump and return a trump or shift to a diamond or spade. If you duck the trump can you blame your partner for playing a second club? I couldn't! Just for the record; four pairs made five clubs, sometimes doubled, and sometimes with an overtrick, while one pair made four spades from West, (no easy feat, even

after the lead of the club ace) and Callaghan made four hearts from the East seat.

Suicide Is Painless (JC)

The Pairs 'A' Final is very tough to get into. Only the top 14 pairs (of 152) in each direction qualified after two sessions of play. The final is then three more sessions. This was the last board of the third and last session of the final (Barometer scoring, boards duplicated across all finals).

Pairs Final. Session 3. Board 27. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Bill Hirst</i>	<i>Jamie Ebery</i>	<i>Barry Goren</i>	<i>Marlene Watts</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Marlene Watts led the seven of clubs against Barry Goren's four-spade contract. Goren won the ace and tried to cash another club, which was ruffed by Jamie Ebery and overruffed by declarer. Goren then cashed the ace-king of spades and the ace-king of diamonds. This was the position:

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

Goren led the nine of hearts and South won with the ace. That was the first trick for the defence and South was endplayed. It looks like declarer has three more losers, two trumps and a diamond. However, whatever South played next, dummy would either win the trick

(a heart) or force North to ruff (a club). East's three more losers had been telescoped to two via the suicide en passant trump coup. If North ruffed, East's trump losers would be reduced to one, and if he did not, all East's diamonds would disappear.

Could the defence have done better? Not really, but declarer could have done worse. The ace of hearts, then a club, gives declarer a chance to go down (he needs to guess the spade-diamond distribution). However...

Showdown at the Gold Coast Corral (BR)

There were still as many as five pairs in with a chance to win the 'A' Final when Board 27 was put into play. Let's look at some of the other tables' results...

In the 'B' final, where Michelle Brunner and John Holland were defending, their opponents had a key-card auction, with West passing in second seat ('No surprise there,' you may say, but as we shall see this was not the universal valuation of that Westerly powerhouse).

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

Four diamonds asked for key cards and the response showed one control; the jump to slam was somewhat optimistic in context therefore.

Brunner led her ace of hearts and when dummy came down, East could not contain her disappointment, leading Brunner to think another ace was missing (perhaps the trump loser was a more likely explanation though). She therefore shifted to a spade and declarer managed to bring home 11 tricks painlessly thereafter. A club shift might in practice have achieved more undertricks though there are a whole variety of lines that do lead to 11 tricks in diamonds. Defeating the slam was worth 17 matchpoints out of 26, but two down would have brought in an extra six matchpoints and the 'B' title.

John Wignall as East played four spades on an auction where he too did a whole load of bidding – but in this case he was facing a partner (Bob Scott) who knew his optimistic ways. Scott passed, and saw Wignall open two spades. Scott responded two no trumps, then signed off in four spades when Wignall jumped to four diamonds - a nice appreciation of the fact that some of his rounded-suit values would not be pulling their weight.

On a club lead, Wignall rose with the ace and followed exactly the same line as Barry Goren. Contract made,

and a score of 18 matchpoints. Since Wignall-Scott won the 'B' title by just four matchpoints, the actual and potential swings here were indeed critical.

Avi Kanetkar-Terry Brown were 20 matchpoints behind the leaders, and held the East-West cards, with this result to come. If they could bid to three no trumps - no easy task - they would collect 22 matchpoints and win the event; Brown saw Kanetkar open one club and jumped to two spades, then over two no trumps bid three diamonds and saw three no trumps. What now? A somewhat pessimistic four-no-trump call would have done the trick nicely, a five-no-trump call might have resulted in a pass from West, but his actual choice of six diamonds led to minus 100 and a complete zero. So near, but yet so far.

Michael Ware-GeO Tislevoll bid to four spades and did not find a way to make it, with Bach-Del'Monte defeating the game by a trick and closing to within four matchpoints of the leaders. However, the boards had run out and Ware-Tislevoll were the winners, Del'Monte-Bach coming second.

THE TEAMS

Crissing and Crossing (BR)

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	3♣
Double	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Marlene Watts and Jamie Ebery were one of the few pairs to go plus (almost) legitimately here. Against three no trump, South started off well enough by leading a heart; North won and shifted to clubs, for the jack and queen. Back came another low heart now, and North won again, and made the natural but fatal club continuation. Ebery put up the king, pitching a spade from dummy, then won his ace of hearts and carefully cashed the king of spades, the king of diamonds and led a diamond to the ace. Now he ran the clubs, throwing spades from dummy, as North pitched a diamond painlessly enough. But this was the position with North still to discard on the last club.

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

North still had to discard, and was forced to pitch a spade; since he was known to have two diamonds left, declarer could safely cross to the ace of spades and come back to the queen of diamonds to score his long spade at trick 13 – the perfect criss-cross squeeze.

Imperfect (BR)

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

As you can see, the 3-1 heart break means that no game can be made against best defence. But who puts up the best defence? Four hearts was allowed to make at 17 tables; here is an example with South declaring, and another with North in the hot seat.

When Michelle Brunner was South she passed initially and passed her partner's one spade opening bid. West balanced with two clubs and John Holland doubled, converting Brunner's three-heart response to three spades. Brunner bid four hearts and played there on a top club lead. She could not afford to duck for fear of the diamond shift, so she won and played the spade king. West won, and now needed to play a trump at once; not unreasonably, he cashed the queen of clubs before playing the trump ten, and Brunner now read the position perfectly. She won the heart ace and played the queen and ruffed a spade, went to the diamond ace and led another spade. If East discarded, she would pitch her club loser and play a second trump; when East ruffed in she over-ruffed, ruffed a club to dummy, and gave up just the one trump trick.

Pablo Lambardi declared four hearts after David Stern had opened an emaciated weak 3-7 point Multi Two

Diamonds. East led a top diamond, and was allowed to hold the trick. This is the sort of deal where partnerships playing count signals will (justly) find themselves at a loss; however, maybe West is obliged to overtake the diamond king to play a club if he has the ace? That could be disastrous if declarer has jack-ten to three diamonds.

As it was, when the diamond king held the trick, West showing an even number, East continued the suit, and declarer simply won cheaply and drove out the ace of spades, with two discards for dummy's club losers. He lost a diamond and one trick in each major.

Assistance Required (JC)

The Teams has a unique format: three days of Swiss Qualifying (12 x 14-board matches) with the top six qualifying. Teams 1 and 2 have a bye to the semifinals and Team 3 picks its opponent for the quarterfinals. Then Team 1 picks its semifinal opponent.

On Board 9 of set 1 from one quarterfinal match, David Appleton of the Travis team displayed great declarer play:

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Reid	Appleton	Jacob	Reynolds
—	1♣ ¹	Pass	1♥ ²
Pass	1♠ ³	Pass	2♦ ⁴
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Clubs or 12-14/18-19 balanced
2. Spades
3. 12-14 and 2/3 spades
4. Game-forcing relay

Three very good declarers failed in four spades here with the help of the losing spade finesse. Appleton received the nine of hearts opening lead. He won the ace, just in case there was a ruff about, and played another heart. West won the king and shifted to a diamond, declarer winning his ace. Appleton now played the queen of hearts. Can you blame East for ruffing this? When he did so, Appleton placed West with the queen of spades and played the ace-king of the suit for plus 420 and 10 IMPs in. A simple, very effective play.

The Board of the Tournament? (BR)

Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

The board of the tournament, as far as I am concerned, came up here, in the second half of the quarterfinals. Three tables out of four opened INT with the North cards and played 3NT, wrapping up at least nine tricks. John Holland was playing a weak no-trump, so the auction went very differently.

West	North	East	South
Ware	Holland	Tislevoll	Brunner
Pass	1♠	2♥	3♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Tislevoll led three rounds of clubs. Declarer won in hand and led a low trump to the queen, finding the bad news. Then a diamond finesse and when the diamond ace dropped the king, suddenly there was hope. Holland led a low spade to the king and had reached this ending:

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

In this position when the jack of diamonds is led from dummy, the winning defence is to ruff with a top trump (even the eight will do – though it is a little harder work). Declarer can do no better than discard a heart when West ruffs high. Back comes a heart, won in dummy, and West ruffs the next diamond to leave North with a heart loser.

Ware actually pitched a heart on the jack of diamonds, as did Holland, and also on the next diamond. When the third diamond was led Ware ruffed with the trump jack.

As I sat behind Holland, I saw him realize that if he had

preserved his spade three or two, he would have been able to pitch his hearts, then ruff the club exit low in hand and over-ruff in dummy. That would leave him in position to execute the trump coup.

In the actual position he reached, he could see that discarding a heart would fail when Ware next played a club, since he would have to ruff in hand, and over-ruffing with the ace of spades would fail when he led a heart to dummy since West would score both his trumps, the first by ruffing, then the remaining high one.

Eventually the light-bulb went on: he under-ruffed the spade jack and West folded his cards.

THE FINAL – Missed Opportunities (JC)

Board 6 was an interesting play problem in five hearts, where both North-South pairs were pushed by an East-West attempt to sacrifice in four spades. Since four spades was only one off, taking the push to five hearts was the right decision...if they made it.

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
A. Hirst	Jacob	B. Hirst	Reid
—	—	3♠	4♥
4♠	5♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West	North	East	South
Noble	Holland	Del'Monte	Brunner
—	—	1♠	2♥
3♥	3♠	4♠	5♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The play developed along similar lines: spade lead ruffed; heart to the ace; spade ruffed, trumps drawn; diamond to the ace; diamond to the king. Here they diverged.

Reid played the club jack, covered and won in the dummy – there were no further problems. Had the jack not been covered, he intended to win in dummy, cross to hand in trumps, then run the club ten – even if it lost, East would have had to give him a ruff-sluff (7=2=2=2). Hirst denied him the opportunity to display his superior declarer skill!

Brunner played a third diamond, hoping East would have to win. When West was able to win, she took the club

finesse for her contract.

Both declarers could have ducked the diamond queen to ensure their contract. Had East had a third diamond, that would mean he had only one club and a high one from the dummy, then the finesse, would have made sure of the contract (assuming East had seven spades). And both Easts missed the opportunity to unblock the diamond queen.

Final - Session Three (BR)

Noble (Noble-Del'Monte-Bach, Newell-Reid) played Hirst (A. Hirst-Melbourne-W. Hirst, Brunner-Holland) in the final. Noble completely dominated, winning easily. In the third set the IMPs went backwards and forwards (leaving Noble up 83) but Hirst struck a blow for his side with a nice play here.

Board 35. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

Both tables reached three no trumps here from the East seat, but Reid had opened the South cards and Holland had passed. Where Del'Monte was declarer the defenders led the heart jack, won by the king, and a spade to the king scored. Del'Monte ducked a diamond to Brunner, who continued hearts. Declarer led a second spade to the queen and ace, and a third heart established a winner for Brunner while she had the spade entry. Declarer had no more than eight tricks before North could cash the long heart for down one.

In the other room Hirst was warned by the opening bid that the black aces rated to be with South. He needed diamonds to be 3-3 and for North to have some combination of significant club and spade spots. He elected to duck a diamond from dummy to South, then win the heart return in hand and cash the diamond king and ace and his heart winners.

Now came a spade from dummy. If North had played low Hirst would have ducked – endplaying South to lead a club round to East's king or set up a long spade for declarer. So North rose with the spade jack, covered by the queen and ace, and the spade nine was returned, which Hirst ducked, establishing the long spade for the contract.

Reid would have done no better to duck the spade. Now declarer leads a club to dummy and plays the

thirteenth diamond, discarding a spade. Then he leads a spade from dummy and simply covers North's card, eventually collecting a second club trick in the ending.

OZ BRIDGE

Ron Klinger, Northbridge, NSW
<http://www.RonKlingerBridge.com>

Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

On this deal from the Australian Open Team playoffs repechage, three no trumps made 11 tricks at four tables; at the other four tables, East-West played in slam. Three failed. Leigh Gold was in six diamonds on a club lead on an auction he wishes not to be made public. Declarer can succeed via the club queen, spade ace, spade king, spade ruff, diamond to dummy, spade ruff, diamond to dummy, club ace, club king and a fourth club, discarding another heart. North is on lead and must concede a ruff-and-discard.

However, Gold found another solution. As South had bid hearts and North did not lead one, Gold deduced that North was void in hearts. He took the club queen and two rounds of trumps. When they split 2-2, he figured North was probably 6-5 in the black suits and so he ran the diamonds, to produce this ending:

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

North was in trouble on the last diamond. He let a spade go. West discarded a club from dummy and played the ace, king and a third spade. Dummy's fourth spade was a winner and North became the stepping stone back to dummy. Very well played, Mr. Gold.



Being a Norwegian living in New Zealand, I still follow what is going on in bridge on the other side of the world. Recently two interesting deals came up in matches played in Trondheim, Norway.

One of the stories includes an amazing hand played by Geir Helgemo, certainly a deal worthy of being a candidate for “Best Declarer Play of the Year”. It was first published in the youth player Erlend Skjetne’s popular blog (in Norwegian). Skjetne was one of the defenders, and he says in his article that to lose a match does not hurt very much when an opponent is capable of a play such as this. As a warm-up to Helgemo’s masterpiece, you can enjoy this nice deal, which occurred in a local Mixed Teams event.

An Unusual Criss-Cross

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North <i>Kippe</i>	East	South <i>Guttormsen</i>
—	—	—	1♣
2NT ¹	Double	3♦	Pass
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	6NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. At least 5-5 in the red suits.

Håkon Kippe (North), winner of the Norwegian Pairs Championship two of the three last years, could have doubled three diamonds, and North-South would have scored a nice number. Reasonably enough, he went for the slam bonus. At the other table North-South quickly went down in six spades on a heart ruff.

The diamond four was led against Haldis Guttormsen’s six no trump. On a black-suit lead declarer would be able to make twelve tricks by playing a heart to the queen for the eleventh trick – West must play low – and later cashing all the black-suit tricks to squeeze 8

West. In the end position, South holds king-low in both red suits and West is not able to keep two hearts and also protect the diamonds. However, the diamond lead seems to disturb the communications. Declarer has to guess whether the lead is from a suit headed by queen-jack or by honour-nine-eight. In the latter case the diamond seven is valuable and should be played to the first trick. Guttormsen made it easy and called for the diamond ten, and she could claim twelve tricks immediately.

Does a diamond lead really disturb the communications? No, there is a way, but an unusual play to the first trick is needed to create an unusual situation later: declarer must fly with the diamond ace! Then she plays all the black-suit tricks, and waits until later to play a heart towards the queen. Four club tricks produces a heart discard from South, then come four rounds of spades. Before the last spade is played, this will be the situation:

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

On the spade king, West is squeezed in a criss-cross variation, even though declarer still has only ten top tricks, the eleventh comes easily in hearts. If West discards a diamond, declarer can cash the diamond king and play a heart towards dummy which is good except for the ace of hearts. If West discards another heart, declarer leaves her diamond king intact and plays a heart. If West takes the ace and knocks out the diamond king, declarer can overtake the heart queen with the king and score the little heart as the last trick. If this happens, declarer wins no trick with the heart queen, but one trick with the heart eight (or the heart two if she wants to). And if West follows with the jack of hearts, declarer wins the queen and continues the suit to set up her last heart with the diamond king as an entry.

The play of the diamond ace to the first trick will work when West has the queen-jack of diamonds, but also in case West holds a six-card diamond suit. To play the diamond seven works only if West holds honour-nine-eight in diamonds with any length.

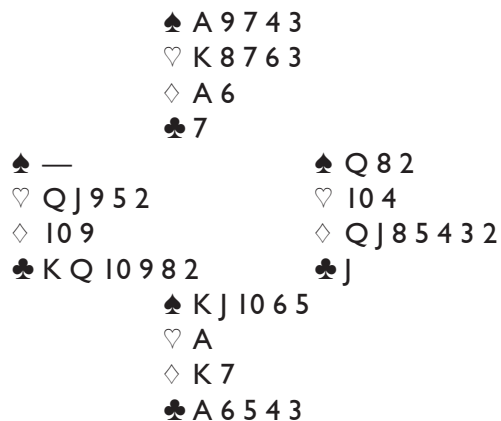
Helgemo Does It Again

Over the years, Geir Helgemo has provided the world with a huge number of extraordinary bridge stories. However, lately the talk about Helgemo and his partner Tor Helness has been more about their moving to Monaco to represent that country in international

bridge. It is about time to have a closer look at their bridge again, rather than gossip. They deserve it.

This board occurred in a knockout match in Norway's Teams Championship.

Dealer South. Both Vul.



West	North	East	South
<i>Skjetne</i>	<i>Lund</i>	<i>Forfot</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
—	—	—	1♠
2♠ ¹	2NT ²	Pass	3♣ ³
Pass	4♣ ⁴	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♠ ⁵	Pass	7♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Hearts and clubs
2. Game forcing spade raise
3. Natural!
4. Shortness
5. Two key cards + spade queen (extra length)

West led the club king, taken by South's ace after East followed with the jack. The contract is laydown if the trumps are 2-1. If the trumps are 3-0 declarer will be able to pick up East's trump holding, but there is no obvious line to thirteen tricks after three rounds of trumps, as there will not be enough ruffs. So why bother thinking of the 3-0 trump break anyway? Because it is quite a likely layout! Helgemo's first analysis was about the distribution, and after his conclusion he backed his judgement to play in a way that is difficult for most of us to spot even seeing the full diagram.

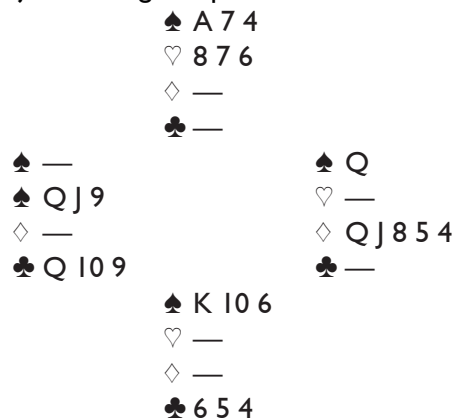
Helgemo's reasoning: West is likely to have six clubs as East was unlikely to have played the jack from a doubleton. West has also shown five hearts, so West's distribution is quite likely to be 1=5=1=6 or 0=5=2=6.

What about the diamonds? If West has only one diamond, it gives East an eight-card suit, which most players would have announced over North's two no trump. And if West has the 1=5=1=6 distribution, he could have led his trump. So the 0=5=2=6 distribution with West is the most likely one.

At trick two, Helgemo played ace of hearts followed by the diamond king. Backing his assumption about the distribution, he continued with a diamond to the ace.

Then he cashed the king of hearts before he played the spade nine from dummy, and ran it!

When the spade nine held, he continued with a spade to the jack leaving this position:



West had to discard on the first two trump rounds, and on both of them he had to pitch clubs in order not to set up declarer's fifth heart. Now the spade king was played. West was down to three hearts and three clubs. If West discards another club on the spade king, declarer plays a low spade from dummy, and establishes the fifth club with two ruffs. If West instead throws a heart, declarer is able to overtake the trump king with the ace and work on the heart suit, and still have enough entries to set up the fifth heart and collect it.

To produce this elegant trump squeeze situation, declarer must cash the two diamond tricks before the third round of trumps and he must also take a first-round finesse in trumps by playing the nine and running it. The key is to be able to play a third round of trumps from South in the entry-shifting situation.

The grand slam was reached at the other table too, but declarer was not able to duplicate Helgemo's play and went one down.

Some analysts would claim that declarer should play a low diamond from dummy at trick two, then run the spade nine followed by spade to the jack. If the trumps prove to be 3-0, declarer can proceed as Helgemo did. This will save declarer from going down when West has 1=5=1=6 and does not hold the bare trump queen.

Helgemo told me he was perfectly aware of that line, but chose to play the diamond king first so he did not have to commit himself to the 3-0 break in trumps at trick two. Playing the diamond king first allowed declarer to see West's card before committing himself. If West followed with the jack or queen, there was a greater chance that East still could have eight diamonds, but holding a much weaker suit, it would not be as tempting to bid. If West had followed to the diamond king with, for example, the diamond queen, Helgemo could have changed his mind and played for the 2-1 trump break that all us others would have done.



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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561. Dealer East. E-W Vul.

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

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

As West had supported on a three-card suit, he led a top-of-nothing nine of hearts against South's spade game. East took this with the ace and shifted to a low club. After winning the ace of clubs, declarer paused to consider the future play. Clearly, as East was highly likely to hold the ace of diamonds, he saw that it would be folly to lead a diamond to the king. Instead, declarer aimed to endplay East on the fourth round of hearts.

After crossing to dummy with the king of trumps, declarer ruffed a heart. (If trumps had broken 2-0, he would have drawn the last trump at this point. A club ruff, another heart ruff and a second club ruff eliminated the suit and left declarer in dummy to a lead fourth round of hearts. When East followed with the jack of hearts, declarer discarded a diamond from hand, as planned. This left East on lead and he had the unhappy choice of leading a diamond, which would see dummy's king make a trick, or conceding a ruff-and-discard. Either way, declarer would have his ten tricks.

562. See top of next column.

West led the king of hearts against what seemed to be a routine spade game. Declarer took the ace and drew two rounds of trumps. Obviously, drawing all the trumps would have been a mistake; declarer would have only one trump left and would lose control of the trumps and fail by one trick. Instead, as he had nine tricks, declarer set about establishing his tenth trick in clubs by leading a low club.

Dealer South. E-W Vul.

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

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

East took the first club with the king and played a second round of hearts. Declarer ruffed low and played a second club to West's ace. After ruffing the third round of hearts, reducing himself to just the jack in trumps compared to East's ten-nine there, declarer played his good queen of clubs.

What could East do? If he discarded, declarer would play his minor suits winners until East ruffed in. So, East ruffed with the nine of trumps and played a fourth heart. Declarer discarded a club from hand and ruffed it with dummy's eight of trumps. After returning to hand with a diamond, he drew East's remaining trump and cashed his two remaining diamond winners; he made five trumps, a heart, three diamonds and a ruff in dummy.

563. Dealer East. E-W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	2♥	3♥
5♥	Pass	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♠	Pass	Pass
Pass	Pass		

The cue bid of three hearts promised a big hand and when South bid five spades, North had an easy raise to slam; perhaps he should even have cue bid five hearts.

West led the two of hearts, which was taken by dummy's ace. After ruffing a heart, which is nearly always good technique, declarer played the ace of trumps, getting the bad news that the contract was in trouble.

Declarer continued by cashing the queen of clubs followed by the ace and king of diamonds. When a thoughtless East ruffed the latter he found himself endplayed and had to exit with the jack of clubs to dummy's king. When dummy's ace of clubs was played to the next trick, East had to ruff. However, declarer overruffed, drew the last trump and organised a diamond ruff on table for his twelfth trick.

East should discard the jack of clubs on the second diamond winner. Then he ruffs the queen of diamonds and exits with a heart. The best declarer can do is to discard a diamond from hand, ruff in dummy and advance the ace of clubs. However, when East ruffs this with the nine of trumps declarer has no answer; either West makes a diamond trick or, after declarer's last diamond is ruffed with dummy's ten of trumps, East makes the jack of trumps. Consequently, declarer would have finished one trick short of his contract.

564. Dealer South. E-W Vul.

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

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

What started as a simple auction for North, using a negative double of two clubs to promise four or more hearts, steeped into the uncomfortable zone when South leapt to four diamonds. Really, all North could do was to give preference to spades and hope for the best.

West led the king of clubs and declarer paused to make a plan. His principal worry was that of losing control when West started with four trumps to the queen; if East had such a trump holding then the deal would hold together fairly well.

On the above deal, if he took the trump finesse, West would win the queen of trumps and play a high club, reducing declarer to four trumps. Then when West won the ace of diamonds a third high club would cede trump control to West and the contract would fail.

Instead, declarer cashed the ace and king of trumps and led a low diamond. West won his bare ace and played a high club. Declarer ruffed and played a second low diamond. West could make his two trumps whenever he wished but declarer would take five trumps, two hearts, two diamonds and a club for his contract.

The play would be much the same if East turned up with four trumps to the queen or if trumps were 3-3; the defenders would make only a diamond and two trumps on most layouts.



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AMSTERDAM DIAMONDS



Roland Wald, Copenhagen
David Stern, Sydney
John Carruthers, Toronto

The premier Junior tournament in the world, apart from the World Championships, is the White House Junior International Teams, an invitational tournament held annually in Amsterdam. This year, as well as the usual collection of top European teams, saw Japan, Venezuela, the USA and Canada compete. It was a replay of the World Juniors in Philadelphia, with Israel defeating France in the final.

The 24 competing teams played a complete round robin with the top four qualifying for the semifinals.

From the round robin...

The Swedish team was unusual in that it featured two mixed pairs, Sandra Rimstedt-Erik Fryklund and Cecelia Rimstedt-Mikael Grönkvist. The Rimstedts are sisters, both still very young (but not as young as Grönkvist, who is 18), and have been playing internationally for more than five years. Here they are in action against Sweden's perennial rivals, Norway:

Believe You Me (JC)

SWE v NOR. Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

♠ 10 9 6 5 4

♥ 5 4

♦ 9 3

♣ A J 10 5

♠ 2

♥ Q 3

♦ K J 10 8 5

♣ 9 7 6 3 2

♠ A K Q J 7

♥ 7

♦ Q 7 4 2

♣ K 8 4

♠ 8 3

♥ A K J 10 9 8 6 2

♦ A 6

♣ Q

West	North	East	South
Grönkvist	Eide	C.Rimstedt	Ellingsen
Bogen	S.Rimstedt	Johansen	Fryklund
Pass	Pass	1♠	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The auction and play to the first three tricks were identical at both tables: spade two to the jack, spade queen (diamond five discard, encouraging), spade king (ruffed with the jack of hearts and overruffed by the queen). Both Wests found the asked-for club shift, Bogen the seven and Grönkvist the two.

The Norwegian declarer ducked the club and Cecilia won her king – he was down at trick four.

Fryklund, on the other hand, believed his opponent's suit-preference signals and rose with the ace of clubs. He continued with the club jack, intending to run it, discarding his diamond loser, if East did not cover. East did play the king, however, and Fryklund ruffed it, being careful to keep his heart two!

When the ace of hearts drew both remaining trumps, Fryklund was able to use that deuce of hearts to enter dummy and discard his diamond loser on the ten of clubs.

Sweden made the semifinals where they lost to eventual winners Israel. The other semifinal featured the Netherlands Girls team versus France.

At a glance, one could be forgiven assuming that the Poland Open team was playing. However, closer examination revealed that the combatants were the sons of their rather well-known fathers:



The Carrousel Cup goes to the winners

The Lead (DS)

Poland v. France. Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

♠ Q J 9 8

♥ K Q J 10 8

♦ K Q 3 2

♣ —

♠ A K 7 6 5 4 3

♥ 2

♦ J 4

♣ K J 10

♠ 10

♥ A 9 5 4 3

♦ A

♣ A Q 9 8 4 3

♠ 2

♥ 7 6

♦ 10 9 8 7 6 5

♣ 7 6 5 2

West	North	East	South
Franceschetti	Tuszynski	l'Huissier	Jassem
1♠	2♥	3♣	Pass
4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	7♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		
Zatorski	Huberschwiller	Igla	Cotreau
1♠	2♥	3♣	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass
5♥	Pass	5NT	Pass
7♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

Igla received the lead of the diamond ten. He won the ace, played a spade to the ace and ruffed a spade. Unfortunately, the 4-0 trump break meant he could no longer make the hand. His line (setting up the spades with a trump as the entry) would fail only against 5-0 spades or 4-0 clubs. Minus 100.

To make the hand, Igla needed to ruff two hearts in the dummy and find North with three or more spades, certainly a lesser percentage line than the one he took. Testing trumps would not work as the diamond lead had knocked out a key entry to hand. Unlucky.

At the other table, Jassem led a more conventional six of clubs. When Tuszynski showed out, pitching the heart king, l'Huissier knew that setting up the spades would not work. Thus he won the club in dummy, played a heart to the ace and ruffed a heart. With the diamond ace still intact, he used it as an entry to ruff a second heart. A diamond ruff back to hand allowed him to draw the trumps. On the run of the trumps, Huberschwiller was squeezed in the majors for plus 2140!

An initial spade lead is the only one certain to defeat seven clubs.

Delicate Judgement (JC)

FIN v. CAN. Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

♠ A 9 8 2
♥ A K 9 7 2
♦ A J 4 3
♣ —

♠ 10 7 5 4
♥ 6 5
♦ 9 6 2
♣ Q 6 4 2

♠ J 6 3
♥ 4 3
♦ K Q 10
♣ A K 9 8 3

♠ K Q
♥ Q J 10 8
♦ 8 7 5
♣ J 10 7 5

West	North	East	South
Vallivaara	Lavee	Kytömaa	Blagov
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♥	2♣	3♣ ¹
Double	Redouble ²	Pass	3♥ ³
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♥
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Limit raise or better in hearts
2. 1st-round control of clubs
3. Limit raise

When Lavee carried on beyond game, Blagov was happy to bid slam with such good major-suit cards.

East led the diamond king and Lavee let it hold. East next tried a high club; Lavee ruffed it, crossed on spades twice to ruff two more clubs, and finally crossed on a heart to ruff dummy's last club. Finally, a spade ruff to

dummy allowed the remaining trumps to be drawn. The pointed aces were good in the end.

Lavee had taken eight trump tricks and his four top side-suit winners in executing a perfect dummy reversal. Note that no lead, not even a trump, defeats six hearts.

At the other table, North was satisfied to jump to four hearts upon learning of support opposite.

Ambition (RW)

Israel defeated France comprehensively in the final. The Israelis were outstanding throughout, with a round-robin average of 21 VPs over 23 matches, and a big win against Sweden in the semifinals. Here is a deal from that semifinal.

In the open room, the Swedes did not move over three no trumps and made 12 tricks, but at the other table, Ron Schwartz-Lotan Fisher were more ambitious and managed to bid and make this excellent club slam.

Dealer East. Neither Vul.

♠ A 7 3
♥ K 10 8
♦ A 9 5 2
♣ K 8 4

♠ Q J 10 9 8 4 2
♥ 9 2
♦ K Q 7
♣ J

♠ 6
♥ Q J 6 5
♦ J 10 8 6 3
♣ 9 6 2

♠ K 5
♥ A 7 4 3
♦ 4
♣ A Q 10 7 5 3

West	North	East	South
C. Rimstedt	Padon	Grönkvist	Fisher
—	—	Pass	1♣
3♠	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Four diamonds, four hearts and four spades were all cue bids and five diamonds showed zero or three key cards in response to Roman Key Card Blackwood.

The contract has several chances and a few winning lines, one of which is a red-suit squeeze against East, but Lotan Fisher chose a simpler line. He won the spade queen opening lead in hand, cashed club ace and noted the fall of the jack. He then abandoned trumps and conceded a heart trick to East's jack over dummy's ten, thereby leaving the non-dangerous hand on lead.

Mikael Grönkvist exited with a diamond to dummy's ace, and declarer continued with the club eight to the queen in hand. Next came a heart to the king, another heart to the ace and a heart ruffed with the club king. Fischer carefully ruffed a diamond (the spade ace would


of course be a disaster), drew East's last trump with the ten and claimed 12 tricks. 10 IMPs to Israel.

The Israeli team members were Alon Birman-Dror Padon and Ron Schwartz-Lotan Fischer. Israel and France also met in the U26 World Championship Final in Philadelphia last October, also with Israel on top.

TIMES BRIDGE

Phillip Alder, Hobe Sound, FL

"All the bridge that's fit to print."



Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

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

The winners of the Jacoby Open Swiss Teams at the Spring Nationals in Louisville, Ky., last month were Greg Hinze of San Antonio, Tex., David Yang of Darien, Ill., Jacob Morgan of Madison, Wisc., Michael Polowan of New York, Dan Morse of Houston, and Steve Shirey of Fort Worth, Tex. Morse found a great defensive play on the diagrammed deal from the final day.

At both tables the contract was four hearts. In the given auction, North's three-diamond rebid was a transfer, showing heart length. West led the diamond king. Each pair of defenders cashed two diamond tricks, then shifted to clubs.

At the first table, Hinze (North) had heard West overcall one diamond and East make a pre-emptive raise to three diamonds. He cashed dummy's (South's) two top hearts, getting the bad news. Now he should have gone down, but when he continued with South's spade jack, West failed to cover with the queen, which would have destroyed declarer's communications. Yes, North would have won with his king and continued with the spade nine, but East could have played low to block the suit.

However, when declarer was allowed to win the trick with the spade jack, he played a heart to his jack. East won with his queen and returned a club, but North won with dummy's ace, drew the missing trump and ran the spades.

At the second table, after South won the third trick with his club ace, he cashed the club king and ruffed a club with dummy's heart jack. Morse (East) smoothly discarded a diamond. Fooled by this play, declarer now led a heart to his ace and cashed the heart king, after which Morse had to get two trump tricks with his queen and eight. Plus 620 and plus 100 gave the Hinze team 12 International Match Points on the board.



HACKETT BRIDGE

Paul Hackett

Manchester, UK

In most of the major tournaments in which Jason and Justin compete, they play together as partners, but in local events in our home town of Manchester, members of the family sometimes play against each other and usually there is little to report. However, this deal took place in the Manchester Congress in the multiple teams event. Jason was West and Justin was South and it was the second board of the two-board round.

Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Jason</i>			<i>Justin</i>
—	—	—	Pass
2♦	Double	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The two-diamond opener was a weak two (6-10 points and a six-card suit). Martin Taylor, North, made a takeout double and Justin jumped to 3NT.

Most of us would have found Jason's opening lead of the queen of clubs and it looks as though with no diamond opening lead the contract is unmakeable. But Justin had other ideas. He ducked the opening lead, East playing the club seven, and won the spade switch.

Working out that East was likely to hold the major-suit honour cards, Justin's first attempt was to lead the ten of hearts, hoping to pin a singleton nine with West. When this was covered and the heart nine did not fall, Justin continued with a club to the ace and king and now knew that Jason held only three major-suit cards.

He cashed another top heart and when Jason showed out, he played the king of spades. Now he exited with the last club. With only diamonds to lead, Jason tried the queen of that suit. Declarer won with the diamond king and played a spade. East was in and could cash his two spade tricks, but then had to lead a heart round to the queen-eight, which won the last two tricks.



Swings and Roundabouts

In the first final session of the IMP Pairs we were on the wrong end of virtually everything except the huge deals. Names will not be used to protect the guilty.

Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

Yes, six spades is not great, but it is quite playable. How should East play on a club lead? I believe the right answer is to win the ace of clubs, cash the top spades, then cash the heart ace. Now you cash your high diamonds and ruff a diamond. If the suit splits, you are home. If North overruffs, you were never going to make it. But if you ruff the third diamond and no queen appears but North cannot overruff, you run the queen of hearts to pitch a diamond. So long as the king is onside, you rate to be able to pitch your diamonds on the winning club and a heart in dummy.

Throw Out the Rule Book

Sometimes when writing up a deal, the author is plagued with self-doubt. Surely no one would trip up on the technical point of a deal this simple?

Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

However, when a top-ranked player slips up, perhaps a rethink is in order.

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

1. Game forcing checkback

East led a low club to the two, ten and ace. South then played a spade to the ace and a spade to the ten and jack. Now East fell from grace by following the basic principle of cashing the master trump to draw two of his opponents' trumps. He played off the king of spades before shifting to a diamond, but declarer guessed the diamonds and had ten tricks. Had he played a diamond first (needing his partner to hold a red ace to have any chance to set the hand) the defence is a tempo ahead.

Note that on an initial heart lead, declarer does best to take the queen, cross to a club and lead a diamond up, building his discard before playing trumps – but he had better guess well.

Lessons Learned

Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	<i>Rigal</i>	1♠	2♥
2♠	3♥	4♠	5♣
Pass	5♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Sometimes a defence may seem so obvious that it might almost be insulting to point it out. But when your opponents miss it at the table, maybe others will learn from their mistakes (plus enjoy a touch of schadenfreude). Check out this deal from the first qualifying session of the Platinum Pairs. My partner was Alex Ornstein.

East-West had missed out on five spades when East made the simple raise to four spades - quite reasonable but had he tried four diamonds, his partner might have got it right. In auctions of this sort, when you have hearts and the opponents have spades, describing your hand to help partner judge the five level should be mandatory. In this case, East, with spades, could not foresee the dénouement when he bid four spades. That said, let's at least beat five hearts and lessen the damage.

West led the king of diamonds against five hearts and continued the suit – contract made! I blame both defenders, but especially East. West might have worked out that a spade switch at trick two could be necessary, but East should overtake the diamond king and cash the spade king. West will signal count and East will take the second spade trick before the rats get at it.

'Wrong' Turns Out Right

On this deal from the second semifinal session of the Platinum Pairs, the field played four spades on the East-West cards – a perfectly reasonable spot, but doomed on the lead of the queen of diamonds by South.

Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Parker</i>		<i>Rogoff</i>	
Pass	Pass	1♣ ¹	Pass
1♠ ²	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Strong
2. Balanced positive

When Josh Parker showed his strength after the one-club opening, Bruce Rogoff bid what he thought his partner could make. Now the contract was played the “wrong way” up. On the lead of the jack of clubs, Parker put up dummy's queen. South took the ace and continued with a club to remove the entry to the West hand. Parker won the club king, went to the heart ace to unblock the suit, then led the spade nine from dummy; South put up the queen. Parker then was able to get to hand with the ten of spades to pitch two of dummy's diamonds on the top hearts, then led up to the king of diamonds for plus 420. If South ducks the first spade lead, declarer might well go wrong.

Watch Those Spots

This excellent card-play problem arose during our second-round loss in the Vanderbilt Knockout Teams. It's a two-parter: consider it first in six clubs by North, and then the actual table problem of six clubs by South.

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

In six clubs by North on a trump lead, you draw trumps, pitching a spade from hand. Now perhaps the best thing to do is strip off four rounds of hearts, then run the diamond jack to endplay East unless he began with five hearts. Almost as good is at trick four is to run the diamond jack, won by East with the queen. He must return a low heart, and you put in the ten. To give you any problem, West must be able to cover with the jack. You win the queen, unblock the heart ace, then cross to the ace of diamonds, cash the heart king (hoping for the nine to drop), pitching a diamond from dummy. If the heart nine does not appear, you ruff a diamond in dummy, and if the remaining high diamond does not appear, you fall back on the spade finesse. That's about a 90% shot, I think.

At the table in six clubs by South, on the lead of the diamond four, you duck and East wins the king. Back comes a trump, and you draw three rounds, then cash the three top hearts. If the heart jack-nine fall, it's all over. At the table, East shows out on the third heart. You now pitch the diamond ten on the third heart and play the ace of diamonds, West following with the two, East with the eight. When you lead the diamond nine from dummy, East follows with the six. Who has the queen? Surely East. If West has led the four of diamonds from queen-four-two, he deserves to beat you!

The full deal:

♠ A Q 3
 ♥ K Q 8 5
 ♦ A 9 8 5
 ♣ 4 3

♠ J 8 5 2
 ♥ 9 7 6 3 2
 ♦ 4 2
 ♣ 8 5

♠ K 10 9 6
 ♥ J 4
 ♦ K Q 6 3
 ♣ J 9 2

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

Tales of Woe

The George Jacobs team lost a very close match to the Meng Kang squad in the quarterfinals of the Vanderbilt Knockout Teams. This following deal was critical to Kang's success. You are going to be on lead to a grand slam. South deals, both vulnerable.

You (West) hold:

♠ K Q J 8 6 4 3
 ♥ 9 2
 ♦ 8 7
 ♣ 6 5.

This is the auction:

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♣ ¹
3♠	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	6♥	Double	6NT
Pass	7♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Strong, artificial and forcing

Four hearts and four spades were possibly cuebids, but no one knew what trumps were! What is your lead?

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

♠ K Q J 8 6 4 3
 ♥ 9 2
 ♦ 8 7
 ♣ 6 5

♠ 10 9 2
 ♥ K J 8 5
 ♦ Q 5
 ♣ Q J 9 4

♠ A 7 5
 ♥ 7 3
 ♦ A K J 6 4 2
 ♣ A 3

Declarer ruffed the spade lead, passed the diamond ten successfully, then played the ace and king of clubs and ruffed a club with the king of diamonds (well guessed!). Another spade ruff and another club ruff (with the diamond jack) set up the fifth club in dummy. The ace of diamonds allowed declarer to draw trumps, and the ace of hearts was the entry for the good club for the heart discard.

Nicely done, but can you see how the defence might have done better? When declarer led the ten of diamonds from dummy at trick two, East must cover! Try it and you will see that West's eight of diamonds is developed into the setting trick. Also, I suspect that a red-suit lead may have made declarer's task impossible.

Vanderbilt Semifinal: Diamond v. Fleisher & Grue v. Kang

This may have been the most extraordinary board of the event:

Board 38. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

♠ 9 7 6 4 3
 ♥ K 9 8 3
 ♦ 5 4
 ♣ K 4

♠ 5 2
 ♥ 4 2
 ♦ K J 7 6 3 2
 ♣ 6 3 2

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

West	North	East	South
Gitelman	Kamil	Moss	Fleisher
—	—	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Brad Moss unerringly led the club two, giving Mike Kamil a chance to go down. Declarer needs to duck this, or win and play another, but fearing a club ruff, he won the ace and ruffed a diamond to hand. When trumps proved to be 5-2, Kamil had to lose a club and a red king for one off. Plus 50 to Diamond.

At the other table...

West	North	East	South
Stansby	Hampson	Martel	Greco
—	—	Pass	1♣ ¹
Pass	1♠ ²	Pass	2♣ ³
Pass	2♠ ⁴	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♦
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♠
pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Strong, artificial, forcing
2. Spades, 12+ HCP, GF
3. Hearts
4. Clubs

With more information at his disposal due to the descriptive Greco-Hampson auction, Martel led a heart against Hampson's six spades. Hampson ducked it to Stansby's king and could not be beaten. Stansby tried

his low club, but to no avail – Hampson’s eight (momentarily giving Stansby hope) held the trick. Plus 980 to Diamond and a huge 14 IMP gain.

In the other semifinal match, Grue versus Kang...

West	North	East	South
Cheek	Xiaodong Shi	Grue	Jiang Gu
—	—	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Cheek and Grue play an aggressive style, and Curtis Cheek was true to their philosophy in leading his club four. He had a sinking feeling when declarer won the seven. However, declarer had little hope – he ruffed a diamond with the heart jack and played on spades. East was able to ruff the third round, but West was eventually endplayed with the fourth round of trumps (the second defensive trick) to concede the eleventh trick. Nevertheless, that was one off, plus 50 to Grue.

West	North	East	South
Hailong Ao	Del'Monte	J-J Wang	Armoils
—	—	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♦
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♣
Pass	6♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Jian-Jian Wang found the same deuce of clubs lead that Brad Moss had found in the other match. Ishmael Del'Monte followed Mike Kamil's line of play initially, ruffing a diamond and drawing trumps. He threw the club and all the other losing diamonds from the dummy, then led the heart jack to the queen, needing some good fortune in the side suits to get home. When the heart king won and West cashed the club king, declarer was two off for a loss of 2 IMPs.

Surely, since the club lead was directed against six spades, ducking at trick one seems the better play; then, if they play back a club it's all over; if a red suit you get to ruff a diamond in hand and unblock the club ace on the spades. Four-one clubs offside is 15% but 5-2 spades is 30%.

Fleisher and Grue won the semifinal matches; Fleisher won the final: Marty Fleisher-Mike Kamil; Bobby Levin-Stevie Weinstein; Lew Stansby-Chip Martel will also be USA I in the upcoming Bermuda Bowl. They will be formidable opponents.

Daily Bulletins and the results of all events can be found at www.acbl.org

NEWS & VIEWS



An Open Letter from Giannarigo Rona, President of the World Bridge Federation, regarding the 2nd World Youth Bridge Congress in Opatija, Croatia, August 21-31, 2011.

As you know the development of youth bridge represents one of the key points of the WBF programme for the new legislature and both the Executive Council and the Youth Committee are making great efforts to face this important challenge and to achieve the goal, which means to guarantee the future of our beloved discipline.

Knowing the enthusiasm, the dedication, the passion of all the bridge administrators, officers and journalists everywhere in the world, which is such an essential factor in obtaining a satisfactory result, I am convinced that all together we can do it.

Opatija will represent the first step of the long road ahead of us and I hope that we can start off on the right foot and celebrate a great event, enjoyed by youth representatives from every WBF Zone. The success achieved in Istanbul with the first edition of the Congress, introduced and strongly supported by my predecessor José Damiani, himself a great believer in youth bridge, encourages me and makes me very optimistic.

I am confident that you will help me in publicizing and supporting this initiative and will do your best to encourage the young players to attend the Congress, showing them the opportunity to stay in a wonderful place and enjoy an unforgettable experience of life, culture, sport and bridge, in friendship and peace.

This serenity will appear even more remarkable in this period of intolerance, moral and social conflicts which trouble the world, to say nothing of the natural catastrophes that have taken place recently.

What better answer than to show to the world a group of young people from different cultures, traditions, religions enjoying such an event together, and firm and resolute in rejecting any discrimination! What better occasion to show that really bridge, with music, is a true universal language!

Thanking you in advance for your cooperation.

Un abbraccio, Gianarrigo Rona



Correspondence

The Editor reserves the right to abridge and/or edit correspondence

Email: ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca

Dear John,

In the February 2011 issue of *Le Bridgeur* Philippe Cronier reports that Monaco has become the adopted bridge home of Team Zimmerman - Pierre Zimmerman and Franck Multon (ranked two and one respectively in France), Geir Helgemo and Tor Helness (until recently the mainstay of the Norwegian team and without doubt their best pair) and Fulvio Fantoni and Claudio Nunes (one of the top Italian pairs). According to a press release issued by the Fédération Monégasque de Bridge, Team Zimmerman will be representing Monaco in the years to come.

From a journalist's point of view this is exciting news. Team Zimmerman is one of the best and the thought of them battling against Italy and Norway in the Europeans and the USA in the Bermuda Bowl is mouth watering. I suspect many also-ran European teams would also welcome the chance of a sixteen-board bridge lesson from them.

But journalists don't make the rules. The Regulations for players' eligibility to the European Teams Championship are slightly different from the Bermuda Bowl, which is not altogether surprising as the World Bridge Federation must respect the qualification processes of the various Zones. As team Zimmerman would have to come in the first six in a European Teams Championship to play in the Bermuda Bowl, I propose to limit my examination to the first hurdle they have to jump.

In 2007, the European Bridge League (EBL) adopted, as part of its Disciplinary Code, Bona Fide Residence Requirements which state that a non-citizen wishing to represent a country must be a bona fide resident of that country. The preface contains the following main paragraph: "It is for the player who seeks to rely upon the (bona fide) requirement to satisfy the EBL and demonstrate the genuineness of their residence. It is not to allow the transfer of a player's allegiance for any reason other than the genuine relocation to a country that is not their country of birth. Those players who are unable to demonstrate to the absolute satisfaction of the EBL's Credentials Committee will not be allowed to represent the chosen country in international championships."

In the small print of the regulation it requires that bona fide residence must have been established at least two years prior to the start of the year within the year of the relevant championship. As the next European Teams

is in 2012 and team Zimmerman were not resident in Monaco at the beginning of 2010, they won't be playing in 2012 (unless the rules are changed).

Rules can indeed be changed, but I have my doubts this one will be. Looking at it from the point of view of France, Norway and Italy it would be galling (and more!) to find your best pairs playing for Monaco. And what about other countries such as The Netherlands, Poland, Germany, Sweden, England (to name just a few) which have genuine aspirations to qualify for the Bermuda Bowl (and why not a European medal), when they see one of the places almost certainly taken by team Zimmerman? Big hitters all with lots of votes on the EBL Executive Committee.

I wish Pierre Zimmerman and his team well but I doubt his investment will bear fruit.

Best wishes, Bill Pencharz, St. Bartélemy de Bussière, France

To IBPA Members,

In Bulletin number 554 (of 10 March 2011), Editor John Carruthers draws attention to matters of presenting bridge material. Attempts to standardize usage are complicated by a number of diverse factors, including:

- (1) Varying objectives
- (2) Linguistic deviations
- (3) Underestimation of the importance of terminology
- (4) Individual constraints
- (5) Difficulty in performance.

How can the IBPA be of service to its members in this area? It might publicize or host terminological or stylistic suggestions, discussions, and evaluations. The more writers who know about possibilities and their relative popularities, the closer we can approach whatever uniformity of expression is practical. We should think of any gains in this direction as positive rather than bemoan failures - like bridge, some games are too tough ever to master fully.

Jeff Rubens, The Bridge World, NY

Jeff provided some examples of each of the complicating factors, plus the rationale for doing things The Bridge World's way. We shall present his detailed arguments in an article next month. – Ed.

Hi John,

At best, I barely glance at any article in "The Bridge World" that has a bidding diagram. As I have quite some difficulty in telling left from right, I simply cannot be

bothered undertaking the added mental work required to translate the bidding from SWNE to WNES. This applies to other layouts too. If one considers the bidding diagram as a data entry problem using a computer, then it is idiotic to have anything but “West” on the far left because any other arrangement is likely to increase the operator’s (reader’s) error rate. However, I agree with the distinction between deal and hand, and it is something I strive to adhere to.

Some of my other preferences: in the text I prefer “four spades” to “4♠” and the “nine of diamonds” to ♠9; I prefer “All pass” to “Pass Pass Pass” or “End”; I dislike the old-fashioned “No” or “No Bid” instead of “Pass”; on vulnerability, I like “Nil” and “Both”; on the other hand I would write “negative double” and “forcing pass”.

BTW, Ewart Kempson has a list of dislikes that I believe included the word “cash”.

Regards, Tim Bourke, Canberra

Hi John,

Before I became the npc (NPC?) of the Norwegian team, I was covering the Bermuda Bowl, The European Championship and the IMSA for the Norwegian Bridge Federation and Boye Brogeland’s magazine *Bridge In Norway* (BIN). I also worried about the stuff that you write about in your article. Especially the IMPs. As we do not use capital letters as freely in our language as in English, there was also a problem of using standard Norwegian or more international standards. In practice, I go for international symbols, as they win in the long run anyway. IMPs won.

Also:

- All bidding should start with West
- A hand is not a deal any longer (same problem in Norwegian)
- Final bid: here I am in favour of dropping everything after the last real bid - people understand, so don’t give away unnecessary info. Obviously the bidding has ended.
- Vulnerability - in BIN we use a small box between the hands. A square. A horizontal line from middle point of the left vertical side (from West to East) shows that E-W are vulnerable. A vertical line from the middle of the top line to the bottom line shows that NS are vul. A cross: both vul. No lines: None vul. This is a simple graphic way to show vulnerabilities and it follows all diagrams. It saves space as well as there is white space which may be used between the hands. Also the dealer is designated with a small “o” on the middle of the side that is closest to W,N,E or S. I believe Tommy Sandmark invented this, and it is an obvious improvement. I miss it every time I do not see it in use.

- Cards/calls. I agree that the use of suit symbols should only be used in the bidding diagram. However, I believe that it is easier to read “3 hearts” than “three hearts”, and numbers should therefore be used in the narrative. However, here Norwegian is slightly different from English.

Kind regards, Christian Vennerød, NPC Norway, Oslo

Dear John,

When I started writing for *Bridge Magazine* in the 1970’s, Eric Milne, the editor, sent me a short sheet of dos and don’ts. It was neatly printed on the same glossy paper as the magazine. Included in the instructions were to use “no bid” (rather than “pass”) in the bidding diagram and “Knave” (rather than “Jack”) in the text. All numbers up to thirteen had to be in words; above that in figures. Thus, “the defence took all thirteen tricks” but, “declarer was one down. 50 to East-West”. And West always bids before East. (In addition to the publications mentioned in your editorial, *Le Bridgeur* also prints the bidding diagram in the order South - West - North - East.)

Also in the 1970’s, I played a Camrose match in North Wales. Viewgraph was an overhead projector and transparencies which had been carefully prepared with the bidding diagram North - East - South - West. Very confusing. (We discovered at the post-match dinner that the organisers who had pre-dealt the hands had rejected all deals which they thought would be passed out. Raymond Brock and I had just introduced the mini no trump to our armoury and it had never turned up during the weekend. We were not amused.)

In addition to East bidding before West I have two other pet hates. The first is (the Dutch) habit of replacing the 10 with the letter “T”. (Dutch for ten is “tien”, but surely that’s no excuse.) The second - much more important - is the American rule of always using the singular for no trumps (or, as the Americans would say “no trump”). One bids seven spades (for example), so why seven no trump?

I am reminded of the person of a certain class and age who returned from a safari saying, “We were lucky, we saw all the big five - lion, elephant, buffalo, rhino and leopard”. Not so. What she actually saw were some lions, plenty of elephants, lots of buffalo, a couple of rhinos and a leopard.

Best wishes, Bill Pencharz, St. Bartélemy de Bussière, France

One can understand the American rule in the following terms. In spoken and written English we often eliminate words or phrases that are ‘understood’. “I went to the grocery and the butcher’s.” The “to” preceding “the butcher’s” is eliminated. Thus, the Americans say, “seven no trump” meaning “seven, with no trump suit”. It is no more inaccurate than “seven no trumps” meaning “seven, with no trumps”. I won’t even get into the accuracy of “all of the big five”. – Ed.