



BULLETIN

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Editorial

Greetings to all members, and may you and your loved ones all have a happy, healthy and prosperous 2012. Now is the time to renew your membership for 2012 if you've not already done so. Where else can you get such value for your bridge dollars? Membership dues are unchanged from last year, i.e., US\$42, with a surcharge of US\$45 if you want to receive a printed copy of the Bulletin. Details are in last month's Bulletin and on the website.

Rather than make New Year's resolutions (a quaint North American tradition), this year we're making New Year's wishes. Our membership is aging, so our first wish is for each member to bring in a new, younger, member. Secondly, we wish for more Bulletin submissions from our more reticent members, especially those in WBF Zones other than Europe and North America. If those two wishes are realised, we shall have a happy 2012.

We also have New Year's wishes for the WBF and EBL: that they are able to resolve their difficulties in finding venues for their 2012 championships very soon. It would certainly be a shame were they unable to do so – these are major championships, the Olympiad Teams and the European Team Championships. Okay, okay, the Olympiad Teams' name was changed to the World Mind Sports Games in 2008 and was made a part of a group of championships under IMSA which included chess, draughts, go and xiangqi (Chinese chess). Junior bridge events were included (age limits Under-28, Under-26 and Under-21) and together these were dubbed the World Bridge Series. This was not to be confused with the 1st SportAccord World Mind Sports Games just completed (December 2011) in Beijing. The SportAccord event was an invitational and was limited to four Men's and four Women's teams in bridge, and included all the same sports as the 2008 Games, also in Beijing, while the IMSA event was run along the same lines as the Olympiad Teams had been. Are you confused? We are!

In Beijing (this time!), the WBF tried out a new Victory Point scale, with one IMP equalling one Victory Point, to a maximum of 46. Thus a blitz was 92-0VP. This is a great innovation. The USBF has been using equal-value IMPs converted to Victory Points for some years, but the decimals they use make the scale incomprehensible. One little improvement could be made – make 40 or 50 a blitz so that 80-0 or 100-0 is the maximum. Who needs 92-0? The Canadian Bridge Federation had it right years ago, using an 80VP scale (40 IMPs as a VP blitz), but then perversely adopted the WBF scale.

An extraordinary thing has happened recently. The African Bridge Federation (ABF) has finally seen the light and declared that the Kenya Bridge Association (KBA), the organisation approved by the Government of Kenya and its sports associations, is the official NBO of the country. We congratulate Kala Shah, President of the KBA, Samina Esmail, KBA past-President, and their loyal supporters, who have worked tirelessly for years to right the wrong perpetrated by Kenya Bridge Africa, a private, limited corporation, and abetted by the ABF and WBF, in kidnapping the NBO rights of Kenyan bridge. We applaud the ABF (and possibly the behind-the-scenes workings of the previous and new WBF regimes) in recognising the true NBO of Kenyan bridge and look forward to seeing Kenyan teams in international events in the very near future.

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Brian Senior, Nottingham, UK

Five sports were on display: bridge, chess, drafts, go and xiangqi (Chinese chess). In the bridge events, four teams were invited in each of the Men's and Women's series: China, Netherlands, Norway and USA in the Men's, and China, France, Great Britain and USA in the Women's. The competitors would play teams, pairs and individual events.

Note that, as in the Olympic Games, we had Men's and Women's events, not Open and Women's. The parallel with the Olympic regulations also explains why the English Women's team played under the banner of Great Britain.

A word about the scoring here, as it was different from any other world or zonal event. Each IMP counted as 1 VP, up to a maximum of a blitz, 46 IMPs, making 92-0 the maximum score. This scale has the effect of making a round robin series one long match, just against different opponents and rewards consistency more than other Victory Point scales.

Devious Dutchman

For me, the hand of the first day was this one, on which the Netherlands picked up a big swing against USA in the Men's series.

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

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

West	North	East	South
Verhees	Rosenberg	van Prooijen	Willenken
—	Pass	Pass	1 NT
3 ♥	Double	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

In the other room, Muller/de Wijs for the Netherlands were able to find their five-three spade fit after a one-diamond opening from North and played four spades, making twelve tricks after a heart lead, for plus 480.

Here, Michael Rosenberg did not open as North but he made a take-out double of the three-heart overcall, then, having game values but fewer than four spades, went on with three notrump over Chris Willenken's three spades. No doubt Willenken suspected that there might be a five-three fit but he could not be certain and he did have two heart honours, so he passed.

Louk Verhees led the queen of hearts, looking for an unblock and, when Ricco van Prooijen followed with the six and Willenken ducked, he switched to the nine of clubs, denying any interest in clubs. Willenken thought that the biggest danger to his contract was that East would win this trick and clear the hearts while West had an entry with the king of spades, so he rose with the club king in hope that the ace was on his left.

Van Prooijen won the ace of clubs and returned his remaining heart, Willenken winning the ace. Now he ran the diamonds. Willenken could see a way home if East held three spades and five clubs, as on the actual deal, or perhaps four-four in the black suits. In either case, there was the prospect of an endplay which would not require the actual lucky lay-out of the spade suit.

On the fourth diamond, van Prooijen pitched the two of clubs and Willenken the four of spades. On the last diamond, van Prooijen threw the five of spades. This made it look as though he had begun life with four-four in the black suits. After all, who throws a spade from king to three in this situation? Taken in by the spade discard, Willenken led a spade to the jack, seeing the nine drop on his left, then exited with the jack of clubs, hoping to see East win a couple of club tricks then be forced to lead away from the king of spades at trick twelve.

That was a nicely thought out line of play, but it had one fatal flaw, van Prooijen had three clubs to cash, not two, and the king of spades was bare. A very thoughtful defence from Ricco van Prooijen and fully deserving of the 11 IMPs it earned for his team. The Netherlands won the match by 68-30 IMPs, 84-8 VPs.

Women's Teams - USA v FRA

RR4. Board 30. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Sanborn</i>	<i>Neve</i>	<i>Levitina</i>	<i>Gaviard</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1 ♣	3 ♥	Double	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	
West	North	East	South
<i>Willard</i>	<i>Sokolow</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Molson</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1 ♣	1 ♥	2 ♦	2 ♥
3 ♦	3 ♥	Double	Pass
4 ♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

Facing a passed partner, Neve made a heavy three-heart pre-empt and Gaviard raised her to game. At the other table, Sokolow made a simple overcall, then, when she collected a raise from Molson, competed with three hearts over three diamonds, not really imagining that game could be a good prospect with six losers to be covered by a hand that could only raise to two hearts.

Cronier doubled three hearts to show a maximum for her initial pass and Willard went back to four diamonds, ending the auction. Molson led a heart against four diamonds. Sokolow won a deceptive king and switched to a low spade for the ten and ace. Cronier won the spade continuation with dummy's queen and played the jack then ten of diamonds, both ducked. She continued with a spade to the king and ruffed her heart loser. A club to hand was followed by the king of diamonds and Molson could only make the ace; ten tricks for plus 130.

It appears that four hearts has no chance of success, declarer having to lose two clubs and two spades. Levitina led the queen of clubs and, when that was allowed to hold the trick, switched to the nine of spades, zero or two higher. Sanborn won the queen, cashed the king of clubs, then switched to the jack of diamonds.

Neve won the ace and ruffed a diamond, cashed the ace and king of hearts and led the heart two to dummy's five. That allowed her to ruff another diamond,

leaving only Levitina to guard the suit. Now came the remaining trumps and Levitina was positionally squeezed. She had to keep the diamond guard so, at trick eleven, away went dummy's diamond. Now a low spade dropped the king and Neve had made her impossible game, the jack of spades winning the last trick; plus 420 and 11 IMPs to France. That board helped France to hold the loss in the match to 14 IMPs, 21-35, or 32-60 VPs.

Women's Teams Final - USA v GB

Board 32. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Dhondy</i>	<i>Sokolow</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Molson</i>
1 ♦	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣
2 ♦	3 ♣	3 ♦	4 ♣
4 ♦	5 ♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			
West	North	East	South
<i>Deas</i>	<i>Brock</i>	<i>Palmer</i>	<i>Smith</i>
1 ♦	1 ♠	Pass	1 NT
2 ♦	2 ♠	Pass	Pass
3 ♦	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

I am not sure about supporting clubs when I have a seven-card major which I have only bid once. Sokolow's decision was very committal (although she did have the opportunity to bid four spades over four diamonds) as the spade suit was now lost to the American pair and they alighted in the very poor club game.

Molson ruffed the diamond lead in dummy and led a spade to her ace, ruffed a diamond, and ruffed a spade low. When that was over-ruffed it became only a matter of how many down the contract would go. Dhondy returned a club to prevent any further ruffs in dummy, so Molson won, drew the remaining trumps, and led a heart to the king then back to her ten. When that lost to the jack she was down three for minus 150.

Smith preferred one notrump to two clubs, not requiring a diamond stopper as the one diamond opening would so often not deliver a genuine suit. Deas showed that she really did have diamonds and Brock

was happy to repeat her spades. When Deas came again with three diamonds, Brock bid her spades yet again and Smith guessed to raise to game - it could hardly be far from making from her perspective.

Brock ruffed the diamond lead, cashed the ace of spades, and crossed to hand by leading a club to her king. She played the queen of spades, hoping to pin an original jack-ten doubleton, and Palmer won the king. Had she now continued with another diamond, Brock would have been in control, able to concede another trump but then getting in to draw the last round and make five tricks in each black suit.

However, Palmer had worked this out and switched to the eight of hearts. If Brock played the ten on this trick she would go down. Deas would cover with the jack and when Palmer got in with the ten of spades a heart through would mean two tricks for the ace and nine. But Brock got it right, playing Deas for the jack by rising with the queen. Deas won the ace but could not continue hearts to good effect.

There was only one chance for the defence and Deas found it. She returned a club. When Brock now played a spade to Palmer's ten, a third club cut her off from dummy while there was still a trump out. Brock had to lose a heart for down one; minus 50 but still 3 IMPs to Great Britain. That was a great effort all around. GB won the set by 28-19 and trailed by 55-78 with 16 boards to play.

It may seem that Brock could have succeeded had she not played a round of clubs herself, instead ruffing a diamond back to hand at trick three. Now she could not be cut off from the long clubs. Let's see how the play goes then. If declarer next plays the queen of spades as before, East wins and leads a third diamond, forcing declarer down to the same trump length as herself. As West has the heart entry to permit her to play a fourth round of diamonds, East will get a third trump trick to defeat the contract.

Can declarer knock out West's heart entry early, i.e. before the third round of diamonds has been played so that there will be no fourth round? Well, yes she can, but she still goes down. If declarer leads the queen of hearts from dummy or low from hand to the queen, West wins the ace and East still has two entries in the trump suit to lead through the ten of hearts and establish the fourth defensive winner. It appears that the contract can never be made against accurate defence.

Dutch Destroyers

The Netherlands went into the 48-board Men's final with a useful 16-IMP carryover. It seemed that the match would be over almost before it had begun as the Dutch destroyed the Americans over the first few deals of the opening session.

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Sontag</i>
3 ♥	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	5 ♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Willenken</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Brink</i>
2 ♥	Double	3 ♥	Double
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Willenken opened only two hearts, not liking the texture of his suit for a three-level opening. Rosenberg led the jack of hearts, ducked to the king, and Drijver took the club finesse, claiming nine tricks when it was successful, five clubs, two diamonds and one trick in each major; plus 600.

De Wijs made the full-blooded three-heart pre-empt and that was a level too high for Berkowitz, who passed. However, he had plenty with which to cue bid opposite Sontag's aggressive double and Sontag selected five clubs.

The cards lie so well for North-South that declarer can hold his losses to just one heart and one spade, but Sontag did not know that everything was quite so favourable and followed an unsuccessful line.

De Wijs kicked off with ace and another heart to dummy's king. Sontag ran the ten of clubs, unblocking his nine, then repeated the finesse and cashed the ace. He crossed to dummy with the club four to the six, Muller pitching a diamond, and led a spade to the queen. Next came a spade to the ace and now Sontag was at the crossroads. He suspected that East held four spades along with four diamonds. If the diamonds included the queen, East could be strip-squeezed. Sontag led a diamond to his king and cashed the last trump, throwing a spade from dummy while Muller threw a diamond (had he thrown a spade he would have been thrown in with the king, of course). Now Sontag played for the squeeze to have operated and tried to drop the diamond offside; down one for minus 100 and 12 IMPs to Netherlands. Well done to Muller.

Fantastic Fred

When this deal came up on the screen in the vugraph theatre, three results were already in - all three were West playing in 3NT and making exactly. Fred Gitelman defended the same contract beautifully to put Norway's Thor Erik Hoftaniska under terrible pressure.

Men's Pairs Session 2. Board 17. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Hoftaniska	Gitelman	Charlsen	Moss
—	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Thomas Charlsen opened a shaded one heart and the two-over-one auction wended its way to the inevitable conclusion. What should North lead? Gitelman didn't fancy anything. Neither doubleton honour was very appealing into declarer's holdings, but neither was either red suit, given that one or other opponent had shown length in them.

Gitelman selected the eight of hearts. Hoftaniska put in the ten in the hope of inducing a cover from jack-to-four, but that was hardly likely to succeed even had Brad Moss had that holding. Hoftaniska won the heart king and played four rounds of diamonds, throwing a club and two spades from the dummy. Meanwhile, Moss threw spades.

Gitelman was on lead and again wished it were not so. He cashed the ace of spades, eliminating dummy's exit card in that suit, then led a second heart. While it is easy for us to see that putting in the nine works, the position was not obvious to declarer, who had seen an opening lead of the eight of hearts and now North had shown up with the diamond length.

Hoftaniska rose with the ace of hearts and tried a club to the jack, queen and king. Back came a club from Gitelman. Declarer took dummy's ace and exited with a club in hope of endplaying South to lead into the heart tenace. Instead, he collected the last trick with the king of spades; down two for minus 100 and 7

MPs out of 10 for Gitelman/Moss. A very nice defence from Fred Gitelman.

Sneaky Defence

Thomas Charlsen and Thor Erik Hoftaniska of Norway finished second in the Men's Pairs, 4.2 MPs behind the winners. The Norwegians found a really sneaky defence on this deal from the final session of that event.

Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Charlsen	Gitelman	Hoftaniska	Moss
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♠ ¹
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♦
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	5 ♣
Pass	5 ♦	Pass	6 ♠
Pass	6 NT	Pass	Pass

1. (Semi-)balanced 8-11

The Americans bid nicely to the good slam when Moss valued his two aces well. Two pairs missed the slam and a third bid to seven, going one down.

Hoftaniska led the three of clubs, third and fifth, and Fred Gitelman won the ace. He cashed the king and queen of diamonds and, on seeing that the suit had split, switched his attention to spades. He cashed all the spades, and Hoftaniska threw two hearts then a club, Charlsen a heart, while dummy came down to the diamonds and the club and heart tens. Next came the diamonds. Charlsen threw a second heart then both the jack and king of clubs in normal tempo. That forced Hoftaniska to bare his heart king to keep the queen of clubs.

Can you blame Gitelman for being taken in? It seemed clear that Charlsen was hanging on to king and another heart so he finessed the queen and down he went. Hoftaniska took the last two tricks and wrote plus 50 on his scoresheet instead of minus 990. That made the difference between East-West scoring 2 MPs and 9 MPs.

A very nice defence.

To Split or Not to Split?

Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Groetheim	Lian	Tundal	H. Shi
—	—	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♦	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 ♥
Pass	5 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Ruoyi Lian and Haojun Shi stopped in five spades when Lian discovered that there was a key card plus the queen of trumps missing. While the spade honours are both onside, the four-one diamond split means that declarer has only one discard, so requires two ruffs in dummy, unless he is prepared to finesse the ten of hearts – a big position to take.

Three tables reached the spade slam and made it. After winning the club lead, declarer can lead a low spade and, if West ducks, put in the ten. Then, declarer can cash the spade ace and both diamond winners stand up for club discards. Just one ruff establishes the hearts for plus 1430.

Haojun Shi too won the club lead and led a low spade. However, Norway's Glenn Groetheim split his honours, the king forcing the ace. Now declarer could not draw the second trump without allowing Groetheim to draw a third round. Shi played the top diamonds but Ulf Tundal could ruff the second, forcing declarer to over-ruff.

Shi continued with a club ruff, then four rounds of hearts, ruffing. The fifth heart was now established but to get back to hand Shi had to ruff a diamond. Now, when he played the nine of spades, Groetheim could win and force his last trump with the last diamond, and the seven of spades made the last trick; eleven tricks for plus 650 but only 3 MPs out of 10 for the Chinese pair.

Mens Pairs Final Session

Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Sontag	van Prooijen	Berkowitz	Verhees
—	—	—	1 ♣
Pass	1 ♦	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Five declarers out of six managed to bring home three notrump on this deal. One was Louk Verhees, even though Alan Sontag and David Berkowitz made him work hard for it. Verhees received the lead of the six of clubs to the ten, jack and ace. He played ace and another heart to the queen and Berkowitz returned a club, ducked. Sontag won and cleared the clubs, not wishing to switch and risk taking a finesse for declarer, and Berkowitz threw a heart. Verhees won the club and cashed three top spades then played a heart. Berkowitz won the king and cashed the last spade, but was then left with nothing but diamonds. On the enforced diamond lead, Verhees finessed and had his ninth trick for plus 600.

Had Berkowitz pitched a diamond instead of his low heart, the same line of play would have failed. When Berkowitz wins the heart king he can cash the fourth spade then has a heart exit card. But declarer does not need to play that way. Instead, he sets up the heart without cashing the top spades. Now he can win the heart or spade return, cash the jack of hearts, and then play out the spades to endplay East with the same result as before.

Men's Individual Session 2

Here are two key deals from the Individual...

(See top of next page...)

You might imagine that everyone would get to three notrump on the East-West cards once East opens the bidding. And, indeed, at most tables that was the case, the contract making nine tricks where the defence attacked hearts from the start.

Board 18. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Shi	Lian	Drijver	Moss
—	—	1 ♦	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Drijver and Shi produced a little variety by playing four spades on the four-three fit. Lian led the two of hearts to the ace and back came the heart four to Shi's king. He led a diamond up and Lian grabbed the ace and continued with a third heart to his partner's queen. Seeing no future in the side-suits, Moss led the thirteenth heart, Shi pitching a club from hand and over-ruffing Lian's five with the ace. He could no longer pick up South's jack-to-four trumps by straightforward means but soon showed that it didn't matter.

Shi played three rounds of clubs, ruffing low, king of diamonds, a diamond ruff with the spade nine, and a spade to the king. Now another diamond lead allowed him to trump coup the jack and make the last two tricks and his contract for plus 420. As the popular result was plus 400 in three notrump, making four spades was a very good result for East-West.

Board 24. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Lian	Hoftaniska	Malinowski	Tundal
Pass	Pass	1 ♣	1 NT
Double	2 ♠	3 ♣	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

It looked obvious to Ulf Tundal that he double his compatriot's three-club contract. After all, he had three or probably four trump tricks, an ace and a useful diamond holding. How could he go wrong?

Tundal made the obvious lead of the king of diamonds. Malinowski won the ace and led the ten of hearts, covered all around. Now Tundal switched to a spade. Malinowski won dummy's ace and ruffed a diamond, played jack of hearts and ruffed one, ruffed another diamond, cashed the king of spades and led his last heart. Tundal could ruff in front of dummy with the eight but was endplayed and could not prevent Malinowski from making two of the remaining tricks for plus 670 and a complete top on the board.

It looks as though the winning defence is to play ace and another trump after winning the ace of hearts. That gives up two trump tricks, but Tundal lost one trick anyway due to the endplay so the difference is only one. The real difference is that now declarer has a total of three heart losers as well as a second club loser so is down a trick. Now that is a tough play to find!

The medallists were:

Men's Teams

Gold: Netherlands - Ricco van Prooijen-Louk Verhees; Simon de Wijs-Bauke Muller; Sjoert Brink-Bas Drijver
 Silver: USA - Alan Sontag-David Berkowitz; Fred Gitelman-Brad Moss; Michael Rosenberg-Chris Willenken
 Bronze: Norway - Artur Malinowski-Arild Rasmussen; Ulf Tundal-Glenn Gotheim; Thomas Charlsen-Thor Erik Hoftaniska

Women's Teams

Gold: USA - Tobi Sokolow-Janice Seamon-Molson; Kerri Sanborn-Irina Levitina; Lynn Deas-Beth Palmer
 Silver: Great Britain - Heather Dhondy-Nevena Senior; Sally Brock-Nicola Smith; Fiona Brown-Susan Stockdale
 Bronze: China - Feng Xuefeng-Sun Yanhui; Sun Ming-Wang Hongli; Yu Lan-Gu Ling

Men's Pairs

Gold: China - Xu Hou-Miao Shi
 Silver: Norway - Thomas Charlsen-Thor Erik Hoftaniska
 Bronze: USA - Fred Gitelman-Brad Moss

Women's Pairs

Gold: USA - Lynn Deas-Beth Palmer
 Silver: China - Feng Xuefeng-Sun Yanhui
 Bronze: France - Bénédicte Cronier-Sylvie Willard

Men's Individual

Gold: USA - Chris Willenken
 Silver: China - Li Jie
 Bronze: YSA - Brad Moss

Women's Individual

Gold: USA - Janice Seamon-Molson
 Silver: Great Britain - Nicola Smith
 Bronze: USA - Tobi Sokolow



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

595. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

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

West led the nine of clubs won by dummy's ace. Declarer could count 11 winners and the twelfth would come if West held the spade king. Consequently, declarer turned his attention to overcoming some cases where East began with the king of spades.

At trick two, he ruffed a club with the nine of trumps. Next he cashed the ace of trumps and played a trump to dummy's queen, finding the trumps to be 2-2. After ruffing dummy's remaining club, declarer cashed the three top diamonds, discarding a spade from hand. Declarer continued with the ace of spades and a spade to dummy's queen. When East took the queen of spades with the king he found himself with a hand that only had clubs left; the forced club return allowed declarer to discard his last spade and ruff in dummy.

596. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

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

1. Michaels: at least 5/5 in the majors
2. Splinter
3. Cue bids

West led the king of spades and declarer saw that the best plan was to set up dummy's clubs. (The danger of ruffing three hearts in dummy was setting up a trump trick in East's hand.) After ducking the first spade (not such a clear play as there could be a spade discard on the clubs and a trump loser; nevertheless, not unreasonable) and winning the spade continuation, declarer ruffed a spade. This confirmed that West began with exactly five spades. If declarer was to set up the clubs, he needed them to be no worse than 4-2. Also, the contract would fail if East had four trumps. So declarer played on the assumption that West began with a 5=5=1=2 shape.

After the ace of trumps, declarer cashed the ace and king of clubs then ruffed a club. He returned to dummy with a trump to the queen and then ruffed another club. All that remained for declarer to do was to cash the ace of hearts, ruff a heart with the nine of trumps and draw East's last trump with dummy's king. Trick 13 was won with the established jack of clubs.

Once West shows up with five spades, the chosen plan succeeds a little better than four times in ten. The alternative of ruffing three hearts in dummy succeeds around one time in four.

597. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

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

The auction was relatively simple after North showed a club control and spade support with his cue bid of four clubs. South then enquired about key cards and discovered his partner held the three missing aces and the king of diamonds.

South was not quite as accurate in the play as he was in the bidding. He took West's lead of the king of clubs with dummy's bare ace and laid down the ace of trumps. After West discarded, his next hope was that the queen of hearts would fall in three rounds. When this failed to occur, he ruffed a club and cashed his diamond winners, ending in hand. When he ruffed his last club, East overruffed to defeat the contract.

"That was unlucky," offered declarer.

"There was nothing unlucky about it at all," countered North. "If you were going to touch trumps at trick two then you should have led a low trump from dummy. After West discards on the queen of trumps, you would cash the ace and king of hearts and ruff a heart. When West shows out you can expect that his original distribution was 0=2=4=7. Consequently, you would ruff a club, ruff a second heart and cash three rounds of diamonds ending in hand. Next you would ruff your remaining club with dummy's ace of trumps, as East under-ruffs, reducing everyone to two cards. Then could finesse the ten of trumps and claim your thirteenth trick with the king of trumps."

598. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

1. Promises at least 5-5 in the majors and at most six losers on the Losing Trick Count

North did well to retreat from three no trumps into five clubs as the former would have no play on the routine lead of the king of hearts.

That card proved a less-troublesome lead against the final contract. Declarer could see that to make his contract he had to make four diamond tricks without letting East on lead. So, after taking the ace of hearts, he played the king of trumps followed by the jack of trumps to dummy's queen. Next he led the seven of diamonds intending to run it if East played low. When East played the nine of diamonds declarer took the trick with his king. Next he crossed back to dummy with a trump to the ace and led the eight of diamonds and passed it to West's now bare jack. (East could not afford to play the queen of diamonds as that would give declarer five diamond tricks.)

West forced dummy with a heart but declarer was in control. He ruffed in dummy, cashed his ace of diamonds and crossed back to the table with another heart ruff. After winning tricks with the two long diamonds, declarer pointed to his ten of trumps as the eleventh trick.

This plan required West to hold at least one of queen, jack or nine of diamonds. An instructive point is that if East has two of these cards and declarer draws a third trump, then he has to guess whether West has the jack or queen doubleton (lead the diamond ten in both cases) or the nine doubleton (lead the diamond eight or seven). However, by playing on diamonds after two rounds of trumps declarer can succeed on the above deal by attempting to pass any one of ten, eight or seven of diamonds to West.

599. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West led the eight of hearts. East took this with the jack of hearts, cashed the queen of hearts and led the king of hearts to trick three. Declarer ruffed this with the king of trumps and then ran the jack of trumps. A

trump to the eight revealed that declarer had a trump loser and, as there was no way of avoiding a club loser too, declarer finished one trick shy of his contract.

Dummy was unsympathetic. "As you planned to play West for the queen of trumps and East for the king of clubs, then the correct play at trick three was to discard your seven of clubs. If East continues with a fourth heart you ruff in hand and, presuming West discards (it will do no good to overruff), you will run the jack of trumps next. A trump to the eight is followed by the ace of trumps and a club to the queen. The king of trumps falls West's queen; you make five trumps, three diamonds and two clubs."

600. Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ Q J 5 2
♥ 6
♦ A K 9 7 6
♣ Q J 2

♠ 6
♥ K Q 10 8 5 4
♦ Q 10 3
♣ K 5 4

♠ 9 7 4 3
♥ J 7 3
♦ J 8
♣ 10 9 7 6

♠ A K 10 8
♥ A 9 2
♦ 5 4 2
♣ A 8 3

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	INT
2♥	Double	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♠	All pass	

After North's negative double of two hearts, both players stretched a little and a reasonable slam was reached. West led the king of hearts and South paused to form a plan. The bidding suggested that West started with the king of clubs. As he had only eight top winners, declarer saw that he needed to make four trumps, four diamonds, the two round-suit aces and two heart ruffs in dummy.

Declarer took the first trick with the ace of hearts and then ruffed a heart with two of trumps. After drawing one round of trumps with dummy's queen, he made the key play of leading a low diamond from dummy! East won the trick with eight of diamonds and exited with a club. However, declarer made no mistake; he rose with the ace of clubs and ruffed his remaining heart with the jack of trumps. He was then able to draw East's remaining trumps and play on diamonds. As the suit was originally 3=2, after the ace and king of diamonds were cashed the two remaining diamonds were the declarer's eleventh and twelfth tricks.

Kriashna Chakravartula, Bangalore

If asked what the essence of Chennai is, what would you say? Would it be the architectural landmarks or the long and beautiful Marina Beach? Perhaps the Carnatic music or the street food? The possible answers are numerous but the one thing which remains common, no matter what the answer, is that the city, the gateway to the South and its culture, has a spirit and essence different from that of any other Indian city.

Growing from a tiny fishing hamlet to a bustling metropolis with major automobile units, a thriving IT industry and pride of place as the cultural capital of the South, it's been a long and eventful journey for Chennai, the erstwhile Madras, which turned 373 recently. According to Forbes magazine, Chennai is one of the fastest growing cities in the world, with a diversified economic base anchored by the automobile, software services, hardware manufacturing, health care and financial services industries.

Chennai is the cultural centre of the south and boasts a tropical climate. You would love the city, be sure about it. Here are a few deals from the tournament.

A Revealing Double and a Double Dummy Play – L. Subramanian

The following deal came up in the first round of the 'Ruia Gold' Swiss League and featured National Champion B. Prabhakar in action.

Dealer West. NS Vul.

♠ K 9 7 5
♥ 10 9 8 2
♦ A 9 8
♣ 3 2

♠ A J 8 4 3 2
♥ 3
♦ 10 5 3 2
♣ J 10

♠ 10 6
♥ K Q 6 5
♦ K Q J 7
♣ 8 6 5

♠ Q
♥ A J 7 4
♦ 6 4
♣ A K Q 9 7 4

West	North	East	South
2♠	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

East led the diamond king. Declarer ducked and won the continuation. Declarer ran the heart eight next,

West following suit. Placing East with king-queen to four hearts for his double, Prabhakar now made the key play of three rounds of clubs, pitching his diamond. When West was unable to ruff, declarer played a heart to his nine. East won with his queen and shifted to a spade to West's ace. Declarer ruffed the diamond continuation in hand, finessed the heart jack, and claimed the balance for a score of plus 790. If declarer fails to take the diamond discard and plays a second trump instead, the defence prevails. If East had not doubled the final contract, it is next to impossible to find the play – so never make such revealing doubles, especially against good players.

At the other table, South balanced with three clubs, which North passed, scoring plus 150.

Ruia Gold Pre-Quarterfinals Round 6, Session 2, Malani vs Indian Mavericks

There were some amusing goings-on when the following deal was played.

Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Arvind V	Balram E	Manoj N	Prakash K
2 ♠	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 ♦	Pass	4 NT	Pass
5 c& ¹	Pass	5 ♦ ²	Pass
6 ♦ ³	Pass	6 ♠	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. One or four key cards
2. Queen ask
3. Spade queen and diamond king

After a weak-two opening by West (some would open one spade), East chose to not show his heart suit, which should have worked extremely well on this particular deal. However, fate was in a fickle mood. After the Lightner double and with no other indication in the bidding either way, one would expect Balram, with seven clubs and four hearts to automatically lead a club...but he successfully found the heart lead that was required to defeat the contract.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Jagdish	Arvind	S S Roy	RV
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	2 NT	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	4 NT	Pass
5 ♣	Pass	6 ♥	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Trying to play the slam in the other major fared no better in the Closed Room as the spade lead was automatic after another Lightner double, this time by North – resulting in a push board.

It looks impossible to do so, but in the other quarterfinal match against team Poddar, they found the one and only way to reach a makeable slam!

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

1. Wrong card pulled out from the bidding box!!!

Poor North-South were struck by lightning here and no form of Lightner could help them with the contract right-sided. West must certainly have wondered what was going on.

Ruia Gold Semifinal Session I

Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Anand	S S. Chokshi	R A Agarwal	Jaggy S
—	—	Pass	Pass
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

A minor-suit lead would have spelled quick doom for this contract but declarer had a chance when the spade queen was led. Declarer correctly ducked and the heart jack continuation was run to the queen. The spade ace and diamond king won the next two tricks and two top clubs were cashed. When West showed

out, declarer conceded a spade to West's king. These were the cards remaining when West led the heart king:

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

Declarer could still make by ducking the heart, but he won the ace instead. Declarer cashed the thirteenth spade, West discarding a diamond and North and East letting go clubs. A diamond was conceded to West, who continued diamonds and it was now East's turn for a heart unblock now. Unfortunately, he discarded a club instead and a heart from dummy now provided a stepping stone to declarer's queen of clubs.

Incredibly, this board was a push, the defence proving just as difficult in the other room.

The winners of the main events were:

Ruia Gold Cup: Indian Railways A - Manas Mukherjee, Sumit Mukherjee, A N Banerjee, S. Dutta, D Majumder, Subir Majumder

IMP Pairs: C S Majumder-P K Mukherjee

Holkar Pairs: Vijay Devadasa-R Venkatesh

SPANISH OPEN TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP 2011

Ana Roth, Buenos Aires

The 2011 Champions: Ventin, Juan Carlos; Fernández, Carlos; Wrang, Frederick; Graupera, Javier; Pont, Juan; Conti, Ferran.

The last stage of the Spanish Open Teams Championship was played in the Eurobridge Club of Madrid from 9 -11 December 2011. The eight teams qualifying for the final were:

- a) Two teams from the Madrid and Catalan region
- b) Four winners of zonal tournaments held in Galicia, the Canary Islands, Seville and Madrid
- c) Two teams chosen for their players' expertise.

The eight teams played a fourteen-boards-per-match round robin.

Conti defeated the Frances Team (Francés-Torres; Basabe-Pablo G.P.) 65 to 12. Here are two of the deals that helped the winning team achieve their victory.

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Frances	Ventin	Torres	Wrang
1 ♦	1 ♠	Pass	3 ♦
Double	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Lead: ♦3

To defeat the contract defenders must take away declarer's heart stopper before he can discard one of his losing hearts on the jack of clubs, because of the ace-queen doubleton. The club and spade leads give declarer the time to discard a heart loser on dummy's club jack. A heart lead immediately remove the heart stopper and a diamond lead, if the defenders immediately switch to a heart they also defeat the contract.

In real life, Torres lead a diamond, Frances won with his ace and returned the queen. Ventin won with his king of diamonds, played trumps twice, remaining in dummy, and led a club. Frances played his ace and returned a heart...but it was too late. Ventin played a little one from hand and won the second one with dummy's ace to play another club to his king. When he saw the queen on the table, he returned with a trump to the dummy and pitched his heart loser on the established club jack..

At the other table the Frances team declarer was also given the opportunity to make 10 tricks, but he was only playing three spades, so the hand cost them 10 IMPs.

Board 8. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Frances	Ventin	Torres	Wrang
Pass	1 NT	Pass	2 ♠
3 ♣	Pass	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Lead: ♠7

Frances didn't want to lead a club and chose a spade. Declarer ruffed the lead, played three trumps, and continued with the ace, king and a third diamond. East won with his queen, returned a club and declarer claimed 11 tricks.

The other room's bidding:

West	North	East	South
Graupera	Pablo GP	Pont	Basabe
Pass	1 NT	Pass	2 ♠
3 ♣	Pass	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

In the other room the bidding began the same way, but South decided to make a three-diamond retransfer, so North became the declarer and West found an opportunity to double the final contract to show interest in a diamond lead (first suit named by dummy).

Pont lead a club instead of a diamond, so Graupera played his ace and returned the two, asking a diamond return. East ruffed the club and played the two of diamonds. West ruffed and returned another club, declarer ruffing in dummy, but he couldn't do anything about the queen of diamonds and another 11 IMPs for the winning team.

NOT FRIENDLY? Allan Falk, Okemos, MI

Here are just a couple of cute declarer plays from the Seattle NABC in situations where one seeks a 100% line of play to deal with a "known" unfriendly trump break:

IMPs. Dealer West. NS Vul.

♠ A K Q J 6
♥ J 6 5 3
♦ K 8 4 2
♣ —

♠ 10 7 3 2
♥ A 8
♦ A 10 7 5 3
♣ J 7

West	North	East	South
4 ♣	Double	Pass	5 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West leads the club ace, ruffed in dummy; you cash the king of diamonds and LHO plays a club. What now?

Recovery is merely a matter of keeping uppermost in your mind you can afford two losers. Lead a small diamond from dummy; East will split his honours, and you duck. Now East leads a high club, and one alternative is not to trump this in dummy - discard one of dummy's useless hearts!

East does best to lead his remaining club, which you ruff in hand, discarding another heart from dummy. Now a spade to dummy, dummy's last diamond, covering East's card, pull the last trump, and claim. (I think it also works to win the second diamond, cross to a spade, and lead the third diamond; East can cash one club but you can ruff a third club in hand to pull the last trump - however, if East had a singleton spade, he could cross in clubs for a spade ruff, so the recommended line is best). It also works to duck the second diamond, ruff the club continuation in dummy, cross to the ten of spades and play ace and another diamond.

Here's one from the Life Master Pairs:

Dealer North. Both Vul.

♠ A 8
♥ A Q 7 3
♦ 9 5
♣ A 9 7 4 3

♠ 6
♥ K 10 5 2
♦ A K 7 6
♣ 10 6 5 2

West	North	East	South
—	1 ♣	Double	1 ♥
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	5 ♣
Pass	5 ♥	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

West leads a big spade and you win dummy's ace. What now?

You have to look ahead on this hand - East has either four or five hearts (if he has five, you will need clubs 2-2). You must hold your heart and club losers to two, protect against a spade continuation, and yet be in position to draw trump once the clubs are established, while availing yourself of the power of the ten of hearts.

So, the proper sequence of plays is, at trick two, a heart to the ten (West follows), a club to the ace, and a club (both follow in practice). Now you hope East tries another spade so you can make a doubled overtrick—otherwise you don't have the entry flexibility (hearts are surely at least 4-1, and you need to draw three more rounds, starting with the king) and will have to settle for 850 instead of 1050.

NEW YORK TIMES BRIDGE

Phillip Alder, Hobe Sound, FL

"All the Bridge That's Fit to Print"

Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
1 ♦	Double	2 ♣	2 ♥
Double	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

The diagrammed deal occurred during the last round of the Keohane North American Swiss Teams at the Fall North American Championships in Seattle.

Sitting West was Joel Wooldridge of New York City, defending against four hearts doubled.

In the auction, partner's two-club response was natural but non-forcing. West's second-round double indicated a good hand.

Wooldridge led the club jack. Declarer won with dummy's ace and cashed the heart ace, John Hurd of New York City (East) discarding a club. Then South played a spade from the dummy to the ten (upside-down count) and king. How did Wooldridge plan the defence?

This was surely the best play at the Nationals. It helped Wooldridge to become the American Contract Bridge League's Player of the Year. This title goes to the winner of the most platinum master points, which are given only in the top-rated events at the three Nationals each year.

Wooldridge immediately realized that there was no legitimate chance to defeat the contract. His side was due to get only one spade and two hearts, since declarer's club losers were going to evaporate on dummy's spades once they were established.

In desperation, Wooldridge smoothly dropped his spade jack under declarer's king!

Yes, when South now led his second spade and West played the six, declarer could have put up dummy's

queen and collected an overtrick. And perhaps he should have, given the auction. But he did what most people would have done, playing dummy's eight. This allowed East to win with his nine and to cash the club king. Later West took two heart tricks for down one.

Was that a big gain? Yes and no. At the other table, East-West played in three no-trump, which could not be defeated. So the Hurd and Wooldridge team lost 7 IMPs on the board. However, if Wooldridge had taken South's spade king with his ace, four hearts doubled would have made, the swing would have been 14 IMPs, the match result would have changed from a win to a loss and Wooldridge would not have been the Player of the Year.

When a contract cannot be defeated by normal means, try abnormal. But make the play smoothly; otherwise you will give the ruse away.

The website for the Commonwealth Games 2014 (8-14 September) is now online. It is:
www.commonwealthbridgescotland.com



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JUST IN TIME

John Carruthers, Kingsville, ON

Every once in a while, we come across a bid or play so beautiful that we marvel at it and say, "That's why we play bridge." I had that experience at the 40th World Championships in The Netherlands in October, 2011. The more attentive among you will realise that I was a Non-Playing Captain, not a player; so how did it happen? Brent Manley, editor of the ACBL Bulletin, had asked PO Sundelin and me to bid a set of hands for him for the Bulletin.

PO and I play a system of PO's design called "Zest", which features five-card majors, four-card diamond suits (one diamond promises an unbalanced hand as well) and a Swedish/Polish style one-club opening promising clubs or any balanced hand of 12-14 or 18-19 HCP. One no trump is 15-17 and a two over one is almost game forcing. Two diamonds is Multi and two of a major is two-suited.

This was deal 6 in the set Brent monitored:

Board 6. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

...and this was our auction:

West (JC)	East (PO)
—	2 ♣ ¹
2 ♦ ²	2 ♥ ³
2 ♠ ⁴	2 NT ⁵
3 ♣ ⁶	3 ♥ ⁷
3 ♠ ⁸	3 NT ⁹
4 ♦ ¹⁰	4 ♥ ¹¹
4 ♠ ¹²	4 NT ¹³
5 ♣ ¹⁴	5 NT ¹⁵
6 ♦ ¹⁶	7 ♣ ¹⁷
Pass ¹⁸	

1. Strong, artificial, forcing (almost GF)
2. Neutral; denies a good 5+ card suit
3. Hearts or balanced 26+ HCP; puppet to 2♠
4. Forced
5. Balanced 26+
6. Stayman
7. 4/5 hearts
8. 4 spades
9. Fewer than 4 spades
10. 4+ diamonds

11. Cue bid for diamonds
12. Cue bid
13. RKCB for diamonds
14. One key card
15. Anything extra? (Guarantees all 5 key cards and the diamond queen)
16. Nothing extra
17. Undiscussed
18. Bingo!

Up to three no trump the bids were fairly routine. Over three no trump, one alternative was a simple six no trump – not worried about hearts since PO had promised length there, but I felt that a grand slam was still possible. I bid four diamonds rather than four clubs because I did not want to suggest slam or grand slam in a suit headed by the six. Since PO's hand was so pure and he had such good diamond support, he started a cue-bidding sequence in support of diamonds, then asked for key cards.

I showed one key card, then denied anything extra – I had already shown the spade king with four spades (since I'd shown length earlier this must be the king). Had I held the club king, I'd have bid six clubs; with the heart king, six hearts (surely we'd have enough for at least six notrump - 26+10); with the spade queen, six spades. As it happens, the heart queen would have been equally as good, but its power would have been undetectable.

At this point, PO knew we had at least 11 tricks in top cards and would need little more than a spade ruff in his hand for a slam in diamonds even if I had ace-empty fourth of trumps. If I had a fifth diamond, especially ace-jack to five, a grand slam was excellent. Suppose, however, PO thought, I had a 4=2=4=3 distribution – seven clubs might be possible, especially with clubs headed by the ten. So...

Now came the master bid – seven clubs. Although this was undiscussed, I reasoned that PO must be offering me an alternative to play there, so with four clubs (and only four diamonds) I passed. PO had hit the jackpot.

Curiously, the first time the eventual trump suit was mentioned naturally was at the 17th bid in the auction. Is that a record? Seven clubs was such a creative, marvellous, well-reasoned bid that it brought a huge grin to my face and earned PO a high five.

PS.: The ACBL Bulletin had a slight error in that it had me bidding six clubs rather than six diamonds, which it interpreted as natural, over five notrump. Since five notrump was a grand slam try, I showed no extras with six of the agreed (so-far) trump suit. Six clubs would have shown the king of clubs.

World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
2012			
Jan15-25	International Festival	St. Moritz, Switzerland	www.bridgefederation.ch
Jan 16-29	Summer Festival of Bridge	Canberra, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Jan 21-27	Bermuda Regional	Southampton, Bermuda	www.bermudaregional.com
Jan 25-29	Iceland Express Bridge Festival	Reykjavik, Iceland	www.bridge.is
Feb 2-11	46 th International Bridge Festival	Tel-Aviv, Israel	www.ibf-festival.org
Feb 3-5	III International Cataluña Open	Barcelona, Spain	www.aebridge.com
Feb 7-12	17 th NEC Festival	Yokohama, Japan	www.jcbl.or.jp
Feb 7-12	EBU Overseas Congress	Marbella, Spain	www.ebu.co.uk
Feb 17-19	Slava Cup	Moscow, Russia	www.slavacup.com
Feb 20-26	Festival d'Hiver	Biarritz, France	www.biarritz-hiver.com
Feb 25-Mar 3	51 st Gold Coast Congress	Broadbeach, Australia	www.qldbridge.com
Mar 2-3	International Sunway Open	Sitges, Spain	www.sunway.es
Mar 6-11	Mexican Regional	S. M. de Allende, Mexico	www.acbl.org
Mar 15-25	Spring NABC	Memphis, TN	www.acbl.org
Mar 27-Apr 1	Bridge Week	Kitzbuhel, Austria	www.bridgeaustria.at
Apr 3-8	117 th Canadian Nationals	Toronto, ON	www.unit166.ca
Apr 27-May 1	International Championship	Berlin, Germany	www.bridge-verband.de
Apr 27-May 6	Lambourne Jersey Festival	Jersey, Channel Is.	www.ebu.co.uk
Apr 27-May 6	USBF Open/Women/Senior Trials	Chicago, IL	www.usbf.org
Apr 28-30	Kuching Congress	Kuching, E. Malaysia	www.bridgewebs.com/kuching
May 2-5	Cavendish Invitational Teams & Pairs	Las Vegas, NV	www.cavendishinvitational.com
May 11-18	South African Congress	Cape Town, South Africa	www.sabf.co.zac
May 11-22	63 rd International Festival	Juan-les-Pins, France	www.festivaldusoleil.com
May 16-17	Bonn Nations Cup	Bad Godesberg, Germany	www.bridge-club-bonn.de
May 17	Bonn Cup Pairs	Bad Godesberg, Germany	www.bridge-club-bonn.de
May 17-19	Festival de Toulouse	Toulouse, France	www.ffb-competitions.net
May 18-20	German Bridge Team trophy	Bad Godesberg, Germany	www.bridge-verband.de
May 21-27	Costa Calida International	La Manga, Spain	www.bridgeecc.com
May 26-Jun 3	IV South American Transnationals	Montevideo, Uruguay	http://www.confssudbridge.org
Jun 1-2	Worldwide Simultaneous Pairs	Clubs Everywhere	www.ecatsbridge.co.uk
Jun 1-6	European Youth Pairs Championship	Vejle, Denmark	www.ecatsbridge.com
Jun 3-10	German Bridge Festival	Wyk auf Fohr, Germany	www.bridge-verband.de
Jun 12-23	51 st European Championships	Pending	www.eurobridge.org
Jun 14-17	Midsummer Bridge Finlandia Open	Helsinki, Finland	www.midsummerbridge.com
Jun 29-Jul 11	International Festival	Biarritz, France	www.biarritz-bridge.com
Jul 6-16	Danish Bridge Festival	Vingsted, Denmark	www.bridgefestival.dk
Jul 9-15	6 th World University Championship	Reims, France	www.fisu.net
Jul 12-22	Summer NABC	Philadelphia, PA	www.acbl.org
Jul 17-29	Territory Gold Festival	Darwin, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Jul 24-Aug 4	World Youth Championships	Tai Cang City, China	www.cacbf.com
Jul 27-Aug 5	18 th Swedish Bridgefestival	Örebro, Sweden	www.svenskbridge.se
Jul 28-Aug 2	13 th Chairman's Cup	Örebro, Sweden	www.svenskbridge.se
Aug 3-11	Norwegian Bridge Festival	Fredrikstad, Norway	www.bridgefestival.no
Aug 10-19	Summer Congress	Brighton, England	www.ebu.co.uk
Aug 17-19	Festival de la Côte Basque	Biarritz, France	www.biarritz-bridge.com
Aug 25-Sep 2	7 th Asia Pacific Congress	Fukuoka, Japan	www.jcbl.or.jp/apbf2012
Sep 7-9	Gabrial-UI Cup	Jakarta, Indonesia	www.gabsi.or.id
Sep 7-9	Isle of Man Congress	Douglas, Isle of Man	www.ebu.co.uk
Sep 8-15	51 st International Festival	Pula, Croatia	www.crobridge.com/pula/eng
Sep 10-13	4 th Buffett Cup	Omaha, NE	www.buffettcup.com
Sep 21-30	Guernsey Congress	Guernsey, Channel Is.	www.ebu.co.uk
Sep 29-Oct 6	National Congress	Hamilton, New Zealand	www.nzcba.co.nz
Nov 5-11	International Bridge Open	Madeira, Portugal	www.bridge-madeira.com
Nov 5-11	Mexican Regional	Puerta Vallarta, Mexico	www.acbl.org
Nov 22-Dec 2	Fall NABC	San Francisco, CA	www.acbl.org
Nov 23-25	Menegpora Cup	Batam, Kepri, Indonesia	www.gabsi.or.id
Dec 5-9	Asean Open Club Championships	Sanur, Bali, Indonesia	www.gabsi.or.id
Dec 21-23	Channel Trophy	England	www.ebu.co.uk