



BULLETIN

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Editorial

It has been a long, arduous journey for the Kenya Bridge Association in receiving the stamp of approval from the African Bridge Federation (and by extension, the WBF). Despite Kenya Bridge Association being the body officially recognised as NBO by the Government of Kenya, the WBF-recognised NBO since 2001 was Kenya Bridge Africa, a private, limited company. Kenya's plight came to our attention more than four years ago, and the situation has finally been resolved in favour of the Kenya Bridge Association. Samina Esmail, past-president of the Kenya Bridge Association, telephoned from Nairobi recently to say thank you for the help IBPA provided in publicising their situation and in mobilising corrective action. On page 15 is the text of a letter from Bernard Pascal, President Zone 8, to Mrs. Kala Shah, incumbent KBA President notifying her of the ratification. We are delighted for the bridge players of Kenya and laud the ABF for righting this wrong, if a little belatedly.

For the fourth time, the European Team Championships will go to Ireland. The EBL worked rapidly to fill the gap left by Greece, which had to withdraw as host due to the financial crisis in that country. The site of the Europeans will be Dublin, a marvellous city with loads of charm, grace and history. Well done to the EBL. On the other hand, the WBF has yet to confirm a host for the 2nd World Mind Sports Games (formerly known as the Olympiad Teams). The choices have been narrowed to two, and it seems they cannot go wrong with either: Cardiff, Wales and Strasbourg, France are the candidates. Details can be found on page 13 in News & Views.

Pierre Zimmermann, 2011 IBPA Personality of the Year, continues to make an impact (and an occasional headline!) on the bridge world. Zimmermann has engineered a partnership between the Fédération Monégasque de Bridge and World Bridge Productions, the organisers of the Cavendish Invitational, to host the 2012 Cavendish in Monte Carlo this October. If all goes well, the intention is then to alternate between Las Vegas and Monte Carlo.

Didier Levy's Vu-Bridge is already making tremendous strides in how the game is taught. Vu-Bridge uses Autobridge as its template, but it's online and interactive, and has lots of famous deals, including IBPA award winners and shortlists. Levy has also introduced a great feature for bridge journalists: all BBO matches for the past eight years or so have been entered into a database and can be searched by player, event or team. For example, if you wanted to research Giorgio Duboin, or the Polish team, or the 2005 Bermuda Bowl, you can do so. See www.vubridge.com.

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The New York Times

Phillip Alder, Hobe Sound, FL
"All the Bridge That's Fit to Print"

South Dealer. Neither Vul.

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

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

The most stunning play at the Edgar Kaplan Winter Regional in Manhattan at the end of December surely happened in the diagrammed deal. Sitting South was Roy Welland of New York City. The information was sent to me by Barry Rigal of New York City.

After a natural auction, Welland was in three notrump. West led his fourth-highest heart, South winning with his eight. Declarer promptly played back his heart deuce, covered by West's nine and dummy's queen. East then made the surprising discard of a low club. (He was loath to pitch a diamond because South had opened in that suit.)

Declarer led dummy's spade ten, East winning with his ace and returning a spade. South won and cashed his other two tricks in the suit, dummy throwing two clubs and East another club. Now declarer took dummy's two top clubs, South and West discarding diamonds to leave this position:

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

Declarer had taken seven tricks. The deal had counted out, but he did not know who held the diamond king. What did Welland do?

While you are thinking, note that it would have been brilliant defence by East if he had started with three low clubs and king-jack-ten-sixth of diamonds. Then South would have gone down when a simple club finesse would have resulted in 12 tricks.

Welland led a club from the dummy and discarded his diamond ace! If East had held the diamond king, he would have had to put declarer in the dummy with the diamond queen to cash the last club for his contract. Here, though, West took East's diamond shift and had to concede two more tricks: the diamond queen and either the club jack or heart king.

(On the actual lie of the cards, there are a few ways to make the contract from the diagrammed position, but they depend on playing West for the diamond king. Indeed, declarer can play any of dummy's five last cards to succeed! Nevertheless, Welland's play was not only spectacular, it was almost 100%. — Ed.)



POLISH FIRST DIVISION
Marek Wójcicki,
Przemysl, Poland

The round robin of the Polish 1st Division is complete. First place and some privileges for the playoffs (carryover and choosing rights) went to Winkhaus Unia Leszno (Kwiecien–Jagniewski, Krupowicz–Zawislak, Pazur–Wójcicki).

During the final few matches, the Winkhaus Unia players displayed some rather spectacular moves:

I. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

You are sitting East with:

♠ 5 4
 ♥ A Q 2
 ♦ 6 5 4
 ♣ 10 9 8 6 3

West	North	East	South
Kwiecien	Buras	Jagniewski	Narkiewicz
—	1 ♣ ¹	Pass	2 ♦ ²
Pass	2 ♥ ³	Pass	3 ♣ ⁴
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Polish Club
2. Natural, game forcing
3. Any short club hand – 11-13 HCP, balanced
4. Natural or semi-natural

Jagniewski reasonably discounted the club lead, and also a spade lead with a weak doubleton was not very hopeful. He decided to lead the heart queen! The result was outstanding. Look at the whole deal:

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

Kwiecien encouraged, declarer ducked, but Jagniewski played ace and another heart, beating contract by one trick. At the other table, the bidding was less informative, the simple club was led and the contract was made.

2. Dealer West. Both Vul.

You are the declarer in three notrump after the following bidding:

West	North	East	South
Kowalski	Wójcicki	Russyan	Kwiecien
—	—	—	1♦
2♣	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

East leads the seven of hearts (Polish leads: 2nd/4th):

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

To the small heart played from dummy West puts on the queen. What is your line of play?

It was obvious that East had led from jack-seven-low in hearts (I did not suspect East of leading fourth best from jack-ten-nine-seven-low); thus I could place West with all six missing clubs (even with a singleton, East would lead it) and four hearts (queen-ten-nine-low). How many diamonds can he have? He has only three cards in the pointed suits, and they have eight spades and only five diamonds between them.

I cashed the diamond king, and when both opponents followed low, I finessed the nine on the next round of the suit. Here is the complete deal:

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

Thus the contract was made. At the other table, four notrump was played from South and West led a club, so the contract was made without any problems.

In second place was Ruch AZS Politechnika Wroclaw (Balicki–Zmudzinski, Jassem–Starkowski, Golebiowski–Zatorski); third place went to Consus Kalisz (Martens–Filipowicz, Buras–Narkiewicz, Makaruk–Niedzielski, Kupnicki–Majdanski).

OZ BRIDGE

Ron Klinger,
Northbridge, NSW
(From the Sydney Morning Herald)



KNOCKING OPPORTUNITY

Try this problem:

Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

East
♠ 7
♥ Q J 6 5
♦ J 3 2
♣ A K Q 9 3

West	North	East	South
—	1♥	2♣	2♠
4♣ ¹	4♠	5♣	5♦ ²
Pass	5♥ ²	Pass	6♦ ²
Pass	6♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			
	1. Pre-emptive		
	2. Cuebids		

West leads the club ten: five – queen – six. What should East do next?

In the final of the New South Wales State Teams, BLOOM (Martin Bloom – Helena Dawson – Tony Nunn – Sartaj Hans – Peter Gill) defeated GUMBY (Pauline Gumby – Warren Lazer – Adam Edgtton – Andrew Peake – Bruce Neill) by 140-124. This deal accounted for more than the margin:

Board 15. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bloom	Lazer	Gill	Gumby
—	3 ♥	3 NT	Double
Redouble	Pass	4 ♣	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Lead: ♣A: ten tricks; N/S plus 620

At the other table Tony Nunn opened one heart as North and the auction proceeded as at the start of the column. West led the club ten and the focus was on East.

West's pre-emptive four clubs enabled Sartaj Hans to judge that North would be short in clubs and so push to slam. Still, six spades can be defeated and Adam Edgtton found the excellent lead of the club ten. Looking at the nine of clubs, East could tell that West's lead was a false-card. West could not have a doubleton club or a sequence headed by the ten in clubs. If Andrew Peake had read the club ten as a suit-preference signal for hearts, a heart return would have defeated the slam. That would have been plus 12 IMPs instead of the minus 13 after the club return at trick two.



Sometimes it is impossible to imagine what can happen when you see a hand diagram.

Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

You realise that North-South can make six hearts and six clubs, but East/West have a good save in six spades (difficult to reach, but only minus 800) and a rather bad save in seven diamonds (easy to find, but minus 1400 on good defence). If you look closely, you will notice that the ten of hearts plays an important role.

This deal was played in the Vienna Team Championship (highest level) at twelve tables. There were gains and losses in five of six matches.

(1.) Fucik/Purkarthofer found the good save of six spades but lost 3 IMPs. The pair at the other table had played a 'normal' five hearts.

(2.) Babsch/Burg also gained 3 IMPs when they played five clubs and their pair in the other room was doubled in five spades.

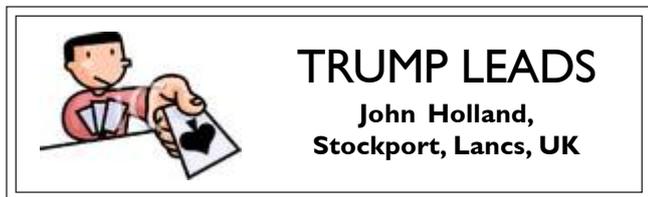
(3.) Iris and Susanne Grümme had a catastrophe – they doubled the opponents in five diamonds, collecting 800. Not enough! At the other table Franz and Sylvia Terraneo had bid six hearts but their opponents saved with seven diamonds. The Terraneos slipped in defence and collected 'only' 1100 for a gain of 7 IMPs.

(4.) In another match, something unexpected happened. The North-South pair at one table reached six hearts, but East (Kadlec) doubled (I was told it was for penalty). This confused declarer: She played East for the king-ten-third of trumps and went down. This was a loss of 14 IMPs instead of a gain of 13, as at the other table Fischer/Saurer had played a modest four hearts!

(5.) In one match, there was no swing, but the results were a little odd: one pair played in four hearts plus one (650) and the other in five clubs plus two (640).

(6.) And finally, at table six, both pairs reached seven clubs! And there was a swing...one of the declarers went two down so his opponents gained 3 IMPs. This is quite a good result for such a bad mistake!

When I started tournament bridge, I was told, "Take a sure profit." I cannot imagine any bidding sequence where it is clear to go to seven.



When I first learnt to play bridge, the perceived wisdom on what to lead against a grand slam played in a suit contract was a trump as it never gave anything away! This was not always successful, as I remember Bill Hirst in the early 1980's leading from three small trumps against a Kirby/Armstrong club grand slam with a trump suit of ace-king-jack-ten to seven opposite a void. I have also seen players leading small from king-low in trumps when they are convinced the trump ace is sitting over their king, only to find their right-hand opponent has the ace plus a ten-card trump suit.

In the Senior Trials held in Solihull recently for the upcoming European Championship, Mike Robinson for the Palmer team was South, on lead against seven diamonds holding:

♠ J 2
 ♥ K 8 7
 ♦ 8 3 2
 ♣ 10 9 7 5 3

after the following auction:

West	North	East	South
—	—	2 NT ¹	Pass
3 ♠ ²	Pass	4 ♦	Pass
4 ♥ ³	Pass	4 ♠ ³	Pass
4 NT ⁴	Pass	5 ♦ ⁵	Pass
5 ♥ ⁶	Pass	5 NT ⁷	Pass
7 ♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. 20-22
2. Minor-suit Stayman
3. Cue bids
4. Roman Key Card Blackwood
5. 1 or 4 key cards
6. Queen ask
7. Queen of diamonds with no outside king

Robinson led the ten of clubs and the four hands were:

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

Gunnar Hallberg, who had upgraded his hand, won the club lead and proceeded to ruff a heart high, cross back to hand with a trump and ruff his last heart high. He was then able to cash all his trumps, throwing two spades from the dummy. The bad club break meant at trick twelve he had to take the spade finesse to land his contract.

An initial trump lead would almost certainly have defeated the contract as, in order to make his contract, Hallberg would have had to take a spade finesse before realising the clubs were not breaking, quite the anti-percentage play.

In the other room the contract reached was three notrump after the East hand was opened one diamond. This made in some comfort.



The following deal appeared in the qualifying rounds of this year's Australian National Open Teams. Can you determine the best play to make six spades?

Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

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

What is the best line for declarer on the five of diamonds lead? My take is win the king of diamonds and run the spade jack. When that holds, try to cash the king and queen of hearts. If East ruffs, the rest is easy. When he discards, play a trump to the ten, ruff a heart high, throw a club on the diamond ace and play a trump. Declarer now settles down to run the hearts. Some late-night calculations suggested that this had around an 85% chance of success.



The third TGRs at the New Cavendish Auction Pairs bridge tournament was held on Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th January, 2012. Sabine Auken, Zia Mahmood, Artur Malinowski, Jacek Pszczola and Andrew Robson led a star-studded international field of 54 pairs, 16 of whom were seeded.

The auction raised £41,500, with the top priced pairs being Jan Jansma & Gert Jan Paulissen from The Netherlands (£3,000), Thomas Charlsen & Thor-Erik Hoftaniska from Norway (£2,800), Zia Mahmood & David Bakhshi (£2,200), Nick Sandqvist & Fredrik Björnlund from Sweden (£2,200) and Arlid Rasmussen & Kenneth Skov from Norway (£2,200). The holders, Bjarni Einarsson & Adalsteinn Jorgensen, led from start to finish, winning with a round to spare.

Full details can be found at: www.tgrsbridge.com

THE SACRIFICE OF A KING

Ana Roth, Buenos Aires

In chess, a sacrifice is a move giving up a piece in the hopes of gaining tactical or positional compensation in other forms. A sacrifice could also be a deliberate exchange of a chess piece of higher value for an opponent's piece of lower value. Any chess piece except the king can be sacrificed. In contrast, in bridge, even the king may be sacrificed in pursuit of a satisfactory outcome.

The third annual TGRS Auction Pairs, was described in their website as follows: *"This event is designed for every bridge player who wants to test their mettle and earn their value at Auction. What does that mean? This event is for you if you have money, want to win money, can play bridge, or just love to be in the action!"*

The event was broadcast on BBO and the deal illustrated here tells about one of the defenders sacrificing his trump king to defeat the contract.

North/South were Frank SVINDAHL and Geir BREKKA from Norway, while East/West were Beata RUMINSKA and Stanislaw RUMINSKI (Poland).

Pairs. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Ruminska</i>	<i>Svindahl</i>	<i>Ruminski</i>	<i>Brekka</i>
—	—	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	3 ♠!	Pass
Pass	Pass		
1. 11-12 with 6 spades			

Lead: ♣J

Geir Brekka began with his singleton jack of clubs, dummy played a little one and both North (the five) and the declarer played a little one too (the four).

Thus South arrived at an uncomfortable position. A low spade shift would allow East to fulfill his contract; inevitably, a few tricks later, South would find himself end-played and obliged to play a heart or a diamond, allowing the declarer to enter dummy to pitch his club losers. A diamond shift, looking at dummy's diamond suit, was less than attractive. So South decided to play a little heart, dummy played a little one too, North played his two, showing an odd number of cards, and declarer won the trick with his king to play his only diamond.

At this point, Brekka already knew declarer's shape: six spades, two hearts, one diamond and four clubs, so he won his ace of diamonds, played his ace of hearts and continued with his spade ten...Ruminski won the trick with his jack.

Now things were:

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

When East next played the ace of spades...South immediately realized that if he played a little spade, at

the next trick he was going to be end-played by declarer with his spade king, and that he would have to play a heart or a diamond for a much-needed dummy entry...helping declarer to pitch his club losers, so he threw his trump king, trading one trick for three and defeating the contract by two tricks.

A nice defence, well done Geir! How much easier it would have been if North had won the first two clubs and given South a ruff with the third, but then Brekka's great defence would have never seen the light of day.



HORROR AT THE SEVEN LEVEL

David Bird,
Eastleigh, Hants, UK

In my introduction to the book *Bridge at the Edge*, I describe Boye Brogeland as a 'bold and adventurous player, following his instinct and taking risks that few others would contemplate'. A deal from the 2012 TGR's Cavendish Pairs backs this up:

Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Simon	Tim	Boye	Jacco
Gillis	Verbeek	Brogeland	Hop
—	—	—	1 ♦
3 ♣	3 ♥	4 ♣	5 NT
Pass	7 ♣	Pass	7 ♥
Pass	Pass	Double	7 ♠
Pass	7 NT	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

Commentating on BBO, we were expecting Jacco Hop to bid four spades at his second turn. No, his choice was a 'pick-a-slam' five notrump.

Tim Verbeek must have been mystified that his partner could find such a bid when he was looking at two ace-king combinations. A leap to seven diamonds seemed obvious to me and would have given the Netherlands pair 48 MPs out of 52. Verbeek was after something a bit better and ventured seven clubs, hoping that the partnership could land in a higher-scoring grand slam.

My fellow commentators praised this fine bid but it seemed horrendously risky to me.

Hop had no idea of the splendid diamond support opposite and bid seven hearts, perhaps expecting his partner to hold a giant heart suit (and to be testing the water for 7NT). This was passed round to Brogeland in the East seat.

I was in the middle of explaining to the BBO kibitzers how unwise it would be to double seven hearts when Brogeland's double appeared on the screen. South immediately retreated to seven spades (51 MPs out of 52) and it seemed that Brogeland's double would cost him a whole top. Verbeek could not imagine that his partner had bid five notrump when missing the ace of clubs as well as so many high cards in the red suits. He 'corrected' to seven notrump and Simon Gillis (who would be on lead) was happy to double this and collect 1700.

On the face of it, there were four very dubious and potentially-expensive calls made at the seven level: seven clubs, seven hearts, double and seven notrump. Is this a record?



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IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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601. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

This deal came up in a local teams game. West led the queen of clubs, which held the trick. West continued with the ten of clubs to the ace.

After winning the ace of clubs, one declarer drew two rounds of trumps with the ace and king, discovering the 4-1 break. Then he played on diamonds, but West held up his ace until the third round and then exited with a trump to dummy's ten. The contract could no longer be made. Dummy had no more entries and West was poised to ruff the fourth round of diamonds. Declarer had to try a heart to the ten, hoping that East held both honours or one honour doubleton, but it was not to be and so declarer could not avoid losing four tricks.

The declarer at the second table showed better technique. The first two tricks were the same but, instead of drawing two rounds of trumps, he cashed the ace of trumps and then played on diamonds. Like his counterpart, this West held up the ace until the third round and then exited with a trump, taken by dummy's ten. Declarer now played a good diamond and threw one of his heart losers. West could do no better than ruff and try a heart. Declarer took East's queen with the ace and then crossed to dummy by playing a trump to the king, drawing West's last trump, and cashed the fifth diamond to dispose of his remaining heart. He made five trumps, a heart, three diamonds and a club.

Note that if West had shifted to a heart after winning the ace of diamonds, then declarer would have captured the king or queen of hearts with the ace, drawn trumps and conceded a heart. The second declarer's line always makes ten tricks as long as trumps are not 5-0, provided that the defence cannot organise a heart ruff, or as long as East cannot win the third round of diamonds, lead a heart through the ace, and have both heart honours offside and spades 4-1.

602. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

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

1. Game-forcing enquiry

After North promised three-card spade support by bidding two spades, South used Roman Key Card Blackwood before bidding the slam. West led the jack of diamonds and declarer called for dummy's ace and then led the two of trumps to his ace, under which West dropped the king of trumps. South decided to accept this as a true card and played to assume that East had at least two diamonds, three hearts and three clubs.

Declarer's first move was to play three top clubs ending in dummy. When the clubs proved to be 4-2, he ruffed dummy's last club. Next, he crossed to dummy with a heart to the jack and ruffed a diamond in hand. When this passed off safely, declarer continued with the ace and a heart to the king. Dummy then had the queen-

nine of trumps and a diamond opposite South's eight-seven of trumps and a heart.

When declarer led the diamond from the table, East had the jack-ten-five of spades remaining and could do no better than ruff high and lead a trump into dummy's tenace, giving declarer the last two tricks.

If the clubs had been 3-3, declarer planned to ruff two diamonds in hand to bring about the same ending. He would ruff a diamond and then cross back to dummy with a heart to the jack to ruff a second diamond. Next he would play the ace and king of hearts and, if they stood up, dummy would then have the queen-nine of trumps and a club opposite his eight-seven of trumps and a heart. As in the first case, when declarer led the club from the dummy, East would again have no way of a defeating the contract.

The main point of the play is to test the clubs early so that when they are 4-2, declarer can ruff a club and a diamond in relative safety instead of being defeated on the above layout if he attempts to ruff two diamonds, allowing East a heart discard.

603. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

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

This board occurred in a local IMP-pairs game and most pairs landed in three notrump. As players often raise a major-suit response to an opening one bid with three-card support, three notrump simply offered North a choice of games, requiring him to return to four hearts with four-card support. West led the six of spades and East played the queen.

Most declarers took West's queen of spades lead with the king and ran the queen of clubs. East took this with the king and returned the seven of spades. As the cards lay, the defenders had no trouble in making four spade tricks to go with the club king and those declarers finished down one.

One declarer allowed the queen of spades to win the first trick and played the jack of spades on the next trick. The West at this table ducked, retaining his ace-

ten tenace over South's remaining honour. This declarer was not successful either, because when East won the king of clubs and returned his remaining spade. West took three more spade tricks to defeat the contract.

The final declarer judged that West, with spade length and the king of clubs, might have overcalled, so the club king was likely to be wrong. Consequently, he played the two of spades at trick one and the four of spades under the seven of spades at trick two. East continued with a third round of spades to the jack and ace. However, that was the last spade trick the defenders took; when the club finesse lost, that was the fourth and last trick for the defence. Declarer made a spade, two hearts and six tricks in the minors.

604. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	1 ♠	Pass	3 ♦ ¹
Pass	4 ♦	Pass	4 NT ²
Pass	5 ♠ ³	Pass	5 NT ⁴
Pass	6 ♥ ⁵	Pass	7 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Fit-showing, game forcing, primary spade support
2. Two-suit RKCB
3. Two key cards and one key queen
4. Asks for specific kings
5. Heart king, no club king

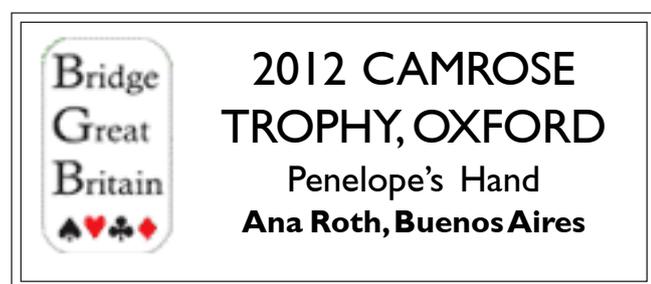
North/South had a scientific auction to the grand slam, at which South thought he could count 13 top tricks (five spades, two hearts, five diamonds and one club) during the bidding. When West led the jack of hearts, declarer had to plan carefully - he followed the old adage of, "When things look good, think of what could go wrong." Here, the only things that could go wrong were a 4-0 spade break and/or a 5-0 diamond break, so declarer turned his attention to those possibilities.

He realised that he could only pick up 4-0 spades in West, and if that were the case, he'd need to start spades with the king. Although he could pick up 5-0 diamonds either way, if East had no spades, he was the more likely culprit to hold five diamonds. If that were the case, declarer would need to start diamonds with the king.

Accordingly, South won the heart lead with the ace at trick one, and played the spade king, East discarding a heart. Then he played a spade to West's ten and dummy's queen. Now, with the odds of East having five diamonds considerably greater than West (it would have meant two void suits in East!), declarer carefully played the diamond king. His foresight was rewarded when, this time, West discarded a heart.

It was now a simple matter to finesse diamonds through East, and spades through West to make all the tricks.

If spades had proved to be 3-1 or 2-2, then declarer would have to judge who was more likely to have five diamonds. If he leaned towards West, he would cash the ace of diamonds from hand first. Otherwise, he would advance the king of diamonds on the first round of the suit, as on the actual layout.



The Camrose is an annual bridge competition among open teams representing the home nations of Great Britain and Ireland: England (EBU), Northern Ireland (NIBU), Republic of Ireland (CBAI), Scotland (SBU) and Wales (WBU). As such, it is the open teams-of-four component of the "Home Internationals" organized by Bridge Great Britain.

Lord Camrose, owner of *The Daily Telegraph*, donated the trophy in 1936 and it was first contested in 1937. The original trophy has been lost and replaced. Because of World War II, the series was interrupted mid-way through 1939 and not resumed until 1946, yet the Camrose is the world's most-played international bridge series. Wales won the 68th Camrose and its first, March 2011 in Llandrindod Wells, Powys (Wales).

The Camrose is played on two weekend rounds; the first of this year took place the 6-8 January weekend in Oxford. I kibitzed the match where Ireland defeated England, 43-41 on BBO. I entitled one of this match's deals "Penelope's Hand".

In Greek mythology, Penelope is the wife of the king of Ithaca, Odysseus (Ulysses in Roman mythology) and daughter of Icarius and his wife Periboea. She only has one son by Odysseus, Telemakhos, who was born just before Odysseus was called to fight in the Trojan War. She waits twenty years for the final return of her husband, during which she has a hard time snubbing marriage proposals from 108 odious suitors. Although

her name has traditionally been associated with marital faithfulness, her name also inspired a song called *Penelope*, lyrics by Joan Manuel Serrat and music by Augusto Alguero, both from Barcelona, Spain:

Penelope, with her brown leather pocketbook, dressed in her finest Sunday look, with high-heel shoes over her stockings. Penelope is sitting on a station bench while she waits for any train to come by...; In the town they say that one day a traveling man stopped her clock on an afternoon in the springtime. "Fare you well, my love, don't cry for me, for I'll be back...Think of me, I'll come back for you!"

So Penelope waits...and waits...and waits...in Greece, in Spain...and this weekend, Penelope waited in Oxford.

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Glynn	Allfrey	Keaveney	Robson
—	—	—	Pass
1 ♥	1 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Keaveney decided to wait for his partner's double, but as Penelope in our two previous stories, he is still waiting...

Keaveney led the ♥9, and the defense made eight tricks...three down...300...

At the other table, things were very different:

West	North	East	South
Forrester	Walsh	Gold	O'Gorman
—	—	—	Pass
1 ♥	Pass	1 NT ¹	Pass
2 NT ²	Pass	3 ♣ ³	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	3 NT	Pass
4 ♦	Pass	4 ♥ ⁴	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Spades
2. Spade support
3. Asking
4. Last Train

David Gold's bidding sequence included a Last Train slam invitation, not accepted by Forrester, who like Penelope, chose to stay, watching the last train leaving the station.

Walsh led the jack of spades and declarer won the trick with the ace, watching South pitch the three of diamonds. Forrester continued with the seven of hearts to his queen, won by North's king. Walsh continued with the spade eight; West won with the king, played the second heart from dummy to his ace and continued with a diamond. Walsh won with his ace and exited with the nine of spades.

Declarer won the trick with the queen, played the top diamonds, pitching two little clubs from his hand, and led a club to his ace. Now he played his jack of hearts and another heart, North ruffed with his four, overruffed with dummy's five...and at the end North made his ten of spades: ten tricks and a plus 620 score....and 8 IMPs for England.

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

"I found the best lead of the ace of trumps and another but East unblocked the king so he could win the second trick in hand, draw my trumps, cash two top diamonds and throw me in with the queen of diamonds to concede two spade tricks and the contract. We had no defence at all and scored minus 790. What happened at your table?"

"I did not think I had enough points to bid on the first round," my partner replied, "and the bidding went like this:"

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

"Obviously we had to cash what heart tricks we could, and I might have even got a ruff so I led the king of hearts. Declarer won, ruffed a heart, cashed the ace of clubs for a diamond discard and led the king of clubs. My partner looked very uncomfortable and the only play he could make to prevent a second diamond discard was to ruff low. Declarer over-ruffed and led a third heart and I had the same problem as my partner. I had to ruff low to prevent a diamond discard from dummy. Declarer then led another winning club and whatever partner did, declarer was bound to make his contract. That was minus 420 for us. North got quite animated at the end and said something like, "It was flawed, but you executed a 'Coup de l'Agonie against East with a 'Dilemma Coup' against West as the cherry on the cake," but I did not know what he meant."

John had no difficulty in explaining: "He said the Coup was flawed because there was a defence. If you had cashed two diamonds before leading a heart, the contract would have failed. He was also thanking you for helping to give our opponents a total score of 1,210 points for 15 IMPs and a match win by 1 IMP. The only good news is that, unlike me, at least you did not compound our errors and double!"



One of the expressions you should never use at the bridge table is, "We have won this match easily," particularly if you have not finished scoring. I remember my partner using that phrase many years ago in a match played at the Worcester County Club in Holt-Fleet. We were 14 IMPs up in the final of the County Closed Teams of Four against a very young and very aggressive team with only this board to score:

Board 24. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

"What happened at your table?" my partner asked our team-mates. "This was the bidding," our South, John, replied:

IBPA Members - 2012 Dues

If you've not paid your 2012 dues, please do so immediately to avoid interruption in the IBPA Bulletin. You can do so through www.ibpa.com.



THE STEPPING STONE STAIRS OF CIRITH UNGOL

Richard Hills, Canberra

*One king to rule them all
One king to find them
One king to bring them all
And in the strip-squeeze bind them.*

Before stepping the stones of the Stairs of Cirith Ungol, Frodo and Sam decided to play one final deal of bridge. As a third player they recruited a reluctant Gollum (“Sssilly game, why not hunt for fissan instead?”), but the fourth player, Sméagol, grovellingly volunteered, pleading, “Nice master. We is expert bridge player.” (No letters, please, we know that Sméagol and Gollum are two separate personalities in one individual. – Ed.)

Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

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

West	North	East	South
Frodo	Sméagol	Sam	Gollum
1 ♠	No bid	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♥	No bid	4 NT ¹	Pass
5 ♥	No bid	6 ♥	Pass
No bid	Double ²	No bid	Pass
No bid			

1. Key Card Mirkwood
2. Expertly (and correctly) deducing that the diamond king was likely to be well placed, given that Sam had bid clubs and then supported hearts.

Sméagol further demonstrated his expertise by finding a wizard lead of the spade queen, top of a sequence. After Frodo played Sam’s deuce from dummy, Gollum clutched his one king – “my preciousss” – to his chest, instead playing the spade seven.

Fortuitously, Gollum had made the right choice, since an unblock of the spade king would have permitted Frodo to later affectionately strip-squeeze Sméagol in spades and diamonds (eventually Sméagol would have been thrown in with a master spade in order to lead away from the king of diamonds).

Frodo immediately won the ace of spades, crossed to a trump in dummy, ruffed the seven of clubs, and then drew trumps. Frodo now ran Sam’s clubs from the top, reaching this position when the last club winner was played:

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

Gollum continued keeping his precious one king, discarding the four of diamonds instead. Now the friendly Sméagol attempted to easily donate the contract by intentionally discarding out of turn before Frodo’s discard, but refrained after a snarl from Gollum. It seemed that Frodo was cursed by Gollum’s one king since it looked like any discard would lead to failure, given that Sméagol’s double guaranteed that a simple diamond finesse would not work.

Then Frodo remembered the rule of elven. Yes, inspired by the memory of the elven Queen Galadriel, who ruled Lothlórien with a diamond ring on her finger, Frodo discarded the queen of diamonds. Sméagol could not discard a spade, as Frodo would then exit with Sam’s four of spades to establish his eight as the twelfth trick. So Sméagol chose the apparently safe diamond nine as his discard. But Frodo played to the ace of diamonds, dropping Sméagol’s king, then led a spade to Gollum’s one king. Now Gollum had to concede the contract to Sam’s valiant knave of diamonds.

(This remarkable double-dummy problem was produced not by an ingenious composer but by a brainless software dealing package. Len Dixon, in whose weekly *Canberra Times* bridge column it was recently written up, cordially invites refutation of his tentative suggestion that the one-suit (indeed one-card) guard-cum-stepping-stone squeeze to which South can be subjected at trick ten has not hitherto been analysed. If it really is new, it could, he now suggests, appropriately be named the Batemans Bay squeeze after the club at which it came up on New Year’s Eve.)

NEWS & VIEWS



2012 European Teams

The 51st European Team Championships will be held in Dublin, Ireland, on 12-23 June 2012. The venue is Citywest Hotel, Leisure & Golf Resort in Dublin's Saggart suburb. This will be the fourth time that a European Team Championship has been held in Ireland: 1952 and 1967 were held in the Dublin area, while 1991 took place in Killarney.

2nd World Mind Sports Games

The International Mind Sports Association (IMSA) has indicated that for the 2nd World Mind Sports Games, which includes the World Bridge Games (Open, Women & Seniors Teams), there are still two options and that the final decision regarding the city in which it is to be held will be made on or about the 15th of February. The options are Cardiff, Wales (August 7-20) and Strasbourg, France (August 9-23). Other events are chess, draughts, Go, Xiangqi and a duplicate poker exhibition.

2012 Cavendish

The Monégasque Bridge Federation (FMB) has announced a partnership with World Bridge Productions (WBP) to hold the next Cavendish Invitational in Monaco, October 15-19, 2012. The goal for the future is to organize the tournament in Las Vegas in the odd years, and in Monaco in the even years. The change of the usual May dates is due to the USBF Open Trials at the beginning of May and the Formula 1 Grand Prix of Monaco in late May. The new dates also allow the Cavendish to connect with the yearly International Teams Tournament of Monaco (October 12-14).

The Monaco Cavendish will respect the structure of the Las Vegas Cavendish, with a two-day Teams tournament (October 15-16), and a three-day Pairs Tournament (October 17-19). Information and contacts: Jean-Charles Allavena, President of the FMB, email: jcaconseil@libello.com - Cell: +33 6 80 86 91 03 ~ Donna Compton, email: cdmra@mindspring.com - Cell: +1 214 394 5830.

5th Women's Online World Bridge Festival

Anna Maria Torlontano reports that this event will be held from Monday, April 16th to Sunday, April 22nd, 2012 on BBO. There will be four tournaments each day,

two individuals, followed by two pairs games - the times are 10:00, 15:10, 19:00 and 23:40 GMT each day. Each tournament will be 10 boards long and the cost is BBO\$1. Prizes in WBF master points and BBO\$ will be awarded.

More information can be found at:
www.wbfwomensbridgeclub.org.

Russ Arnold 1921-2012

World champion Russ Arnold passed away on January 27 at the age of 90. Known as "the Godfather" to players in the Miami area, Arnold was elected to the ACBL Hall of Fame in 2011 for his long service to bridge and expertise as a player. Bobby Levin spoke for Arnold at his induction in Toronto. Arnold won the Bermuda Bowl in 1981, came second in the World Senior Teams in 1994 and won nine North American Bridge Championships, including the Spingold, Vanderbilt and Reisinger.

"Sir" Bauke Muller

Early in February, Bauke Muller, 2011 Bermuda Bowl winner from The Netherlands, received a Royal Decoration from Her Majesty Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands. The Queen has appointed Muller as Knight of the Order of Orange-Nassau. Muller is the most successful Dutch bridge player ever, with two Bermuda Bowls, two open European Championships, one European Champion's Cup, the Cavendish Teams and numerous national titles.

Online World University Teams

In January 2012, the 3rd Online World University Team Bridge Championships organized by FISU and the WBF started. Sixty-one teams from 29 countries are competing. The competition will run through to July 2012, and the final will be played during the 6th FISU World Bridge Championships in Reims, France.

During January and February 2012, the 61 teams play in 14 groups with the two leading teams from each group and the four best third-ranked teams determining the 32 teams for the knockout phase which will end with the Final in July.

All information is available on www.unibridge.eu and facebook account "Uni bridge". Geert Magerman is the organiser - geert.magerman@telenet.be



Correspondence

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

Email: ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca

In December, we argued for pair events to be scored across the field at all important championships, especially North American Bridge Championships, where the historical (archaic?) method of two-section scoring persists. We received a couple of dissenting views from very prominent players...

Hi John,

I used to argue your point – why not score across all the sections in the Blue Ribbon Pairs? Surely, the technology exists. However, there is a method to the madness, I was told. And I became convinced. In the FINALS – yes, across the field is fine – and they do it that way. However, on Days 1 and 2, follow the logic for scoring across only pairs of 2 sections:

Sections A/B, for example have a 25 top. The East/West pairs in A are scored against only the E-W in A & B. At night, they move to N/S and the same thing is repeated. By the end of the day, those two sections have played a complete round-robin. Each of the pairs in A/B got to play against the exact same field during the day. This is a completely fair way to matchpoint those pairs. They had the same cards with the same opportunities against the exact same field.

Scoring across the entire field would penalize the E/W pairs in A if they happened to play against a particularly tougher set of opponents for the day, than, say some E/W pair in Section Q. Maybe Section Q and R didn't get seeded as fairly N/S, and those Section Q E/W pairs had easy opponents all day. But, those "Q" players are scored only against Q/R pairs who also faced that weak "Q/R" N/S field for the day.

I hope I've gotten the point across as to why ACBL intentionally chooses NOT to score across the field on the first two days. By scoring only within the two sections a pair plays, it reduces any ill-effects of poor seeding. I believe it is a more fair the way they do it than across the entire field.

Best wishes, Larry Cohen, Boca Raton, FL

Dear John,

I would like to respond to the editorial, at least some parts. I agree, first of all, that the ACBL should do more BBO broadcasting. The final day of the three-day pair events – Platinum Pairs in the Spring, LMs in the Summer, Blue Ribbons in the Fall are obvious candidates. The leader's table on the final day of the NA Swiss at the Fall Nationals is, IMO, another good candidate, as is the Semifinals of the Reisinger.

The problems seem to be two: a lack of trained and willing operators and the unwillingness of the ACBL management and tournament directors to adapt to barometer events. The lack of operators was apparently the problem for the semifinal of the senior KO. One possible solution, and one that I would urge, is to provide incentives such as reasonable pay in ACBL scrip. By reasonable pay, I do not mean \$100 an hour "consultant" fees, but \$20 to \$25 an hour would not be out of line. That is what I pay my cleaning lady! I believe it is in the best interest of the ACBL to broadcast as much as possible.

Barometer: to create and check boards for a large event needs a fairly large contingent of workers to run the cards through the dealing machines and put them in the boards. I do not know for sure, but I believe that Veldhoven, where boards were needed for 66 tables for each match during the round robin employed about eight to ten people full time for this job. If they need to be paid – and I think they should be – it's not an inconsiderable extra expense at tournaments where the average "profit" margin is in the order of \$50K.

Scoring across the field versus scoring in pairs of sections in the first qualifying session of large pair events. This is an interesting argument, and one that reasonable people could disagree on the right approach. The pairs in each direction in two paired sections play against a common set of opponents during the two sessions. It therefore makes sense to determine which of the pairs qualify by looking only at the results within the pair of sections. On the other hand, all pairs played the same boards, or essentially the same, so matchpointing across the field also appeals.

The point about scores having significantly different values depending on the comparison group is a valid one. The reason this happens is clear: we are bad at "anti-seeding," even more on the first day than on later days. Thus one section may have a strong set of unseeded pairs, another a weak set. This will affect the value of results when matchpointed within the section as compared with the same set of results matchpointed in another section.

My own preferred answer to this conundrum would be this: matchpoint across the field, but qualify (most) of the pairs within sections. Suppose, for example, an event starts with twelve 14-table sections and will cut to six 13s. Qualify the top eleven pairs from each

twenty-eight pair group that played common opponents. Then qualify twelve pairs in each direction across the field. The best alternative, I think, would be to qualify thirteen from each twenty-eight pair group scored on a 25 top, but score across the field for determining carry-over.

I believe, by the way, that it is only the first day that is scored in twinned sections. The semis are scored across the field. One of the arguments for first-day scoring in twinned sections is the work involved in score corrections when there are a large number of sections and the correction affects scores in all of them.

Henry Bethe, Ithaca, NY

While we can see the points raised by both Larry and Henry, we just don't agree with most of them. Firstly, although you play against one set of opponents, your comparison group is the group of pairs sitting in your own direction. How can it be bad to increase the number of comparison pairs, thus reducing anomalies? Seeding (and anti-seeding) within a particular section or group is a red herring. The effects of bad seeding and anti-seeding are ameliorated over larger comparison groups. Secondly, with computers, it is no more difficult to correct a score for 1,000 tables than it is for 10 – you enter the correction and the computer does the rest. One point we can agree with is matchpointing across the field but qualifying within sections. – Ed.

Dear JC,

Where an English player might accuse his (male) partner of hogging the contracts, Ron Tacchi tells me that a Frenchman would say, “Tu joues en mixte?” A little chauvinistic of the French, I thought, but maybe they are right; maybe men do play more than their share of contracts when partnering women. I decided to do some research.

In international mixed pairs events, the male half of the partnership always sits North or West. I looked at over 20,600 results from the recent world mixed pairs and teams events in Poznan and found that North and West declared on 54.34% of the boards. There may be a small bias towards North and West seeming to play more than half the boards (because of lax data entry into Bridgemates), but this cancels itself out. My actuarial chums tell me that the difference between 54.34% and 45.66% is statistically “extremely significant” over that number of boards, so it's official: men *do* play more than their share of boards.

Regards, Simon Cochemé, London

We suggested to Simon that control groups of open, men's and women's pairs be investigated as well to determine if there is any real bias toward North and West as declarer. Simon replied that he is leaving it to others to take up the baton. Any takers?

The text of the letter from the ABF to KBA affirming KBA as the NBO of Kenya...



Cairo, December first, 2012

Subject: ABF and Kenya NBO

Dear Mrs. Kala Shah,

As you are aware, the issue of which organization should be the National Bridge Organization “NBO” for Kenya has been a concern of many years and has resulted in a number of expensive lawsuits and much acrimony. Extensive efforts to negotiate a resolution of the dispute have failed. Pursuant to Article 4.2 of the World Bridge Federation, WBF By-Laws delegates such dispute to the Zone, in this case, Zone 8, to make this determination. Articles 8.4.5 & 8.4.6 of Africa Bridge Federation (Constitution statutes) also stipulate the right of ABF to make this determination. In its 6th General Assembly held in Hammamet on June 20th, 2011, the Zone 8 Board of Directors has delegated the responsibility to make this decision to the Management Committee which has made a decision in its last meeting in November 2011.

You are hereby notified that, **effective January the first, 2012, the Kenya Bridge Association is the organization which will be recognized as the NBO for Kenya by Zone 8 and the WBF** in the best interests of the bridge players in Kenya. It is sincerely hoped by Zone 8 that all concerned will work together in the best interests of bridge, the players in Kenya and Zone 8.

You are advised that all bridge players in Kenya are welcome to become members of Bridge Kenya Association with the right to compete in qualifying encounters for ABF and WBF events in the future.

Moreover, The ABF Management Committee wishes to underline the importance for the newly recognized NBO (Kenya Bridge Association), to refrain from managing/organizing any “club bridge” activities in Kenya. Its main objective is to organize federal competitions (for all bridge players in Kenya) and Country Trials to form a National team in any category. Also, it is to organize and implement bridge education and training programs for bridge players and Tournament Directors in the country.

Finally, please find attached the conditions of eligibility (to be the Country NBO) stipulated in the WBF BY-Laws.

Please accept my kind regards,
Bernard Pascal - President Zone 8

World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
2012			
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 15-19	International Games Festival	Cannes, France	www.festivaldesjeux-cannes.com
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.qldbbridge.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 12-15	13 th Hotel Senator Tournament	Starachowice, Poland	www.h-s.pl/brydz-meeting
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 11-24	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 25-27	33 rd Oder River Blue Ribbon Meeting	Wroclaw, Poland	www.dzbs.com.pl
May 26-Jun 3	IV South American Transnationals	Montevideo, Uruguay	http://www.confbridge.org
Jun 1-2	Worldwide Simultaneous Pairs	Clubs Everywhere	www.ecatsbridge.co.uk
Jun 1-3	52 nd Poznan Tournament	Poznan, Poland	www.kongres.brydz.wlkp.pl
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 6-15	55 th Bridge Congress	Slawa, Poland	www.kongres-slawa.pl
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	52 nd Baltic Bridge Congress	Sopot, Poland	www.bridge.gda.pl/mkb
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	22 nd Solidarity Bridge Festival	Slupsk, Poland	www.bridgefestival.hg.pl
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 24-Sep 2	40 th Grand Prix of Warsaw	Warsaw, Poland	www.warsbrydz.pl
Aug 25-Sep 2	36 th International Festival	La Grande Motte, France	www.festivalsdusoleil.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.nzcbca.co.nz
Nov 1-4	26 th Festival des Jeux de l'Esprit	Avignon, France	www.festivalsdusoleil.com
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