



BULLETIN

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Editorial

The recent Vanderbilt could lay claim to being the toughest bridge event ever staged, if toughness can be measured by the strength of the field. The top four seeds were Fleisher, Nickell, Cayne and Zimmermann. Jimmy Cayne partnered Michael Seamon with Duboin-Sementa and Versace-Lauria in tow. The other three had the lineups you'd expect. The Diamond team was seeded no higher than eighth. The recent Bermuda-Bowl winning Dutch team and runner-up Americans were spread out over seven different teams, the highest-seeded of which was thirteenth. There is no question that the top 20 teams, at least, could have entertained thoughts of winning, as could a handful of lower seeds. At least 26 nations were represented in the first-day matches, a development that has greatly enriched the event and forced the ACBL to rethink its seeding practices.

Seeding is pretty good, if not always completely accurate. Here's how it works: seeding points are applied to each player on the basis of (a.) success in the major U.S. team events over the previous 10 years, or (b.) WBF standing, but not both. One can acquire a maximum of 50 seeding points. Ten points are awarded for a Vanderbilt or Spingold win, 8 points for a Reisinger win and these devalue over time by about 10% per year. ACBL master points are counted as well, to a maximum of 11 seeding points, one seeding point for roughly each 2,000 master points. The alternative plan, (b.), is based on a formula for converting WBF master points and placing points into seeding points.

One event the seeding points do not take into account is the USBF Trials to pick their national representatives (unless the US team has more seeding points as a result of its WBF standing than its ACBL standing). Should a team that wins the USBF Trials (and often goes on to glory in the World Championship) receive seeding consideration? We think so. The American Trials are arguably the world's toughest and the winning team (or teams) is always amongst the favourites in any event it plays.

One little wrinkle involves 'shuffling' of the seeds. Seed numbers 3 and 4 based on seeding points are shuffled for the actual seed number in the event; then the rest are shuffled in groups of four. Thus the No. 8 Diamond team was somewhere in the 5-8 group, while the winners Amoils, the original 14 seed, were somewhere in the 13-16 group.

Let's now take a look at the USBF "Positioning Points" formula, used to seed its national trials. It takes into account precisely four events, the Spingold, Vanderbilt, Reisinger and USBC, all in the previous 12-month cycle. The points awarded are 100, 99, 81 and 53 (maximum) respectively. (In the USBC, points are awarded to winners of the long knockout matches, 18/14/11/8 – thus a team with a bye to the semifinals which wins the event receives only 32 positioning points.) The Bathurst team, which won a 10-day Trials, defeating Nickell and Diamond in 128-board matches along the way (Fleisher had already qualified for the Bermuda Bowl), receives 51 positioning points, while the winners of the Reisinger would receive 81 positioning points for winning the 2011 Reisinger, if they were eligible. As Cayne played with four Italian world champions, they were ineligible for positioning points. Further, had there been four eligible players, their positioning points would have been reduced by a formula. All this seems more accurate than the ACBL method, except that only the previous 12-month cycle counts.

The goals are different, of course. The Vanderbilt seeders want a balanced bracket, whereas the USBF wants to send its currently-best, 'hot' team to the world championship regardless of past glories.

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Surfers Paradise, Australia
February 25-March 3

Barry Rigal, NYC
Michael Courtney, Sydney
David Stern, Sydney
Jon Sveindal, Nyborg, Norway

The two major events in Surfer's Paradise are the Pairs and Teams Championships. Due to the great organisation, the locale, the venue and the ambiance, the Gold Coast Congress draws more players than any other tournament in Australia. To give you an idea of how popular it is, this year, 264 pairs competed in the Open Division of the Pairs, with another 376 pairs competing in Senior, Intermediate, Restricted and Novice Divisions. Likewise, 219 teams competed in the Open Division of the Championship Teams, with another 183 taking part in the other divisions.

By way of comparison, the largest Transnational Teams in a World Championship, the 2011 edition in Veldhoven, comprised 152 teams, while the most-recent World Open Pairs, in Philadelphia in 2010, attracted 250 pairs, not counting the drop-in pairs from the late stages of the Rosenblum.

The Gold Coast Pairs

When I (BR) watched Alex Smirnov of Germany (and Australia) playing with Andy Hung (Australia) in the Pairs Championship, they produced a very thoughtful sequence:

Pairs Qualifying. Session I. Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|-------------------|----------|------------------|--------|
| Smirnov | Morrison | Hung | Bourke |
| — | — | Pass | Pass |
| 2 NT | Pass | 3 ♣ | Pass |
| 3 ♦ ¹ | Pass | 4 ♣ ² | Pass |
| 4 ♠ ³ | Pass | 5 ♥ ⁴ | Pass |
| 5 NT ⁵ | Pass | 6 ♠ | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |

1. No five-card major, at least one four-card major
2. Slam-try, both majors
3. Constructive with spades
4. Cue bid
5. Pick a slam

Arch Morrison did well to lead a heart and avoid giving away the contract at once. Smirnov won and carefully laid down the ace of spades (guarding against the only 4-0 spade break with which he could cope). Then he drew two more rounds of trump and again took care when he played on clubs before diamonds, giving himself two chances instead of one in the minors.

The cards would have forgiven either piece of carelessness...but what if the cards been arrayed in a different fashion?

AWare & BWare (BR)

Pairs Final I. Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Playing against one Ware is bad enough – playing against two of them must be doubly wearing, I suppose. On this deal Griff Ware and Michael Ware (AWare and BWare according to their system card!) bid to six notrump on the auction:

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-----------------------|------|-------------------|
| — | AWare | | BWare |
| — | — | Pass | 1 ♣ |
| Pass | 1 ♠ | Pass | 1 NT ¹ |
| Pass | 2 ♦ ² | Pass | 2 ♥ |
| Pass | 2 ♠ | Pass | 3 ♠ |
| Pass | 4 ♣ | Pass | 4 ♦ |
| Pass | 4 NT | Pass | 5 ♥ |
| Pass | 6 NT | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |
| | 1. 15-17 | | |
| | 2. Game-forcing relay | | |

Against six notrump, West naturally resisted the temptation to lead a club – which would have let through 12 tricks without a struggle. Instead, West led a spade and Michael won and knocked out the spade ace. He ran the spades and diamonds and reduced to this ending...

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

The last spade forced East to part with a club, baring the jack - he knew from the auction that declarer had four hearts. West thus pitched a heart from hand, cashed the three top hearts and decided that West's passive earlier defence, coupled with the discarding, had indicated that West had the king of clubs. So he led out the club queen to pin the jack and emerged with a stone-cold top for his troubles. Only repeated heart leads hold six notrump to 11 tricks double dummy; it would take a prescient declarer to make 12 tricks if West shifts to a club upon winning the spade ace.

Ish And Opening Leads (BR)

Ishmael Del'Monte is known for his idiosyncratic approach to the game – he is quite prepared to steal from the opponents at the slightest opportunity.

As Ish told his more than 120 students at his Gold Coast Congress lecture, "Blind leads (as opposed to well-considered ones) are for deaf players - if you make a blind lead, you haven't listened to the auction." His opponent on the following deal evidently listened. Consider it as a lead problem - as South, you hold:

Pairs Final 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ 4 3
♥ A J 8 4 3
♦ 9 8 7 5
♣ 7 4

| West | North | East | South |
|------------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| Harper | Price | Del'Monte | Tier |
| — | — | 1 ♠ | Pass |
| 3 ♣ ¹ | Pass | 4 ♦ ² | Pass |
| 4 ♠ | Pass | 6 ♠ | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |

1. Bergen: 6-9, Four-card raise
2. Splinter

"Faites vos jeux, mesdames et messieurs!" (as the croupier implores players to make their bets while the ball spins at Roulette). Bruce Tier, suspicious of the auction (Ish bidding slam after receiving a discouraging noise from partner), unhesitatingly put his fingers on the lead of nine of diamonds and this was the full deal.

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

A Rare Ending or Two (MC)

Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|------|---------|---------|--------|
| Avon | Richard | Michael | Eugene |
| — | — | Pass | 1 ♥ |
| Pass | 2 ♣ | Pass | 3 ♥ |
| Pass | 6 ♥ | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |

When Avon Wilsmore tried a spade lead, declarer took 12 ready tricks, including three spade ruffs in the dummy. The sound of the score being agreed as usual awoke the sleeping kibitzers, who universally agreed that a trump lead would allow the defence to prevail. In fact, on a trump lead declarer, Eugene Gordon, would have executed one of the rarest coups in bridge – the exit squeeze.

Declarer wins the trump, plays the spade ace, spade ruff, diamond ace, diamond ruff, spade ruff, diamond ruff, then runs trumps. He takes two spade ruffs and only two diamond ruffs before running trumps. His basic idea is to hope to endplay one defender or the other with a spade honour to lead from the club king. This is the position when the last trump is led:

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

Earlier you as West unblocked the king of spades to avoid being end-played in spades. What do you discard on the last trump? A spade seems forced, but then declarer exits with the six of spades, known as the losing squeeze card or exit squeeze card – a rarity except in books. Dummy will discard in the other minor to West. A simple squeeze with the defence winning the squeeze trick.

Strangely, a similar possibility came up the next day:

Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|---------|---------|------|--------|
| Michael | Richard | Jim | Callin |
| — | — | Pass | 1 ♠ |
| Pass | 2 NT | Pass | 3 ♥ |
| Pass | 4 ♥ | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |

This time: ace, king and another club, ruffed; king, ace and another spade, ruffed, West discarding a club; then two top trumps ending in dummy, to reach this ending:

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

Now when the queen of diamonds was played, Jim Freston did not cover as declarer might have the ace-nine-eight. But now on the heart king, East can discard a spade comfortably enough, but then on the jack of clubs, he has no safe discard. As usual South discards “the other thing”. Two exit squeezes in two days! I couldn’t believe it. Nor should I have, for in fact, as the auction had suggested, South was actually 5=4=2=2 and would have comfortably taken a diamond ruff for ten tricks had Jim covered.

The Gold Coast Teams (BR)

Brian Callaghan of London is a regular visitor to this tournament, playing with his partner Christine Duckworth, and this year with their Dutch friends, Niels van der Gaast and Agnes Wesseling. In the second match, Callaghan found himself in a delicate game, and took his best chance:

Qualifying Match 2. Board 24. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|------------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| 3 ♠ ¹ | Pass | 4 ♣ ² | 4 ♥ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

1. Solid minor, no outside ace or king
2. Pass or correct (four diamonds would be conventional)

Callaghan admitted that doubling four clubs for take-out might have been a better bid but then he would not have been able to test himself in four hearts, would he? The defenders led two top diamonds and East could see no reason to ruff in – West might have seven diamonds, after all. Yes, maybe West should have led a lower diamond to get the trump promotion. East pitched a painful club instead.

Callaghan ruffed at trick two, drew trumps in three rounds, and ducked a spade. This was the ending (see top of next page).

West should simply have led a top diamond now but he was worried that this would squeeze his partner. Instead he played a club, and Callaghan won in dummy, then led a spade and East split his honours, but Callaghan ducked. He could win the next club in

dummy and take the spade finesse for the rest of the tricks.

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

Note that if West plays back a top diamond declarer ruffs, goes to dummy with a club, and leads a spade from dummy, which East must duck - not easy! That gives declarer one extra spade trick but not two.

Irish Foresight (DS)

When Tom Hanlon and Hugh McGann played Bruce Neill and Richard Jedrychowski in the Teams semifinal, they produced one of the nicest deals of the event.

Teams Semifinal. Session 2. Board 20. Dealer West. Both Vul.

| | | | |
|------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| | ♠ A K J 5 | | |
| | ♥ Q J 8 7 5 2 | | |
| | ♦ Q | | |
| | ♣ 9 6 | | |
| ♠ 9 | | ♠ Q 10 8 6 4 | |
| ♥ 3 | | ♥ A K 9 | |
| ♦ A K 10 6 4 3 2 | | ♦ 9 7 | |
| ♣ K Q 7 3 | | ♣ 10 8 5 | |
| | ♠ 7 3 2 | | |
| | ♥ 10 6 4 | | |
| | ♦ J 8 5 | | |
| | ♣ A J 4 2 | | |
| West | North | East | South |
| McGann | Neill | Hanlon | Jedrychowski |
| 1♦ | 3♥ | 3NT | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |

At the other table, Brown/Ware had been allowed to play three hearts when both their opponents took a somewhat cautious route in the bidding. This went down. Hanlon/McGann were more ambitious.

The (MUD) heart six lead went to the jack and king. Hanlon won and played a diamond to the king and queen and decided the suit was 3-1. How to get back to hand to tackle the suit now? He elected to play a spade; North won and, realizing the heart and spade position, shifted to the nine of clubs. This was covered with the ten, jack and queen. Here is the ending:

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

Looking at all four hands, it is far from obvious why the next play is critical, especially when there is no one to ring a bell and wake you up, but Hanlon got it exactly right when he advanced the seven of clubs from dummy. His foresight was rewarded when the six of clubs popped up on his right as he could overtake and force South to win the ace. Back came a third club, and Hanlon won in hand with the five and took the diamond finesse to emerge for an impressive plus 660 and 10 IMPs. Well done! Had he led a low club from dummy instead, the club blockage would have prevented him from getting to hand for the diamond finesse – and he would have ended with seven tricks instead.

Irish Ingenuity (BR)

Hugh McGann found an ingenious line in his three-notrump contract on the following deal:

Teams Final 2. Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Both tables in the teams final tried the notrump game from South. Nabil Edgtton (playing with Paul Gosney, for the Milne team) had shown his diamonds as South and Gosney had shown both black suits, so Liam Milne led three rounds of hearts. Edgtton won and took a spade finesse and Fiona Brown won the king and shifted to diamonds; down one.

Tom Hanlon/Hugh McGann had an uninformative sequence where dummy had also shown the black-suits but McGann had not shown anything about his own hand. He also won the third heart but led a low diamond from hand, banking on the fact that if East

won the trick no return would hurt. West could have flown with the diamond queen and shifted to spades of course, but when he ducked, declarer won the nine of diamonds (yes, Liam Milne sounds an appropriate name to be a victim of the Curse of Scotland) and came to the clubs to cash the heart. That was nine tricks and 12 IMPs.

Irish Deviousness (JS)

After they had shown a four-card heart suit, both Easts came to rest in three notrump in this deal from the Gold Coast Congress Teams. At one table, Irish international Tom Hanlon got the diamond jack lead.

Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

If both minor suits behave, there are nine tricks for the taking. But that is not very likely. You can build some spade tricks for the contract, but wouldn't the defence find the obvious heart shift?

Hanlon found a nice countermove when, after winning the first trick, he put the heart king on the table! North would not help declarer to establish a couple of heart tricks, so he switched to a club. East played the king, and knocked out the spade ace. South played another club, and Hanlon had his nine tricks for plus 400.

At the other table I led an unimaginative low heart and, shortly after, declarer was two down.

The Winners

Well done to Nabil Edgtton for completing the Double...

Pairs: Ashley Bach, Nabil Edgtton

Teams: Liam Milne, Andy Hung, Alex Smirnov, Nye Griffiths, Michael Whibley, Nabil Edgtton

Kantar Humour

South: Alert! East: Yes? South: I'm requested to further misdescribe my hand.

We had a partnership misunderstanding. I assumed my partner knew what he was doing.



England won the Camrose Home Internationals for the 50th time, scoring 11 wins and 1 draw in their matches against Ireland, Northern Ireland, the Scottish Bridge Union, Scotland, and Wales. They faced the eventual runners-up, Wales, on this deal:

Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| <i>Shields</i> | <i>Osborne</i> | <i>Denning</i> | <i>Hinden</i> |
| — | — | — | 1♥ |
| INT | Double | Redouble | 3♦ |
| Pass | 3♠ | Pass | 4♥ |
| Double | Pass | Pass | Pass |

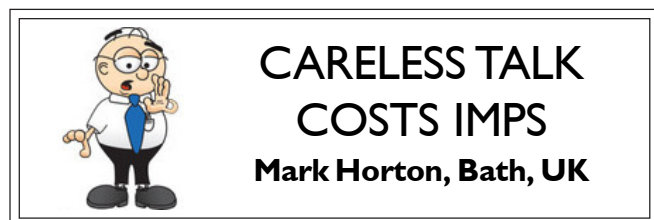
Wales had already racked up a good board at the other table by making three notrump on the North cards. England supporters were shrinking in their seats when Frances Hinden arrived in four hearts doubled. With two likely trump tricks, you might expect Patrick Shields to start with the ace of spades. No, East had indicated clubs with his artificial redouble and he led the queen of clubs.

Frances Hinden won the club lead and played dummy's second top club, ditching her singleton spade. Would you expect the contract to succeed after this fortunate start?

Hinden played the two of diamonds to the three and king. The contract can now be beaten only if West allows this card to win! If declarer then continues with the diamond queen, West can win and exit with the seven of diamonds while partner still has a trump. If instead declarer pulls one round of trumps and then plays the diamond queen, West can exit with a trump and eventually collect one trump and three diamond tricks.

West chose to win the first diamond with the ace and had no good return. When he tried to cash the spade ace, Hinden ruffed, played the queen of diamonds and ruffed a diamond with the eight of hearts. She discarded two diamond losers on the king and queen of spades and made the contract.

How should the defence go if West leads the ace of spades? Suppose that he mistakenly continues with the ace of diamonds. On any continuation, declarer can draw one round of trumps and ruff two spades in her hand to shorten her trumps. Meanwhile, she ruffs one diamond with the heart eight and discards another on the clubs. Her last four cards are the king-ten-nine of hearts and the king of diamonds, with West's queen-jack-six of hearts and diamond jack sitting over her. She cashes the diamond winner and exits with the ten of hearts to endplay West. To beat four hearts after leading the ace of spades, West must retain his ace of diamonds and play a black suit at trick two.



In February 1940, the British Government launched a campaign that warned the general public against loose talk and the dangers of unwittingly giving information to enemy sympathisers. The slogan 'Careless Talk Costs Lives' was born and the Ministry of Information distributed two and a half million posters to offices, shops and public houses.

Dealer West. E/W Vul.

♠ Q 6
♥ K J 10 8 6 4
♦ Q 9 5 4
♣ 6

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

♠ 9
♥ A 5 2
♦ 3 2
♣ K Q 10 8 7 5 3

| West | North | East | South |
|-------------------|-----------|------------------|-------|
| Cheek | Friedland | Grue | Dahl |
| Pass | 2♥ | 4♦ ¹ | 4♥ |
| 4NT ² | Pass | 5NT ³ | 7♣ |
| Pass ⁴ | Pass | 7♠ | Pass |
| Pass | | | |

1. Spades, powerful hand
2. Key Card ask
3. 3 key cards + heart void
4. Still interested


On this deal from the semi-final of the 2012 Vanderbilt, a defender's bid allowed declarer to land his contract in spectacular style.

In the other room, declarer had scored plus 1430 in six spades, ruffing the heart lead, cashing the aces of spades and diamonds and then playing a diamond to the jack. North's queen was the last trick for the defence. The stakes were much higher here.

South led the queen of clubs and declarer won with the ace. If declarer plays a spade to the king, catering for North holding all three spades, then he will be relying on South having at worst queen-third of diamonds.

South's dramatic bid of seven clubs might have caused declarer to adopt this line but, reasoning that with something like a 0=3=3=7 shape, South might have followed a different course, Joe Gue cashed the ace of spades. When South followed, it increased the likelihood that he would be the one who was short in diamonds given that he had supported hearts and then shown a lot of clubs.

Declarer cashed the ace of diamonds, played a diamond to the king (South following with the two and three, North the four and five) and ran the jack of diamonds for a spectacular plus 2210 and 13 IMPs.



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IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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609. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------------|-------|------|-------|
| 1♥ ¹ | 2♦ | Pass | 3NT |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

1. Promises a 5-card suit

West leads a fourth-highest seven of hearts and East plays the queen. What is your plan to make nine tricks?

You take the queen of hearts with the king, noting that six diamond tricks will be enough for the game. If your next move is to play the ace and king of diamonds, when West shows out on the second round, you will have nowhere to turn. Even if the queen of clubs is doubleton, you will not be able to recover by scoring five club tricks; the jack of clubs would block the suit.

Correct procedure is to test the first diamonds in a way that leaves allows you to recover sufficiently when the diamonds do not break and the club suit lies favourably. In this case you should cash the king of diamonds at trick two and return to hand with a low diamond to your ace. Whenever the diamond suit breaks 3-2 you will take your nine top tricks. When the cards lie as above, you will tackle clubs by leading a low one to the jack next. When that holds, you cash the queen of diamonds, throwing a heart, followed by the ace and king of clubs. On the above deal, you will make a heart, three diamonds and five clubs as long as you played the minor suits in the correct order.

610. Dealer South. N/S Vul. (See next column)

How will you play six hearts when West leads the king of diamonds? There is little chance that East began with the king of clubs, so that leading a club towards the queen would be a poor way to try and get rid of

spade loser. A much better chance is to play along elimination lines.

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

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

1. At least 5-5 in the minors
2. Promises a limit raise or better in hearts

After winning the diamond lead, you should ruff a diamond in your hand. Then you play the king and ace of trumps, noting that West began with a singleton; this marks his most likely original distribution as 2=1=5=5. You ruff dummy's last diamond, eliminating that suit, cross to the king of spades and lead a second spade. If East plays low, you will finesse the nine of spades forcing West to win with his now bare ten. Then either he has to lead away from his king of clubs, which will see you make a trick with the queen, or he has to give you a ruff-and-discard, allowing you to discard dummy's club loser and ruff in hand; either way you will make 12 tricks.

There is one last wrinkle; if East happens to split his queen-jack of spades on the second round of the suit, you play low from hand, win East's club shift with dummy's ace and then finesse the nine of spades to throw the eight of clubs on the ace of spades. You will make three spades, five trumps, a diamond, two diamond ruffs and a club for a total of 12 tricks. This approach succeeds in 12 out of the 15 cases where West has a doubleton spade and also in three of the six cases when West began with a singleton spade.

611. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------------|-------|------|-------|
| 2♥ ¹ | Pass | Pass | 3♠ |
| Pass | 4♠ | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |

1. Weak, 6-10 points and exactly six hearts

West leads the king of hearts and you win the ace. As you may be in dummy only once, at trick two you lead a club to the jack, which holds. After that bright start, things go awry when you lead the king of trumps, for West discards a low heart. As taking his ace of trumps would allow you to enter dummy with queen of trumps and then finesse the eight on the way back, rather meanly, East follows with a low trump. Despite this, can you see a way to make 10 tricks?

The first point to note is that the contract cannot be made if clubs are not 3-3. So you cash the ace and king. After the ace and king of clubs hold, cash the ace of diamonds and exit with a heart or a diamond. The defenders can do no better than cash a trick in each red suit and force you with a diamond. Strangely, this is where you have to be very careful, for you must ruff the diamond with the five, the eight or the nine of trumps. If you ruff with the five of trumps, these cards will be left:

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

Now you lead the eight of trumps to dummy's queen. East takes the trick with his ace of trumps and exits with a heart. As you have carefully kept the two of trumps, you with ruff with the two and dummy overruff in dummy with the four. Now a card from dummy coups East's remaining ten-seven of spades.

612. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

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

1. Weak, 7-10 points, exactly six hearts, denies four spades.

West leads the ten of hearts against your spade game. When this holds, West plays a second heart and you ruff with the eight. How will you continue? The best move is to cash the ace and king of trumps at tricks three and four. If both defenders follow then you will just give up a trump and make ten tricks if West has the king of clubs and eleven if he doesn't. Problems only arise when West has four trumps (as East cannot have four).

When you cash the ace-king of trumps, East discards a heart on the second round. Your aim is to make the contract when West started with the king of clubs. You should cross to the ace of diamonds and ruff dummy's last heart, removing West's remaining card in the suit. Next, you run the diamond suit. If West refuses to ruff any of the diamonds, you will discard two clubs from your hand and throw West in with a trump. After scoring two trump tricks, he will have to lead away from the king of clubs. The effect is the same if West ruffs one of your diamond winners. He can cash his other trump winner but will then have to lead away from the king of clubs.

The defence at trick two was rather soft. East should have won the first trick with the jack of hearts and shifted to a club. Then West scores a trick with his king of clubs and then the contract can only be made with the double-dummy line that relies on your reading West's original distribution. You would have to reduce him to queen-ten-four of trumps and force him to ruff a diamond winner. He would then have to lead into the king-jack of trumps.

Another promising defence would be for West to shift to a diamond at trick two. The simplest line then would be to win the shift in dummy, ruff a heart and play as above.

THINKING OUT-SIDE THE DECK

Phillip Alder,
Hobe Sound, FL



Some people are particularly imaginative. They are said to think outside the box. What expression applies to bridge players who are like that? Do they think outside the deck?

You know the players who are particularly creative. However, one who might not be on your list is Peter Fredin from Sweden. He showed me two particularly inventive deals from the Platinum Pairs, in which he partnered Gary Gottlieb. Try them as single-dummy problems first.

1. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ A K 10 8
♥ 9 4 2
♦ Q J 10 4
♣ K 10

♠ 9 7 5 4 3 2
♥ A K Q
♦ A 7
♣ 3 2

| West | North | East | South |
|------|------------------|------|-----------------|
| — | — | — | 1♠ |
| Pass | 2NT ¹ | Pass | 3♠ ² |
| Pass | 3NT ³ | Pass | 4♠ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

1. Game-forcing raise
2. Extras, but not very strong
3. No singleton or void

West leads the three of hearts and East plays the eight. What would you do?

2. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

♠ A Q J 3 2
♥ A J 8 3
♦ 9 2
♣ 10 4

♠ K 9 8
♥ K Q
♦ A Q J 10 7 4
♣ K 9

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-----------------|------|------------------|
| Pass | 1♠ | Pass | 2♣ ¹ |
| Pass | 2♥ | Pass | 3♠ |
| Pass | 4♠ | Pass | 4NT ² |
| Pass | 5♠ ³ | Pass | 6NT |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

1. In principle, natural
2. Roman Key Card Blackwood
3. Two key cards and the queen of spades

West leads a heart. How might you take advantage of your hidden diamond suit?

1. The first deal occurred during the second semifinal session of the Platinum Pairs at the Spring NABC in Memphis.

♠ A K 10 8
♥ 9 4 2
♦ Q J 10 4
♣ K 10

♠ Q 6
♥ 7 6 3
♦ K 9 6 5 3
♣ J 6 5

♠ J
♥ J 10 8 5
♦ 8 2
♣ A Q 9 8 7 4

♠ 9 7 5 4 3 2
♥ A K Q
♦ A 7
♣ 3 2

If the diamond finesse was working, there was a shot at 12 tricks: spade to the king, diamond queen run, diamond to the ace, spade to the ace, diamond king ruffed out, spade to the ten, club discarded on the last diamond. But if the diamond finesse lost, surely West would shift to a club (or cash the ace).

Fredin felt strongly that the diamond finesse was losing, so, after winning the first trick with his ace of hearts, he immediately led the seven of diamonds from his hand!

Many Wests would have ducked this trick and permitted declarer to gain a valuable overtrick. But this West promptly played his king and ... led another heart. So Fredin took 12 tricks for 24.5 matchpoints out of 25.

2. The second deal was in the first final session.

♠ A Q J 3 2
♥ A J 8 3
♦ 9 2
♣ 10 4

♠ 10 7 6
♥ 9 7 5 4 2
♦ K 5
♣ 7 5 3

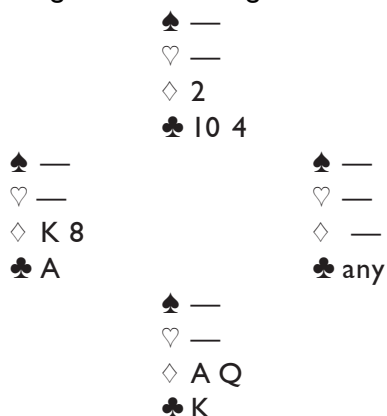
♠ 5 4
♥ 10 6
♦ 8 6 3
♣ A Q J 8 6 2

♠ K 9 8
♥ K Q
♦ A Q J 10 7 4
♣ K 9

Given his deceptive auction, Fredin was convinced that West had the diamond king because he had not led it, the unbid suit. So, after winning the first trick with his king of hearts, he led a low diamond toward dummy's nine!

And, yes, West played low smoothly.

Now, as you can see, declarer could have taken 15 tricks: five spades, four hearts and six diamonds. But Fredin assumed that West had the ace of clubs. Declarer ran his major-suit winners, bringing about this ending, or so he thought:



South led a club from the dummy, expecting to endplay West with his ace to lead away from king of diamonds. However, the position was that East had had to keep one diamond to prevent Fredin dropping the now singleton king, but also had the ace-queen of clubs left, so he won with his ace and cashed the queen of clubs for down one.

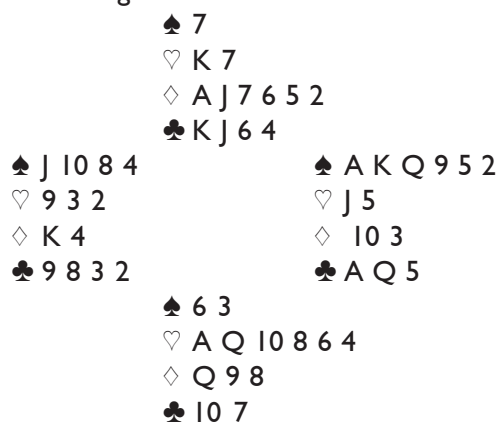
Minus 50 was worth 5 out of 13 matchpoints; plus 1020 would have been a cold top.

Fredin said, "I lost my mind, because if West had the ace of clubs and king of diamonds, he would have won the second trick and cashed his ace for down one."



The opening lead is one of the most difficult parts of bridge and can easily be compared to a lottery. Lottery! This deal was from one of the most popular tournaments in Poland - the Master Individual. Cezary Balicki held the hand.

Look at the diagram:



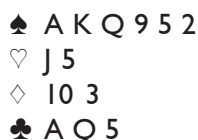
Cezary Balicki did not fall short of the spectators' expectations and after much thought led the two of spades. His partner read the signal correctly and, after winning the trick with the ten of spades, switched to clubs.

Let's use our imagination by switching the minor suit kings between West and North and giving the spade jack to North. In bad times this could happen. When you play in an individual, after your two of spades lead, partner can ask, "Where do you come from?" or "What's your name, sir?"



You are East, and hold:

Matchpoints. Dealer West. E/W Vul.



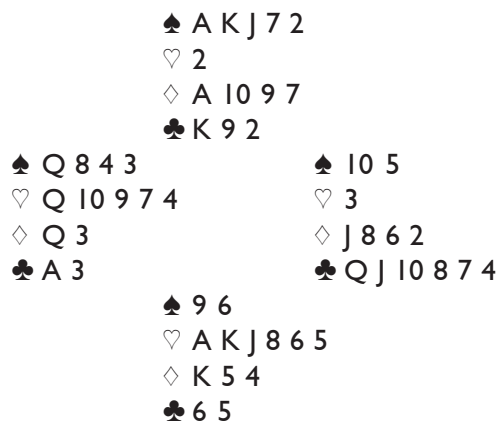
The bidding proceeds as follows:

| West | North | East | South |
|------------|-----------|---------|------------|
| Mariusz | Mariusz | Cezary | Grzegorz |
| Bartkowski | Puczynski | Balicki | Narkiewicz |
| Pass | 1♦ | 1♠ | 2♥ |
| 3♠ | Double | Pass | 4♥ |
| Pass | Pass | 4♠ | Pass |
| Pass | Double | Pass | 5♦ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

Now you have to make a lead. Your choice is?

In an article last summer from the Nordic Junior Championships, we saw that the Danish junior, Matias Rohrberg, is a skillful declarer. Here is yet another example of his excellent card-reading.

Dealer East. Neither Vul.



| West | North | East | South |
|---------|-----------|-------|----------|
| Raulund | Mortensen | Tofte | Rohrberg |
| — | — | 3♣ | 3♥ |
| Pass | 3♠ | Pass | 4♥ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

This deal came up late in the final of the 2012 Danish Junior Team Championships between Dennis Bilde and Signe Thomsen. Four hearts was the contract in both rooms after identical auctions. In the closed room West led the ace of clubs and continued the suit to dummy's king. Declarer now took a heart finesse, and the contract could no longer be made.

At the other table, Niclas Raulund Ege did well when he switched to a spade after the ace of clubs, hence not revealing how the clubs were splitting. Matias Rohrberg won with dummy's ace and spurned the remote chance of finding the pre-emptor with queen-third in trumps. He played a heart to the ace and cashed the king. The bad news was that hearts were 5-1, but the good news was that he managed to make the game regardless.

It looks like West must come to three trump tricks, but there is a way out for declarer. Rohrberg next finessed spades, cashed the king and ruffed a spade. Then came the king of diamonds and another diamond to the ace. This was the position with four cards still to be played and eight tricks in declarer's bag:

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

Decision time. Were clubs 2-6 or 1-7? If the latter, West would have another diamond and a diamond ruff at this stage was needed. Then a club would be the exit card when West had nothing but trumps in his hand. After some thought Rohrberg decided that juniors rarely have seven cards for their three-level pre-empts and played for Raulund to have another club. He cashed the king of clubs, and it was all over. West had to give him his tenth trick with the jack of hearts. (If declarer decides to play West for 4=5=2=2, as he did, the spade finesse in an unnecessary risk. He just ruffs two spades and West must later ruff the losing diamond and give him the heart jack. - Ed.)

This was a significant board on the way to the slightly surprising win for the Thomsen team over the Bilde team.

MINUTE OF SILENCE

Ana Roth, Buenos Aires



Slava Cup 2012 In Memory of Slava Grinuk Ana Roth, Buenos Aires

Minute of Silence was a joint radio and TV program in the Soviet Union, broadcast at 6:00 p.m. on May 9, the day of the victory of the Soviet Union in the Second World War. The minute of silence was dedicated to all those who fell fighting in the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union and was marked by the tolling of the bells of the Kremlin.

Slava Grinyuk (slava is Russian for 'fame') was a talented Russian bridge player who died an untimely death in his thirties. Annual tournaments in his memory have been held in Moscow since 2003. It is the best bridge event held in Russia.

The 2012 Slava Cup was played from February 16 to 18 and surely if it had been played on May 9 at least one Russian participant would have remembered the 'minute of silence'...and would have been able to save himself a terrible headache.

The teams from the Top 8 Teams event Slava Cup 2012, were divided into two groups, each group having a qualifying round robin. In one of the matches the Zaleski Team: Romain Zaleski, Alfredo Versace, Lorenzo Lauria, Valerio Giubilo faced the Real Team: Andrey Gromov, Evgueni Gladyshev, Alexander Dubinin, Mikhail Krasnoselski.

Board 36. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|---------|--------|--------|---------|
| Versace | Gromov | Lauria | Dubinin |
| Pass | 1♥ | 4♠ | Double |
| Pass | 5♥ | Pass | Pass |
| Double | Pass | Pass | Pass |


Lauria led the king of spades; Versace won the trick with his ace and returned a club. Declarer won the ace and played a heart, covering West's king with his ace. When he followed with the heart jack, East pitched a spade and West won the trick with his queen.

Versace exited with a club, and Lauria won it with his king to continue with the spade queen, Versace pitching a diamond. Gromov ruffed in his hand and continued with the ace and another diamond, ruffed by Versace. Declarer couldn't avoid losing two more heart tricks...four down doubled: minus 1100.

At the other table Krasnosselski couldn't hear Kremlin's bells...and opened one heart, which caused Zaleski's silence for the entire bidding process.

| West | North | East | South |
|---------------|---------|--------|---------|
| Krasnosselski | Zaleski | Gladys | Giubilo |
| 1♥ | Pass | 4♠ | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |

Declarer went one down, minus 50...that cost them 15 IMPs. In the room, a grave silence reigned.



THE MIRROR OF GALADRIEL

Richard Hills, Canberra

Elven Queen Galadriel:

"And now at last it comes. You will give me the One King freely! In place of the Dark Lord you will set up a Queen of Diamonds. And I shall not be dark, but beautiful and terrible as the Squeeze and the Smother Play! Fair as the Imps and the Matchpoints and the Life Master on the Masterpoint Mountain! Dreadful as the Psyche and the Post Mortem! Stronger than the foundations of the Bidding System! All shall love me and despair!"

Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

The power of the Mirror of Galadriel meant that all four players held mirrored holdings in the major suits.

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------|------------------|
| Galadriel | Sam | Mirror | Frodo |
| 1♣ ¹ | Pass ² | Pass | Double |
| Pass | 2♣ ³ | Pass | 3♣ ⁴ |
| Pass | 4♣ ⁵ | Pass | 5♣ ⁶ |
| Pass | 6♣ ⁷ | Pass | 6NT ⁸ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

1. Standard Middle-Earthian, five card majors with a short club
2. A classical Shelob trapped pass
3. Oblivious to the possibility that even at the adverse vulnerability, another pass might be the best call. (If the Mirror did not rescue to one diamond, North-South would take all thirteen tricks defending one club doubled, for a penalty of 1700.) Instead, Sam showed his club suit.
4. Frodo believed two clubs was a cuebid, so Frodo chose a re-cue-'em to guarantee a game force.
5. Sam rebid his club suit.
6. Suspecting that Sam's bidding was ropy, Frodo chose the Exclusion Mirkwood convention (showing a club void and asking for non-club aces), to see if Sam would make the system response of five diamonds with zero non-club aces.
7. Sam remembered the advice of Gandalf, "When in doubt, bid one more," and Sam believed that the meanings of the calls in this auction were very doubtful.
8. Frodo observed that the Mirror had caused a reflective auction, with the two hobbits cueing five consecutive times in clubs. Frodo also observed that Sam had promised four non-club aces, which combined with Frodo's three non-club aces meant that a notrump grand slam was unlikely to succeed.

Galadriel found an awkward opening lead of the club jack, the only suit that did not immediately concede the twelfth trick. But Frodo remembered further advice from Gandalf (who was a wizard at cardplay, despite using an ancient bidding system), "Run your long suit!"

IBPA AGM Notice

The Annual General Meeting of
IBPA will be in Lille, France on
the morning of Thursday, 16th August, 2012.



So, spurning the simple play of playing the ace in one major and leading up to the queen in that suit, Frodo ran all seven clubs, reaching this ending with Galadriel, West, yet to discard:

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

Galadriel, the Queen of Diamonds, had to keep her diamond queen guarded. So she therefore had to reduce to a singleton in one of her majors. That allowed Frodo to safely cross to the corresponding major-suit ace in order to establish his jack of diamonds as his twelfth trick.

ZIA WHO?

Katie Thorpe, Kingsville, ON

“If they don’t cover, they don’t have it.” By now, there may not be a single tournament player who is not aware of Zia’s Axiom. It has become as well-known as Chagas’ Intrafinesse did when he authored the Bols Tip. Bridge writers are very fond of both.

When the German Team Trials was conducted last month, the Jamm team was in front of the Schüller team, 145-112, in the semifinals when the following deal popped up:

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

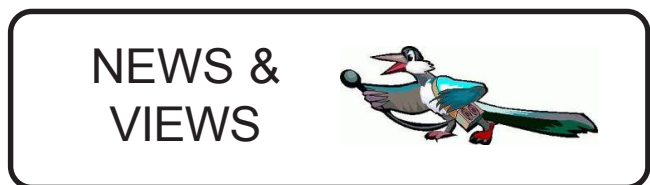
| | | |
|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| | ♠ A Q 9 2 | |
| | ♥ 9 7 2 | |
| | ♦ 7 5 2 | |
| | ♣ 9 7 6 | |
| ♠ K J | | ♠ 10 6 5 4 |
| ♥ A K Q J 4 3 | | ♥ 8 6 |
| ♦ J 9 | | ♦ A K |
| ♣ K 8 2 | | ♣ A J 10 4 3 |
| | ♠ 8 7 3 | |
| | ♥ 10 5 | |
| | ♦ Q 10 8 6 4 3 | |
| | ♣ Q 5 | |

| West | North | East | South |
|--------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Rehder | Gotard Jr | Gromöller | Gotard Sr |
| 1♥ | Pass | 1♠ | Pass |
| 3♥ | Pass | 4♣ | Pass |
| 4NT | Pass | 6♥ | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |

Tomasz Gotard Jr. led the five of diamonds against six hearts, king, three, nine. Martin Rehder promptly led the jack of clubs and when Tomas Gotard Sr. did not cover, ran it! He was shortly chalking up plus 1010 and later, 11 IMPs when his counterparts at the other table reached five hearts. Whatever Rehder’s reason for running the club jack, his counterpart at the other table, Paul Orth, had a better reason for doing so as it almost certainly ensured the contract!

So many of these plays are based on table feel that it would be presumptuous to criticise Rehder for taking an inferior play. Did he believe Gotard Jr. would have led a club had he had the queen? Did he think North would not lead a spade if he won the club queen (seems impossible)? What if North had no clubs at all? (South must have at least one as he did not make a Lightner double.)

And finally we come to Zia’s Axiom. Zia - Zia who?



Hans Kreijns

Hans Kreijns, winner (with Bob Slavenburg) of the 1966 World Open Pairs title, died in The Hague at age 83 on April 4 this year. Kreijns also won a bronze medal at the 1980 Olympiad Teams and was still the top-ranked Dutch player at the time of his death.

Worldwide Bridge Contest

This annual WBF event will be held at clubs worldwide on Friday, June 2 and Saturday, June 3. Pre-dealt hands with written commentary by Eric Kokish are provided. See www.ecatsbridge.com for details.

Red Sea & Champions Cup

This year, Israel will host the European Champions Cup in Eilat, concurrent with the Red Sea International Bridge Festival, November 15-25. See www.bridgeredsea.com for details. The Champions Cup will be held from November 15-18.

Multinational Team Wins Vanderbilt

The Leslie Amoils team has won the 2012 Vanderbilt. Amoils and partner Darren Wolpert are both Canadians born in South Africa. Thomas Bessis of France and Ishmael Del’Monte of Australia (born in New Zealand) and Americans Joe Grue and Curtis Cheek rounded out the team. Amoils defeated the Diamond team in a well-played, low-scoring final - Diamond/Platnick, Hampson/Greco and Moss/Gitelman.



Correspondence

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It is clear that few topics set the writers scribbling like the so-called 'sportsmanlike dumping' controversy does. Our editorial on that topic unleashed a flood of correspondence, some agreeing with our position, some neutral on it, and some against. Regardless of their position, our members produced very intelligent and erudite commentary...

John:

Enjoyed your thoughtful lead editorial on dumping, although I cannot entirely agree with you. While I do not speak for the ACBL Laws Commission, I am a member and also a participant on the subcommittee working on a preliminary draft of new Laws for 2017. Being additionally a lawyer, I begin my analysis out of habit by examining current law.

Law 72A provides: Duplicate bridge tournaments should be played in strict accordance with the Laws. The chief object is to obtain a higher score than other contestants, whilst complying with lawful procedures and ethical standards set out in these laws. Law 78D informs us that Conditions of Contest "must not conflict with law or regulation". And Law 80B2(f) provides that a Regulating Authority (any NCBO, such as ACBL or EBU), directly or through an appointed Tournament Organizer, may "announce regulations supplementary to, but not in conflict with, these Laws." Finally, Law 16A2 declares that "Players may also take account of ...any requirement of the tournament regulations."

Now, to my way of thinking, unless 72A means I must try for a higher score other than in relation to whatever allows me to win the event (that is, that I must try to maximize my score as to every hand and every trick, even if that may make it less likely I can win the event or improve my overall placing), dumping—whether one attaches the sobriquet "sportsmanlike" or not (I agree with you on the semantics; "tactical dumping" is both accurate and philologically neutral)—is merely a tactical device for achieving the goal Law 72A mandates be my aim, and I am specifically permitted to take account of tournament regulations in doing so.

At the beginning of your article, you give three exemplars of dumping based on factors extraneous to those permissibly entertained under 72A—aiding someone else to win the event, money, and career. You then throw dumping as part of an effort to win the event into the same pigeonhole, but the latter is clearly different, in the context of Law 72A, in quality and kind, and the comparison of apples and apes does not withstand critical scrutiny. I can imagine all kinds of tactically unassailable dumping in a round robin—perhaps, by losing, my semi-final opponent will be a team I am confident of beating,

or better still, one I can beat that plays fast. By losing, I avoid playing, say, world champions in the semi-final, and force them to play a very slow team, so when the final starts early on Sunday, my opponent will be dog tired after finishing in the wee hours, while we will be well rested.

So Tournament Organizers attempt to put the kibosh on tactical dumping by adopting a Condition of Contest that prohibits dumping. Arguably, that conflicts with Law 72A by forcing me to take actions that decrease my chance of winning the event, so it is invalid under 78D or 80B2(f). But assuming such a condition were valid, enforcement is sadly problematic, because inevitably it is going to require a judgment about what someone was thinking when they took action that led to a poor result (such a regulation, admittedly, would preclude team discussion of tactical dumping).

As a member of a law writing committee, we are similarly wrestling with the problem of how tactical psyching creates implicit partnership understandings, and how difficult it is to enforce the rules in that regard. See Law 16A1(d) and 3 and 40C1; those rules prohibit concealed understandings, but practical application has led mostly to controversy, as appeals committees are seen (rightly or wrongly) to make judgments *ad hominem* rather than *ipso facto* as they should. I recall as a beginning duplicate player reading Clyde Love's wonderful book on squeeze play, and seeing a hand where a well-known player (one who in recent years accuses nearly everyone of cheating in letters to the editor of the ACBL Bulletin) famous for psyching opened one heart. His partner, holding ♠K10xx ♥K9xx ♦x ♣Q8xx bid two hearts, and he bid two spades, raised to three spades. Now opener bid three notrump, and his partner passed(!)—of course, opener was 2-1-7-3 with solid diamonds. Then, as now, that struck me as outright cheating, and the situation is so manifestly a concealed understanding I should hope a modern director and committee would not only adjust the score but bar the offenders. Still, other situations are less clear and enforcing the rules proves difficult or impossible, as well as distasteful (largely because enforcement is tantamount, in the popular mind if not in law, to a finding of cheating, the "gravest possible offense" per Law 73B2).

So a Condition of Contest against dumping, if valid, will remain nearly unenforceable. If there are any IBPA readers who can formulate enforceable rules in this regard with respect to concealed understandings (equivalent linguistic barrier in practice), your suggestions would be welcomed by those struggling to improve the Laws for the next updating.

Allan Falk, Okemos, MI

Dear John,

Thank you for the editorial in the last number of the bulletin! I agree 100 percent. Bridge players should always do their best!

Yours kindly, Ahto Uisk, Uppsala, Sweden

Hi John,

Your March editorial on 'sportsmanlike dumping' reminds me that there are many sports where it is possible to break the rules during play and gain an advantage. Before the reform of the revoke penalty, I believe that was the case in bridge too.

I've always found the endgame situations in basketball very silly, where players deliberately commit fouls, hoping their opponents will miss the ensuing free throws – and everyone accepts this as a normal part of the game. One of the more egregious examples of rule-breaking for gain occurred in the last FIFA World Cup, where Uruguay's Luis Suarez deliberately handled the ball on the goal-line in a match against Ghana, preventing a sure winning goal (there were only seconds left). The referee, under the rules, could do no more than send Suarez off, and award Ghana a penalty kick (about a 75% chance), which they missed. Ghana went on to lose the match. Restoring equity, something which in bridge the director is required to attempt on occasion, would have seen Ghana awarded a penalty kick against no goalkeeper, or even just given the goal. The referees have the power to do that in rugby, when a foul clearly prevents a try – he can award a penalty try.

At least in our game, a single director can rarely if ever influence the course of a match or the result in quite so drastic a manner.

Ray Lee, Toronto

Hi John,

Re: Sportsmanlike Dumping; Let's see whether we can all agree on some ground rules. First, when you enter an event you are supposed to try your best to win that event. We may have a little trouble defining the event, but more on that later. Second, external considerations should not affect you. Bribes, potential jobs, even threats should be ignored. The only thing that could convince you to play less than your best against a particular team is that doing so would improve your prospect of winning the event.

J.C. (and others) ask whether improving your chances to win the event "is more noble" than other possible reasons for playing less than your best. I would answer that if 'dumping' increases your chance of winning the event – your only objective – then not dumping is unsportsmanlike. You did not enter the event to play your best on every hand or in every match. You entered to win. If you can do something to improve your chance to win, then ...

So let's imagine some strange positions.

Going into the last round of a qualifying event, say the WC RR, you are comfortably winning – in fact no matter what you do you will win the RR. In this last round you are playing the eighth place team – whom you judge to be not terribly fearsome. The ninth place team, on the other hand, was one of the pre-tournament favorites. It is reasonable to assume that your chances of winning the event are better if the good team does not make the KO rounds. Is it really the case that you should have to play against your own best long-term interest in this match?

I mentioned above that sometimes to define the event is not obvious. Consider the European Championship. Is the objective to win the Europeans – or to win the WC for which it is a qualifying event? Suppose a team has already qualified for the WC, and the result of its match will not affect who wins the European Championship but may affect which other teams get in. Can the team allow considerations of who else will qualify for the WC have an effect? Does it matter whether the team is one with legitimate aspirations to win the WC or one that will be an extreme outsider? Does it matter whether it will affect who wins the European Championship if the real event is the World Championship?

In fact the Swedish football team was in exactly this position in a recent World Cup. It was in a pool with Denmark, France and a weak fourth team. Sweden had beaten the top seeded French and the weak team. Denmark had tied France and beaten the weak team. If Denmark and Sweden tied (or Denmark won), they would both go through. But if Sweden won and France won by enough goals, France and Sweden would go through. It was clearly in Sweden's best interest not to try to beat Denmark. The bad conditions went further than this: it was already known that the winner of the pool would play a tougher quarterfinal match than the second place team, so Denmark had no interest in beating Sweden either. Is it any wonder that the match ended in a scoreless draw?

If we deplore the notion of dumping being proper behavior, then events should be run that preclude dumping being in the entrant's best interest. For example, if the WC were run as a long Swiss or RR, with no subsequent KO, it could never be useful to dump. Or if it were run as a KO from the beginning – it is never in a team's interest to dump in a KO. Basically, it is only in staged events where more than one team from a pool continues to a next phase of the event that dumping can improve a team's winning prospects.

Finally let me point out that when a person or group of people disagree with a law that they are powerless to change themselves they can disobey it. That is called "civil disobedience." We have a high regard for many of the civilly disobedient, from Thoreau to Gandhi to Martin Luther King to Nelson Mandela.

Henry Bethe, Ithaca, NY