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Editorial

The Bridge World and Michael Rosenberg, in a recent article on the 40th Bermuda Bowl (in Veldhoven last fall), bring up the possibility of yet more dumping scenarios in round robins. First, though, a little background. In all world championships which qualify eight teams for knockout play nowadays, the team finishing first chooses its opponent from among the fifth-through-eighth group; then the second-place team chooses among the remaining three teams and third chooses between the other two. In effect, this means that the fourth-placed team will always play the perceived-best team in this 5-8 group. This seems to punish, rather than reward, a moderately-high round robin finish.

Dumping could occur in at least two scenarios in the 'battle' for fourth place:

(a.) A team comfortably in fourth place with a match to go would much rather play any team in the top three rather than the team in the 5-8 group it 'knows' will not be picked by any of the top three; additionally, if it loses fourth place to a perceived-weaker team, it might actually get to play that team in the quarterfinals if it itself is not picked by any of the top three.

(b.) A team comfortably in first place might look at the standings with a round to go and would like to play the currently fourth-placed team – they are, however, playing their last match against a very strong fifth-place team, a team they consider to be their main rivals in the event. It is not too difficult to imagine the first-place team losing to the fifth-place team, elevating them to fourth place to enable the quarterfinal match the first-place team desires. "We'll worry about carryover later," they think.

We are certain that more Machiavellian minds than ours can come up with even more possibilities. In any case, there were no issues in this Bermuda Bowl. Somewhat ameliorating the possibility of dumping is the fact of carry-forward – the WBF uses the head-to-head match to determine carryover – one-half or one-third of the match margin (to a maximum, depending on the length of the match to be played). Against that is the length of the knockout matches, reducing the effect of carryover.

There are solutions to this issue (did you guess?) and the WBF would do well to look at the situation before it becomes a problem.

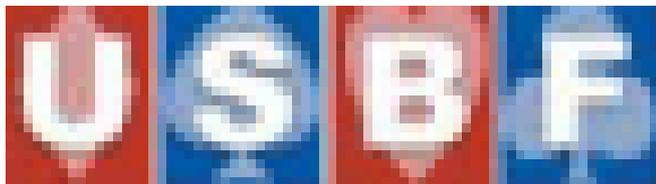
(i.) The NEC tournament in Yokohama each February has adopted the simplest solution of all: the first-, second- and third-ranked teams may choose among the fourth-through-eighth place finishers rather than the WBF method of choosing among fifth through eighth. Thus, they have eliminated the possibility that finishing eighth is markedly-better than finishing fourth. Essentially, fourth through eighth are equivalent (except that, in the NEC version of carry-forward, the JCBL awards ½ IMP to the higher-finishing round robin team – no draws in regulation time!).

(ii.) Make finishing fourth a prize by allowing the team finishing fourth to reject whether it allows the first through third teams to pick it – it can choose (a.) to be lumped in with either the first-through-third group, taking its chances on an opponent from five through eight, or (b.) to be grouped with the fifth-through-eighth teams, allowing itself to be picked by one, two or three.

(iii.) Allow the fourth place team to choose its semifinal bracket grouping. As it stands now, the team finishing first in the round robin, after the quarterfinal matches are set, chooses which of those matches it has its semifinal bracket. Giving this right to the fourth-placed team would make trying for fourth worthwhile, but not quite as worthwhile as picking a quarterfinal opponent.

Whatever is done, we must make it more worthwhile to finish fourth than eighth. Currently, it is not.

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THE USBF OPEN TRIALS

Suzi Subeck, Chicago

The 2012 Open Trials were held late April-early May in suburban Schaumburg, northwest of Chicago. The top three seeds were NICKELL (Frank Nickell-Ralph Katz, Bob Hamman-Zia Mahmood, Jeff Meckstroth-Eric Rodwell), winners of the 2009 Bermuda Bowl, DIAMOND (John Diamond-Brian Platnick, Brad Moss-Fred Gitelman, Geoff Hampson-Eric Greco), winners of the 2010 Rosenblum, and FLEISHER (Marty Fleisher-Michael Kamil, Steve Weinstein-Bobby Levin, Lew Stansby-Chip Martel), containing the winners of the 2010 World Open Pairs. Each of those teams had won recent Trials. Additionally, the next seven seeds all had world champions in their ranks. So upsets would be no surprise.

Round Robin

This deal was played in the Round Robin (the top three seeds had byes into the Knockout phase) and Chris Willenken showed perfect technique. Willenken, dealer at favourable vulnerability, opened one diamond holding:

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

He considered this hand good enough to reverse, planning to bid hearts twice. LHO passed and Willenken's partner, Michael Rosenberg, made the surprising (but pleasing) response of one heart. RHO preempted to two spades and Willenken cuebid three spades. LHO bid four spades and Rosenberg bid five diamonds. Willenken passed, thus buying the contract at five diamonds.

The seven of spades was led (third/fifth leads) and Willenken saw:

♠ 8
 ♥ A J 7 4
 ♦ 9 6 5 2
 ♣ J 8 4 3

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

East won the spade ace and played the king of clubs and a low club. How should declarer play? The bidding has been:

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

This was all about the heart suit. If hearts were 2-2, declarer could draw trumps and lay down the top hearts to make 11 tricks. But, might hearts be 3-1? Why not try to get a count on the hand?

The first move was to trump the second club carefully with the ten of diamonds in order to preserve the eight and the four to cross to dummy. Next came the trumps. On the ace, East played the jack. Willenken then crossed with the diamond eight to the nine (RHO showing out) and ruffed a third round of clubs (all following). The four of diamonds was led to the five to ruff a fourth round of clubs. RHO showed out.

Since the lead had been a third/fifth seven, declarer knew spades were 7-4. (West would have led his lowest one from a five-card suit.) Therefore, RHO had seven spades, one diamond, and three clubs, thus two hearts. Willenken laid down the top hearts and this was the full layout:

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

At many tables, declarer (in hearts, so unable to get a complete count) played the preempter for short hearts and lost a heart trick by playing low to the king and finessing the jack. Willenken's team won 7 IMPs for plus 400 when East/West played in five spades down one, plus 100.

Round of 16

Board 64. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Woolsey	Garner	Stewart	Weinstein
Lee	Pollack	Demirev	Feldman
INT	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Same auction, same opening lead, but very different results. Both Norths led a high club and received an encouraging nine from South.

In the Open Room, Lee won the ace of clubs at trick one, not giving the opening leader a chance to go wrong. He led a spade to the jack and queen and Feldman returned the deuce of clubs. Pollack won and led a third club for partner to ruff. South later scored his ace of trump and the contract failed by a trick.

In the Closed Room, Woolsey ducked, the club king risking two club losers, but Garner, seeing his partner's encouraging nine, continued with a low club. Woolsey won the jack, took the spade finesse, losing to the queen, and conceded two spades and a club to make the game. That was 12 IMPs to Robinson.

"Good play," Garner admitted.

Board 66. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

♠ —
♥ J 9
♦ A Q 8 6 5 2
♣ K Q 8 5 3

West	North	East	South
Woolsey	Garner	Stewart	Weinstein
—	—	INT ¹	2NT ²
3♠	5♣	Pass	Pass

- Pass
- 1. 10-12
- 2. Minors

West	North	East	South
Lee	Pollack	Demirev	Feldman
—	—	1♣ ¹	1♦
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

- 1. 2+ clubs

The mini-notrump opener in the Closed Room gave Howard Weinstein a chance to show his hand in one bid. Steve Garner jumped to the vulnerable game. Fred Stewart led the ace of spades; Garner ruffed in dummy. He played the ace of diamonds, ruffed a diamond in his hand and ran the ten of spades to the king, pitching

a heart from dummy. Woolsey cashed his heart ace and led the heart queen. Garner ruffed in dummy, ruffed another diamond in hand, played the queen of spades, pitching a diamond from dummy and led the jack of spades which Stewart ruffed and Garner overruffed, Garner claiming 11 tricks with another diamond ruff to establish the suit.

In the Open Room, Demirev opened one club, making it rather more difficult for North/South to get to the club game, though Pollack, in particular, might have done more. But it was 10 IMPs to Lee.

Board 79. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Compton	J Lall	Bramley	Bathurst
—	—	—	1♣ ¹
1♦ ²	Double	1♥ ³	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

- 1. Strong
- 2. Diamonds and a higher suit
- 3. Pass or correct

West	North	East	South
Milner	Rosenberg	H Lall	Willenken
—	—	—	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♦	Pass	Pass

It isn't often that you hold 25 HCP and don't get past the one level, but that's exactly what happened in the Open Room. The defence was spot-on. Bathurst/Lall collected all their tricks when Bathurst led his singleton ace of hearts followed by an underlead of his ace of spades to Lall's queen. Lall naturally led another heart, and when Bramley tried the singleton diamond out of his hand, Bathurst ducked. Lall won and led a third round of hearts. Declarer could score only three heart tricks for down four and minus 800.

In the Closed room, East/West saw no reason to bid on their combined eight HCP. Their opponents found five diamonds... the limit of the hand (in diamonds, anyway) on the poor diamond break - 5 IMPs to Milner.

Board 84. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Feldman</i>	<i>Demirev</i>	<i>Pollack</i>	<i>Lee</i>
2♣ ¹	2♦	3♣	Double ²
5♣	Pass	Pass	5♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Precision
2. Takeout

West	North	East	South
<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Robinson</i>	<i>Garner</i>	<i>Boyd</i>
1♣	1♦	Pass	2♣
2NT ¹	3♣	Double	Pass
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass

1. Stronger than 3♣

In the Open Room, Weinstein led the king of clubs. Garner overtook with his ace and returned the jack of hearts. Boyd rose with the ace and played a spade to the king and a spade ducked around to the doubleton ace. He lost one club, one heart and one spade to score plus 620.

In the Closed Room, Lee, in fourth seat, could see definite possibilities for 11 tricks. He therefore bid the diamond game. Pollack led the ace of clubs, followed by a heart, ducked to his partner's king. Feldman cashed his spade ace and the contract failed by a trick - 12 IMPs to Robinson

Board 98. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Willenken</i>	<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
INT	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Bathurst</i>	<i>Bramley</i>	<i>J Lall</i>	<i>Compton</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♥	Double	2♣ ¹	2♠
3♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Diamonds

The only way to defeat four hearts was to underlead the ace of clubs twice, once on opening lead, then again when in with the ace of hearts to get a spade through declarer's hand. Then declarer would have needed to guess the diamonds to collect ten tricks.

At the table, Bramley led a spade, ducked to the queen. Bathurst knocked out the trump ace and Bramley exited with the king of spades. Bathurst won this in dummy, drew trumps and played a diamond to the king and a diamond to the ace. When Compton showed out, Bathurst played a third diamond and Bramley was helpless.

In the other room, Wolpert led a low club. Bingo! When he won the ace of hearts, he was able to collect four club tricks and defeat the contract one trick; 10 IMPs to Milner.

Quarterfinals

Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Spector</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Cohler</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	INT
Pass	Pass	Pass	
West	North	East	South
<i>Nickell</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Katz</i>	<i>Cheek</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

It appears that Cheek made a good decision not to overcall one notrump when Katz opened one spade, since one notrump can be defeated by two tricks. Cheek led a fifth-best club, giving Katz the finesse at

trick one. In the fullness of time, Katz scored seven tricks for plus 80.

At the other table, Meckstroth chose to overcall. Spector led the jack of spades to Meckstroth's king. Meckstroth played a club to the king and ace. Cohler continued spades, Spector pitching a heart, Meckstroth winning with his ace. Meckstroth continued his attack on clubs with a low club toward the eight. Spector attempted to win the trick with the nine of clubs (second hand low?). Cohler, however, won the queen and cashed three rounds of spades, Spector pitching two hearts and a diamond, Meckstroth pitching one club, one diamond and one heart. Look at the end position:

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

Cohler cashed the heart ace and had to put Meckstroth in dummy or give him the diamond finesse. Cohler chose a low diamond. Meckstroth finessed the queen of diamonds, cashed the ace, and exited with a diamond to Spector's jack for down one. Spector was now endplayed in clubs because of his earlier waste of the nine; 1 IMP to Nickell.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Kranyak	Lev	Wolpert	Pszczola
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT ¹	Pass
3♥ ²	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	6♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Enquiry
2. Minimum, 4 hearts

West	North	East	South
Mahaffey	Milner	Seamon	H. Lall
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

In the Closed Room, Mahaffey did not open the balanced 11-point West hand. As a result, Seamon did not visualize slam possibilities and simply raised one heart to four. North had an easy lead of his singleton diamond...making five.

In the Open Room, Kranyak opened the flat 11-count. Wolpert drove the hand to slam. However, on that auction, the diamond lead from four small was unlikely. On the actual seven of clubs lead, Wolpert took two heart finesses and a spade finesse for his contract.

The alternative line of ruffing two clubs in dummy will also succeed: win the club, finesse a heart, win the second club and trump a club, finesse a heart and trump a second club. Since Lev and Pszczola play fourth-best leads, declarer can determine that North does not hold a doubleton club. This would suggest that ruffing two clubs is a better line than relying on a spade finesse. In any case, it was 11 IMPs to Milner.

Board 84. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Cohler	Meckstroth	Spector
Pass	1♦	1♠	3♦
Pass	3NT	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

West	North	East	South
Wooldridge	Zia	Hurd	Hamman
Pass	1NT	3♠	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

I received emails from Allan Graves and Ron Gerard correcting the analysis on this deal. At the table, Spector led the ace of diamonds and switched to a trump after Meckstroth pitched a club on it. My analysis claimed that repeated diamond leads would have defeated four hearts. This was not the case.

As Graves and Gerard pointed out, declarer ruffs the second diamond and plays the ace and ruffs a spade, then leads a low heart. If North ducks, declarer wins

the queen and ruffs another spade, emerging with an overtrick. If North wins the king and plays a diamond, declarer ruffs, ruffs a spade with the ace of hearts, leads a heart to the queen and runs spades, losing to the high trump and making four.

Board 92. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ 7 3 2
♥ J 6 4 3
♦ Q J 7
♣ J 7 4

♠ J 10 9 8 6
♥ 10 9 5
♦ 8 3 2
♣ A 5

♠ A K 4
♥ A K Q 8
♦ 6 5 4
♣ K 9 6

♠ Q 5
♥ 7 2
♦ A K 10 9
♣ Q 10 8 3 2

West	North	East	South
Passell	J Lall	Jacobus	Bathurst
Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

West	North	East	South
Kranyak	Seamon	Wolpert	Mahaffey
Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

In the Closed Room, Jacobus decided that his 3=4=3=3 distribution would be better served in a nine-trick rather than a ten-trick game. Thus he passed three notrump. Bathurst led a fourth-best club. Jacobus won in hand with the king. With his only entry to dummy being the club ace, he could not afford the spade finesse. Even if it won, he needed the queen to be doubleton. Accordingly, Jacobus played the ace and king and was well-rewarded when the offside queen fell in two rounds. He collected five spades, three hearts, and two clubs.

In the Open Room, Wolpert chose to play in the eight-card major-suit fit. Mahaffey led three rounds of diamonds. With no reason not to take the percentage finesse in the trump suit, Wolpert won the heart switch in hand, cashed one high spade, led a club to dummy and ran the jack of spades. When this lost to South's queen, he was one trick short: 11 IMPs to Mahaffey.

Board 113. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

In the Closed Room (see top of next column), Meckwell bid to five hearts and made five. Grue led the queen of spades. Rodwell trumped in dummy and lost a finesse to the jack of hearts. A second spade was played and trumped in dummy. Rodwell led a heart to the queen and cashed the ace of hearts, drawing the opponents' remaining trump. Four rounds of clubs

were played, allowing him to discard his last spade. He conceded a diamond trick to make five.

♠ J 4 2
♥ A Q 4 3
♦ J 7 3
♣ K 9 6

♠ A 10 8 6 5
♥ K 7 2
♦ K 8 2
♣ 8 7

♠ K Q 9 7 3
♥ J 6
♦ 9 5
♣ 10 5 4 3

♠ —
♥ 10 9 8 5
♦ A Q 10 6 4
♣ A Q J 2

West	North	East	South
Zia	Hurd	Hamman	Wooldridge
—	1♣	1♠	3♦
4♠	Pass	Pass	4NT
Double	5♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West	North	East	South
Cheek	Rodwell	Grue	Meckstroth
—	1♦ ¹	1♠	Double
4♠	Pass	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			
	1. Precision		

In the Open Room, Wooldridge played the 5-3 diamond fit rather than the 4-4 heart fit. Declarer should realize that he will possibly need to trump three times in his hand. If so, he will need the jack of diamonds in dummy to draw the last trump. In addition, the king of clubs will be needed as a late entry to the jack of diamonds.

Therefore, after the spade lead is ruffed, declarer should lead a heart to the queen and lead a small diamond off dummy, preserving the jack. When the diamond finesse loses, he will be able to trump the spade return, lead a heart to the ace, and trump dummy's last spade. Then he cashes the ace of diamonds, leads a club to the dummy, cashes the jack of diamonds, drawing the last trump...eventually conceding a heart and making five diamonds.

At the table, Wooldridge made a subtle error. He crossed to dummy in clubs and led the jack of diamonds. Zia won and simply needed to continue spades to force declarer's high trumps, but he did not visualize this position and instead, switched to a club. Five diamonds made and the swing was only 2 IMPs to Nickell rather than the 11 that might have been.

Final

To no one's surprise, NICKELL (Frank Nickell-Ralph Katz; Zia Mahmood-Bob Hamman; Jeff Meckstroth-Eric Rodwell), the no. 1 seed in the event, would face

DIAMOND (John Diamond-Brian Platnick, Brad Moss-Fred Gitelman; Eric Greco-Geoff Hampson), the number two seed, in the 120-board final. Upsets did indeed occur, but earlier in the event, and at this late stage only the heavy hitters remained alive.

Board 40. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

♠ K 9 8 5
♥ J 9 5
♦ Q 10 3
♣ J 7 4

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

♠ J 10
♥ A 10
♦ J 9 8 7 5
♣ 8 6 5 3

West	North	East	South
Katz	Hampson	Nickell	Greco
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♣ ¹	Pass	2♦ ²	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Drury
2. A real opening bid with no convenient natural bid

West	North	East	South
Diamond	Rodwell	Platnick	Meckstroth
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

It's ironic that when West opened the bidding, his side got only to game, yet, when West passed, his side got to slam. Because of the poor trumps, slam requires a doubleton ace of trumps and declarer needs to guess it, as well as something favourable in spades.

Greco led the jack of spades and Nickell won in dummy with the ace. He ruffed a spade to hand, led a heart to the queen, and ducked a heart around to South's ace. Even with the ace of hearts coming down, the slam was not successful with spades 4-2. The result: 11 IMPs to Diamond.

Board 45. Dealer North. Both Vul.

Nickell found a good lead (see top of next column) against Hampson...a trump. To counter this lead, Hampson (i.) could guess which ace the defender with three trumps had and knock that ace out first or, (ii.) play clubs for one loser or, (iii.) if he misguesses clubs, arrange to ruff the third club high in the dummy and endplay West to lead a diamond for him.

♠ A K J 6 3
♥ K
♦ Q 10
♣ Q 10 7 6 5

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

♠ Q 4 2
♥ 10 9 8 7 4
♦ A 4 2
♣ K 8

West	North	East	South
Diamond Katz	Rodwell Hampson	Platnick Nickell	Meckstroth Greco
—	1♠	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

To employ any of these successful lines, he needed to win the trump lead in hand and play the king of hearts at trick two. This establishes transportation between the hands, cuts off the hand with the third trump and lays the groundwork for a potential endplay on West.

In practice, Hampson found a fourth (albeit unsuccessful) line – he won the trump lead in hand and led a club to the king and ace. Katz led a second trump, won in dummy with the queen. Hampson tried a club to the queen, hoping to find a favorable 3-3 split in clubs or fell the jack. After the club queen, he led a club, intending to ruff it in dummy, but Nickell ruffed in front of dummy with the trump seven. Hampson lost one trick in each suit for down one.

At the other table, the defence was not so precise. Platnick led a club and declarer ducked; Diamond won the ace. He shifted to a heart, won by Platnick's ace. Platnick tried another heart but Rodwell ruffed in hand, pulled three rounds of trumps ending in the dummy and played on hearts, surrendering one to the jack, to score ten tricks. The result: 12 IMPs to Nickell.

Board 108. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ A Q 8 6 5
♥ 6 5 3 2
♦ A 9 6 2
♣ —

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

♠ 10 4 2
♥ Q J 8 7
♦ K J 8
♣ K Q 4

Continued on page 11...



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

617. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

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

West led a low heart. East won the trick with the king and, not seeing anything better, played the ace of hearts. Declarer ruffed then cashed ace and king of trumps, the order that prevents losing two tricks to a 4-0 trump division. Next he led a low diamond from the table. East could take his king of diamonds and West a trump trick, but that was all.

West was not amused by this feeble effort. "You should have shifted to a club at trick two," he said. "You can see one heart and one diamond trick for our side. The only way to score two more tricks is to hope that I have a trump trick and something that allows us to develop a trick in clubs. If you shift to a low club at trick two, declarer will probably insert the eight of clubs, hoping that this will force an honour from me but I will cover this with the nine. Dummy wins the queen of clubs and plays the ace and king of trumps, finding that he has a loser in the suit.

"When the diamond finesse fails, you play a second club and my king will force dummy's ace loose. When declarer eventually plays on diamonds, hoping to discard his club loser, I ruff the third round and play a club to your jack to defeat the contract."

618. West led the ten of hearts against three notrump and the original declarer was happy to take what he saw as a free finesse in hearts, playing the jack from dummy. When East covered with the queen, the

contract could no longer be made, no matter what declarer did next.

Dealer South. E-W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	INT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Let's see how the play went: declarer ducked the queen of hearts, won the next heart and knocked out the ace of clubs. After West won that, he knocked out declarer's remaining heart stopper. All would have been well if East had held the ace of diamonds. However, as West had started with both minor-suit aces, declarer lost three hearts and two aces for one down.

"You should have played low from dummy at trick one and won the king of hearts in hand," dummy opined. "As before, you attack clubs. If East holds the ace of clubs, he will not be able to continue hearts profitably, since he would be leading into dummy's king-jack tenace. As the cards lie, West will win with the ace of clubs and lead another heart. Now you finesse the jack of hearts and this loses to the queen. This does not matter now because East began with only two hearts and cannot continue the suit. The best he can do is to shift to a spade. You win and attack diamonds, to ensure two tricks in the suit. As you still have a heart stopper at that point, the contract cannot be defeated.

"The only time this plan fails is when West has chosen to lead a doubleton heart and East began with five hearts to the queen and the ace of diamonds."

619. Dealer South. N-S Vul.

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

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

1. Majors

West led the queen of spades and declarer could count seven winners. He noted that the only chance of making the contract was to play the heart suit for four tricks. This could be done only if West began with four hearts rather than five. Even then, East would have to hold either the eight or nine of hearts.

Accordingly, declarer won the first trick with the ace of spades and led the ten of hearts from hand, intending to run it if West had followed with low card; here that would have pinned East's eight and that would have allowed a long heart trick to be established quite easily.

At the table, West covered the ten with the queen and declarer took this with dummy's ace. After East's eight fell, declarer continued with a low heart to his seven. This gave West no winning option; if West won with the nine, declarer could have picked up the suit by finessing dummy's six on the next round of the suit.

While it is easy to have sympathy for the final result, West's overcall gave the game away. Without the information that West held at least four hearts, North-South would probably have played in four hearts, which must lose a club, two diamonds and at least one trump!

620. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

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

South's rebid of three notrump promised a balanced hand of around 25 to 27 high-card points.

Naturally, West led the five of spades to East's king and declarer paused to think. It was a pity that the heart suit was blocked, for otherwise he would have nine top tricks. As there was no way to force an entry to dummy, declarer sought the help of an opponent.

He ducked the king of spades and took the spade continuation with the ace. Next he cashed his club and heart winners. Now came the card West was dreading, the jack of spades. If West allowed the jack of spades to win, that would have been declarer's ninth trick. At the table he took the queen of spades and cashed two long spade tricks. Declarer threw low diamonds from both his hand and dummy. West now had the alternative of leading a heart to dummy's ace or a diamond into declarer's ace-queen. Either way, declarer had nine tricks.



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Léon Tintner 1910 – 2012

Léon Tintner was born in Vienna in 1910. He started to play bridge in the thirties, probably in the “Kaffeehaus”. There were few tournaments in those days, but in 1937 he was second in an Austrian Championship.

In 1938, Tintner left Austria when it was occupied by Hitler. He went to France, but this would not improve his situation as the Nazis soon occupied France as well. Tintner escaped to Switzerland and after the war returned to France to settle in Paris. He was a publisher, but played a lot of bridge. At 65, he went to Cannes where he lived until his death. His career spanned eight decades - at the age of 100 he still played regularly in the club in Cannes.

I first met Léon in 1966 in Warsaw (at the European Championship). He was well known at all the big events and played occasionally in Vienna and Kitzbühel. On one of these visits to Vienna he became an Honorary Member of the Austrian Bridge Federation. In my commendation on that occasion, I said that he had been an icon for my generation, and for us newcomers, he was like a father.

Léon was twice a European Champion and played successfully in the Bermuda Bowl and Olympiad. He was also a successful senior at a time when most of his opponents were 20 years younger.

Léon was a fast and aggressive player. He had excellent table feel and he was good at judging his partner's abilities. He preferred “Common Sense Bridge” but had a very good knowledge of systems and conventions. Here is an example of his style in a pairs tournament, playing with Rixi Markus:

Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Tintner		Markus	
—	—	Pass	1♣
1♠	2♦	2♥	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	2NT
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass



Léon Tintner at 100

This deal is from “The Rixi Markus Bridge Book”. West led the heart four and Rixi ducked. Declarer played a diamond to the queen and a diamond back to the jack. Rixi took this trick and shifted to the four of spades; declarer ducked. Léon won with his queen and played his remaining heart; declarer played the ace and tried the diamond king. When he discovered the bad break, he played a club to the king. Léon took it and played the spade king. Declarer was doomed - he could have escaped for one down (if he ducks and endplays Leon with a small club) but he could not read the position and went down two: plus 500 and a clear top.

The next deal was described in 1997 by Phillip Alder and shows what an artist Léon was.

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	3♣
3♥	5♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Léon, South, received the helpful lead of the spade nine. He finessed and played the spade ace, discarding both diamonds from hand. Then he ruffed a diamond, played a low club to the ten(!) and ruffed another diamond. A club to the ace was followed by a third diamond ruff and now Léon continued with the ten of hearts: West was endplayed and Léon made 11 tricks. (Fritz Babsch, Vienna)

West	North	East	South
<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Greco</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	2♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Zia</i>	<i>Moss</i>	<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Gitelman</i>
Pass	1♠	1NT	Double
Redouble ¹	Pass	2♣	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Clubs

Yes, Hampson really did open the West hand one spade. He was down in the match (albeit not by an insurmountable amount) with only twelve boards to play. This situation is very difficult for the opponents – North must reopen on almost any hand and South can never be certain of North’s actual strength – thus Meckstroth’s seemingly-(and uncharacteristically-) conservative two hearts.

When two hearts made four after indifferent defence, Meckstroth made the comment, “Well, Geoffrey is certainly not going down without a fight!”

Hampson replied, “How many more times do I get to be dealer at favourable?”

At the time, Meckstroth thought he had lost 10 IMPs, however...in the other room, Gitelman and Moss declined both their eight-card major-suit fits to play in three notrump. Zia led the eight of clubs to the ten and king, dummy pitching a heart. Gitelman played a spade to the ace and a diamond to the jack and queen. Zia continued clubs to declarer’s queen, Hamman once again ducking. Gitelman cashed his three diamond winners and led the five of hearts from dummy. Hamman won the king and the defence claimed the balance. Down three for minus 300 and 10 IMPs to Nickell, instead of 10 to Diamond. This one deal could have swung the match the other way.

It was a heartbreaker for DIAMOND. In a match DIAMOND had led by 54 at one point, then had come back from 30 down at another, NICKELL was the winner, 267-251. Hamman-Zia, reported by teammates as playing the best they have ever played together, will sing their swan song as partners and as Nickell mainstays in Lille, after which Zia will play with Chip Martel and Hamman with Justin Lall, both on different teams. Nickell will engage Levin-Weinstein beginning with the Philadelphia Spingold.

POSTSCRIPT

John Carruthers, Kingsville, ON

On Board 89 of the final of the USBF Open Team Trials for Lille, Jeff Meckstroth wanted a ruff to defeat four spades...

Board 89. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Diamond</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Platnick</i>
—	1♦ ¹	1♥	1♠
3♦ ²	3♠	4♥	4♣
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Precision

2. Constructive four-card heart raise

West	North	East	South
<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Katz</i>	<i>Greco</i>	<i>Nickell</i>
—	1♣	1♥	1♠
3♥	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Hampson saw no future in hearts and led a diamond against Nickell, who subsequently lost the three aces for plus 420.

Rodwell, however, led their own suit – the heart five, giving Meckstroth the chance to obtain his ruff. He won the heart ace and continued the suit. Platnick ruffed and played on diamonds – Meckstroth ducked the first, won the second, and played a third heart.

Declarer could draw trumps, but when they proved to be 3-1, he had no way to unblock the high diamond in the dummy and return to hand to run the suit. Instead, he just gave Meckstroth his diamond ruff after two rounds of trumps. Down one and 11 IMPs to Nickell.

“Nice defence,” said Rodwell laconically.

MEN AT WORK
Erdal Sidar, Istanbul



Here are two deals played and defended by the Turkish national team pair, Nafiz Zorlu and Mustafa Cem Tokay, both of whom will compete in Dublin. The first deal is from our national team trials for Dublin.

Dealer South. N/S Vul.

♠ J 10 6 2
♥ Q 10 6
♦ A J 9 8
♣ 10 5

♠ Q 5
♥ K
♦ K Q 10 4 3 2
♣ K 8 7 2

♠ 8 7 4 3
♥ A 5 4 2
♦ —
♣ A J 6 4 3

♠ A K 9
♥ J 9 8 7 3
♦ 7 6 5
♣ Q 9

West	North	East	South
—	<i>Tokay</i>	—	<i>Zorlu</i>
—	—	—	1♥
2♦	2♥	Double	Pass
3♣	Pass	5♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

North, Tokay, led a low heart; declarer took his king, ruffed a diamond, and discarded a spade on the ace of hearts. When he played a spade from dummy, South, Zorlu, took his ace and returned a third heart. Declarer ruffed and played the diamond queen, throwing a heart from dummy when not covered.

Declarer then ruffed the third round of diamonds in the dummy and returned to hand with the king of clubs.

The position declarer had reached is this...

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

In his hand, declarer ruffed one more diamond in the dummy, this time with the jack of clubs. Nafiz Zorlu declined to overruff with the queen! Declarer then believed that North had both the remaining trumps, the queen and the ten. So he returned to hand with a spade ruff and played a good diamond. When North discarded, so did declarer. However, Zorlu was able to ruff with his queen of clubs and play a heart.

If declarer ruffed in hand, North would have overruffed and forced the ace of clubs from dummy. Declarer would then have lost dummy's last card, a spade. Otherwise, if declarer did not ruff from hand, North's ten of clubs would have been promoted to a trick. In practice, declarer ruffed the heart in hand, was

overruffed by the ten and ace, and he lost a spade at the end.

The second deal is from the Ankara Regional Open Pairs tournament.

Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ K 10 7 3
♥ 6 5 4
♦ Q 5 2
♣ A 7 2

♠ J 8 4
♥ Q 10 7 2
♦ J 8 7
♣ 10 8 6

♠ A Q 5 2
♥ J 8
♦ 10 4 3
♣ K Q 9 4

♠ 9 6
♥ A K 9 3
♦ A K 9 6
♣ J 5 3

West	North	East	South
—	<i>Zorlu</i>	—	<i>Tokay</i>
—	—	1♦	INT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West led the two of hearts, four, jack, ace. Declarer played the nine of spades to the jack, king and ace. When East returned a heart declarer won with his king and played another spade: six, eight, ten, queen. Declarer took the diamond return in hand, cashed the other diamond honour and played a third diamond to the queen. He cashed the seven of spades and played a low club from dummy...

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

The defence was helpless – East could win the club and could take the spade five, but then had to lead a club into declarer's split tenace.



This year, 24 teams competed and played a qualification stage in three groups. Some of the top teams failed

to reach the final, with ugly consequences: the top-seeded team, also last year's winner (Feichtinger-Obermair, Franz & Sylvia Terraneo), finished fourth in its group and refused to play in the consolation. This is not allowed in Austrian regulations, so the team was disqualified and reported to the Ethics Commission.

The final was a fight between FUCIK (Fucik/Purkarthofer, A.Gloyer/G.Krftner, Lindermann/C.Terraneo) and LUPOVELOCE (Franzel/Lauss, Tilman Seidel/Wolf Seidel). FUCIK won the match and the championship. The first two pairs of the FUCIK team will represent Austria in the European Team Championships, together with Andreas Babsch/Wolfgang Bieder. The pair Tilman and Wolf Seidel (from Innsbruck) is interesting: father Wolf played for Austria in the European Team Championships of 1965 and 1977, and his son Tilman won the European Youth Championship (pairs) in 1991.

This hand might be good material for Grand Slam Bidding.

West (D)	East
♠ Q 5 3	♠ A K J 10 8 2
♥ A J 8	♥ K 3
♦ A J 8 2	♦ 3
♣ K 3 2	♣ A Q 6 5

To make seven spades a good proposition, it is necessary for West to have the club king, besides his two aces and the queen of trumps. You can find it out if five notrump asks for specific kings. The deal was played at six tables but only four pairs reached seven spades.

West	East
1NT	2♥
2♠	3♣
3♠	4NT
5♠	5NT
6♣	7♠
Pass	

The next two boards are from the last round of the final.

Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

After three passes it seems easy to reach six diamonds:

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

1. Asking for diamond queen
2. No diamond queen

I admit that I would perhaps bid six clubs over three hearts. But imagine what happens if West opens one diamond - not out of the world at this vulnerability.

Gloyer/Krftner had a catastrophe that might have cost the title: they bid seven diamonds and declarer had to go down. But their guardian angel was awake: at the other table, where South played in four spades! Apparently North passed a cue bid. The contract went four down and FUCIK gained 4 IMPs.

This was another deal that could have been a nightmare. It is not unlikely that West would open with a Weak Two in hearts or a Multi Two Diamonds. To reach seven diamonds or seven notrump would be difficult if West did open. If West passes it seems easy - just ask for aces.

Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦ ¹
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
Pass	7NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Neutral

In Blue Club, you can bid seven notrump on the second round of the bidding: North opens a strong club and South shows four controls, which must be two aces!

Four pairs did indeed bid seven notrump, one pair, seven diamonds and one, six notrump.



BEER BRIDGE

Roland Wald, London

Dealer West. Both Vul.

♠ Q J 10 8
♥ 8 7 4 2
♦ A K 7 5 4
♣ —

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

♠ A K 6 3 2
♥ A 9
♦ 10 8
♣ Q J 7 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Kvick</i>	<i>Andersson</i>	<i>Alenfalk</i>	<i>Johansson</i>
Pass	Pass	2♣ ¹	2♠
Pass	4♣ ²	Pass	4♥ ³
Pass	6♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. 5+ clubs, 8-18 HCP
2. Splinter
3. Control showing

On the diagrammed deal, declarer tried to score seven trump tricks by ruffing two losers in the short hand. His plan was to set up the diamonds for four tricks and the ace of hearts would make 12. That is almost always the right line when you want extra trump tricks. However, if he had tried to get those seven tricks in a more unusual fashion, however, he would have succeeded and made his slam. This deal appeared on BBO Vugraph in the match between Team Suz and Team Yoda at the Swedish Team Championships.

Jan Olav Andersson and Mikael Johansson bid too much and arrived in a terrible slam. Hans Kvick led a low spade, and after seeing dummy, it was not difficult for declarer to realise that he needed diamonds three-three for a start. Then if spades were two-two, he would land his slam by scoring seven trump tricks (ruff two clubs in the short hand), four diamonds and the ace of hearts.

Diamonds split nicely, but when spades turned out to be three-one, Johansson had to go one down and lost 12 IMPs when his teammates were doubled in three clubs at the other table and went two down for minus 500.

This was a normal line, but it could have been improved upon considerably. A three-one break (50%) is more common than a two-two (40%), and the contract can actually also make if spades are three-one, provided that West follows to three rounds of hearts. You 'just' have to score your seven trump tricks in a different way, four tricks in the dummy and three in hand. That play is known as a dummy reversal. It is a technique whereby declarer uses trumps to ruff in the hand with longer trumps, and retains the trumps in the short hand to draw the opponents' trumps.

The play could have gone: spade lead to the ten, heart to the ace and another heart to East's king. He has no more trumps and switches to a club, ruffed in the dummy over the queen and ace from South and West. Ruff a heart low (West must not be able to overruff, of course), enter dummy with a diamond and ruff another heart, this time with the ace or king! One more diamond is played to dummy, and you have now reached the following five-card ending:

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

Set up the diamonds by ruffing the four with the king of spades and draw West's remaining trumps. For that to happen it was important that you ruffed a heart and a diamond with top trumps in order to retain the six for transportation to dummy. After this, you take tricks 12 and 13 with the five and seven of diamonds in that order and have only lost a heart trick on the way.

Maybe one should get it right at a high level. If spades are two-two and diamonds three-three, it costs nothing, and if spades are three-one, you are still OK even if they can lead a second trump. Win in the short hand, ruff a heart, diamond to the king, heart ruff, another diamond to the ace, ruff a diamond, ruff a club, draw the last trump and claim.

Why the five before the seven of diamonds you may wonder? Well, the seven of diamonds is known as the 'beer card', and if you can take the last trick with that card, your partner must buy you a beer. That is worth fighting for, is it not?

NEWS & VIEWS



Open South American Championships

Winners at the IV Sudamericano in Montevideo, Uruguay in May were:

Open Pairs: Sylvia Figueira de Mello-Paula David

Women's Pairs: Adriana Deik-Paula Riedel

Mixed Pairs: Graça Poncioni-Orlando Correa

Open Teams: J. M. Robles-Marcelo Caracci-Benjamin

Robles-Joaquín Pacareu-Roberto Garcia

Women's Teams: Adriana Deik-Odette Yanine-Mónica

Yussem-Paula Riedel-Loreto Cuevas-Isabel Palma

Junior Teams: U-26 – Argentina; U-21 – Argentina

Bulletins (in Spanish) can be found at:

www.confbridge.org

Ecats Convention Card Info

Convention cards are now at:

<http://info.ecatsbridge.com>

as are masses of old bulletins and programmes – all searchable. Click the search button underneath the systems heading and you can find any player that Ecats has a system for (it actually searches inside the file, not just the file name), or you can browse the whole lot by clicking browse.

Antipasti

Two newsworthy items recently surfaced in Italy. Firstly, Maria Teresa Lavazza has resigned from her position as Italian Team Manager as of the conclusion of this European Open Teams Championship in Dublin. Madame Lavazza has presided over the Italian side for more than a decade, winning eight European Open Team Championships, two Olympiad Teams, one Bermuda Bowl and one Rosenblum Cup. Lavazza's resignation is reportedly due to the Italian Federation's decision to run open trials for their international teams rather than the current practice of having the Team Manager (heretofore Madame Lavazza) choose the team. The loss of Madame Lavazza will be felt all over the bridge world. It is very likely that without her guiding hand, Italy will decline in performance as playing sponsors begin to take part and they field a lesser team than those with their six strongest players

Secondly, Lorenzo Lauria will not be in the Italian team for Lille, which will however contain the other five stalwarts. Replacing Lauria, in partnership with Alfredo Versace, will be sponsor Romain Zaleski, perhaps a harbinger of things to come.



Correspondence

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John,

With reference to Erdal Sidar's letter in the May Bulletin, it was never proved that any players in the Italian team which won the 1975 Bermuda Bowl were cheating. Consequently, it is unacceptable for someone to state in print that members of that world championship winning team did cheat.

Mr. Sidar should be required to withdraw his comments forthwith.

Richard Fleet, Berkhamsted, UK

Oh, really? If it looks like a duck, walks like a duck and quacks like a duck, it's a duck, lack of duck DNA notwithstanding. The 'foot soldiers', as they were called, were

withdrawn from the match against North America, their primary competition, in their round robin encounter the next day, but did play two of the six sets in the final against the same North American team. Here is the official announcement of the findings of the WBF committee on site: "...that Facchini and Zuccelli are severely reprimanded for improper conduct at the bridge table by Mr. Facchini touching the toes of Mr. Zuccelli with his feet during the auction, and before the opening lead." In the official "Contract Bridge Team 1975 World Championship" book, Denis Howard of Australia (a prominent lawyer with extensive international experience in the law and in bridge - he was later to become WBF President) makes an eight-page analysis of the incident, concluding with these words:

“What there is of the defence case is weak enough to leave me in no doubt that Facchini and Zuccelli cheated in Bermuda. I submit that any objective analysis of the evidence and of the surrounding circumstances will lead all but the willfully self-deceptive to the same determination.” Facchini and Zuccelli, described as “the hottest pair in Europe” before the event, never played for Italy again. – Ed.

John:

I've posted a comment referencing the Australian rules on frivolous appeals in the discussion on Bridge Winners following on from your IPBA editorial on frivolous appeals penalties. Our penalties are in terms of score, as you suggest. Works well. Here's a link to the regs: <http://www.abf.com.au/events/tournregs/AppealReg10.pdf>

Cheers, Ben Thompson, Melbourne, Australia

Dear John,

I recently had the need to look up playing records for some distinguished players, among them Karen Allison. In doing so I discovered that the WBF does not record finishes in early pair events beyond first and second. Karen, playing with Gladys Collier, finished third in the Women's Pairs in Stockholm in 1970. At least that is my memory.

I think it would be a useful effort for the WBF to refer back to the World Championship books and repair such omissions.

Henry Bethe, Ithaca, NY

Agreed. Over to you, WBF. – Ed.

Dear John,

I very often agree with your editorials, and particularly with your last one. The example you took (intentionally?) mirrors precisely what happened in the European Youth Championships in Brasov, Romania, 2009. In the Junior game against Belgium, Israel used “Hesitation BW” and when, after a very long thought, South stopped in six hearts, North immediately bid the seventh, even though there could have been an ace missing (which of course, in this case, fell in North's void suit). Moreover, this occurred on Viewgraph and the audience, including Barry Rigal, who was commenting on the game, was quite shocked. A wave of whispering went through the room. Barry didn't say too much, because he later had to judge the case as a member of the Appeal Commission.

Happily enough, my young players were awake enough to call the police and the score was promptly turned back to six hearts (for a push). Although this looked like a very clear-cut case, Israël (Padon-Tarnovski) shamelessly appealed, just for the reasons you mentioned: what could they risk? Fifty EUR is not the

end of the world. Well, the Appeal Commission, with my namesake Patrick as president, did penalize them an extra 0,5 VP for an appeal without merit - and of course Israel's deposit was forfeited. Half a VP means approximately 2,5 IMPS in a 20-board event, not so many in practice. In my personal experience as npc (as from 2000), half a victory point penalty never affected the final ranking by the juniors.

Of course, this is giving more power to the Commissions, but they are mainly composed from people who know a lot about bridge and can punish thievery. Maybe the best solution should be to create a menu of possible sanctions, and the Commission could then choose the sanction according to the gravity of the offense.

Kind regards, Jean-François Jourdain, Brussels

I was unaware of the Israel-Belgium case. Jean-François is correct in that I did have a particular case in mind, from the 2010 Canadian Senior Team Championship final, where one pair used Hesitation Blackwood to bid not one, but two, grand slams. In the first instance, the TD was already at the table kibitzing, and was not officially summoned, therefore there was no ruling, let alone an appeal, despite the non-offending side's request for one. In the second instance, no such error of omission was made, and the TD rolled the contract back. The offenders were overruled by their captain and did not appeal.

Dear John,

Regarding Column Service deal 613: As Tim Bourke pointed out, East can block the club suit because declarer played on clubs too late. However, should East miss this point, he will get another chance. If he also ducks the second club (the ten), declarer will still get only nine tricks.

Best regards, Hans Werge, Copenhagen

Dear John,

In the May Bulletin, Page 5, in the two spades doubled contract played by Jordan Cohen, if declarer makes the assumption that his LHO, the notrump bidder, has the jack-ten doubleton of spades (necessary or the contract will not make) from the bidding, lead, and North's duck at trick one, and not a 2=4=5=2 pattern but, as expected from a notrump bidder, 2=4=4=3, then he plays as follows...club queen to the ace, club ruff, diamond to the king, club ruff, establishing the suit. Now declarer exits with any red card, preferably a heart. If RHO takes the trick and to cashes the spade ace, declarer unblocks his remaining high honour to create an entry to the dummy. To avoid overtricks, the defender will have to allow a ruff in dummy, i.e., the eighth trick.

Sudhir Kumar Ganguly, Kolkata, India