



BULLETIN

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Editorial

The World Bridge Federation has addressed the inequities in the Victory Point scales it uses by forming a Scoring Committee chaired by Ernesto d'Orsi (BRZ) and comprised of Co-Chair Max Bavin (ENG), Henry Bethe (USA), Bart Bramley (USA), Peter Buchen (AUS), and Maurizio de Sacco (ITA). After "deep and long analysis", the committee has recommended changes that have been accepted by the WBF Executive and that will commence with the next World Championship. The philosophy of the committee was twofold: (i.) "every IMP counts"; and (ii.) IMPs closer to zero count more than those further from zero. The crux of the change is that the VP scale will now have a range 0-20 VP, to two decimal places. IMPs closer to zero (a draw) will never be worth more than previous IMPs, as could happen now. In the current scale, if a 6-IMP win is 16-14 VP and a 7- or 8 IMP win is 17-13 VP, that seventh IMP is worth more than the eighth.

One could not have put together a more august committee and the result for the players is definitely a step in the right direction. However, we have a concern with the accessibility of the method for the average player. In an era when bridge is on life support systems in many jurisdictions, we should be looking at ways to simplify the game for more universal appeal. Even for the top players, when the question is asked, "We won by 23 IMPs, how many VPs is that?" no one will know the answer without referring to a table (those of us old enough will be reminded of logarithm tables as they were similar in nature). Furthermore, when you're ahead or behind by 4.73 VP, it will be more difficult than now to envision how much you need to win by to maintain the lead (or catch up).

The committee took the view that, in a round robin formatted event, there is some value in beating an opponent (but not as much as a Win-Loss scoring method would afford), thus the contracting IMPs-to-VPs schema. However, we see no reason for this being so - it is certainly not an intrinsic virtue, but an assumed one. In a round robin, to qualify eight or sixteen teams for knockout play, you want the eight (or sixteen) teams that have played the best to qualify. Wouldn't this be exhibited more surely by a straight IMP-to-VP conversion (subject to a cap in each match)? Thus, if 100 VP were at stake in every match, 50 IMPs would be a blitz. About three IMPs per board seems a good standard for a blitz.

In short, we agree with the philosophy that every IMP should count but disagree with the conclusion that some IMPs should count more than others and would prefer a straight one-to-one conversion for simplicity. We'd go further yet and try this experiment: score the round robin at point-a-board (15-board matches for a round number) with two points for a win on a board and one point for a draw, thus 30 points would be at stake in every match (or 1 and 1/2 as in North America). Then score the knockout matches the same way. What could be simpler?

The full WBF announcement of the method is reprinted here in the NEWS & VIEWS section. Ron Klinger and Bart Bramley weigh in on the debate in the Correspondence section.

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14th WORLD BRIDGE GAMES

5th WORLD TRANSNATIONAL MIXED TEAMS

LILLE FRANCE, 9-23 AUGUST 2012

Brent Manley, Memphis, TN
Barry Rigal, NYC
Patrick Jourdain, Cardiff
Marek Wójcicki, Przemysl, Poland
Micke Melander, Stockholm
Mark Horton, Bath, England
John Carruthers, Kingsville, ON
David Bird, Eastleigh, England

Lille was the site for the 2nd WMSG after plans to hold them in either Strasburg or Cardiff had fallen through. The format for the three main bridge team championships was similar: the teams (one per NBO) were divided into groups of equal strength and the top 16 then qualified for knockout play. Full results, lists of the teams and Daily Bulletins can be found on the WBF website. There was also a secondary event, the Transnational Mixed Teams. Tops in each event were:

Open Teams

- SWEDEN:** Krister AHLESVED, Peter BERTHEAU, Per-Ola CULLIN, Fredrik NYSTRÖM, Jonas PETERSSON, Johan UPMARK
- POLAND:** Cezary BALICKI, Krzysztof BURAS, Grzegorz NARKIEWICZ, Piotr ZAK, Jerzy ZAREMBA, Adam ZMUDZINSKI
- MONACO:** Fulvio FANTONI, Geir HELGEMO, Tor HELNESS, Franck MULTON, Claudio NUNES, Pierre ZIMMERMANN
- IRELAND:** John CARROLL, Nick FitzGIBBON, Tommy GARVEY, Tom HANLON, Hugh McGANN, Adam MESBUR

Women's Teams

- ENGLAND:** Sally BROCK, Fiona BROWN, Heather DHONDY, Nevena SENIOR, Nicola SMITH, Susan STOCKDALE
- RUSSIA:** Svetlana CHUBAROVA, Victoria GROMOVA, Anna GULEVICH, Elena KHONICHEVA, Tatiana PONOMAREVA, Olga VOROBAYCHIKOVA
- POLAND:** Cathy BALDYSZ, Ewa BANASZKIEWICZ, Katarzyna DUFRAT, Danuta KAZMUCHA, Natalia SAKOWSKA, Justyna ZMUDA
- FRANCE:** Véronique BESSIS, Sophie DAUVERGNE, Elisabeth HUGON, Rokia POIZAT, Carole PUILLET, Cathérine VIVES

Senior Teams

- HUNGARY:** Miklos DUMBOVICH, Mihaly KOVACS, Peter MAGYAR, Geza SZAPPANOS
- USA:** Neil CHAMBERS, Lew FINKEL, John SCHERMER, Steve LANDEN, Sam LEV, Richie SCHWARTZ
- FRANCE:** Patrick GRENTHE, Guy LASSERRE, François LEENHARDT, Patrice PIGANEAU, Philippe POIZAT, Philippe VANHOUTTE
- SWEDEN:** Olle AXNE, Sven-Åke BJERREGÅRD, Börje DAHLBERG, Anders MORATH, Mats NILSLAND, Leif TRAPP

Transnational Mixed Teams

- MILNER:** Petra HAMMAN, Hemant LALL, Reese MILNER, Gabriella OLIVIERI, Jacek PSZCZOLA, Meike WORTEL
- CANADA:** Judith GARTAGANIS, Nick GARTAGANIS, Daniel KORBEL, Darren WOLPERT, Hazel WOLPERT, Linda WYNSTON
- SAIC RED:** DAI Jianming, WANG Liping, WANG Wen Fei, ZHUANG Zijun
- YEH BROS:** CHEN Dawei, SHIH Juei-Yu, SHIMAMURA Kyoko, WANG Ping, YEH Chen, ZHANG Yalang

Here is a selection of some of the more interesting deals from the tournament...

Brazil-USA (BM)

Miguel Villas-Boas found to a nifty endplay here:

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Branco	Rodwell	Barbosa	Meckstroth
—	—	1♣	Double
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

The bad trump split doomed this normal contract. Rodwell could do no better than eight tricks for minus 200. In the closed room, a better contract was found.

West	North	East	South
—	—	1♣	Pass
1♠	Double	2♠	3NT
All Pass			

Zia Mahmood led a low club to Hamman's king. Now Hamman quite reasonably switched to a spade – and yes, as we shall see, he had a better option (continuing clubs). Villas-Boas won the spade ace and played a heart to dummy's king. Hamman won the ace and persisted in spades. Now declarer played the jack of diamonds, covered by the queen and ace, followed by a low club from dummy, Hamman ducking. It might seem that winning and exiting with a club would have helped, but Villas-Boas had his contract in hand at that point.

After winning the jack of clubs, Villas-Boas played a diamond to dummy's king and a diamond back to his hand, leaving this end position:

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

Villas-Boas cashed the spade queen and followed with the queen of clubs. Hamman could win and cash the spade nine, but at trick 12 he had to lead from the ten-eight of hearts into dummy's queen-nine. Plus 600 was good for 13 IMPs to Brazil. Had Hamman taken his ace of clubs after the heart ace, he would have been squeezed out of his club on the play of the diamonds, suffering the same end play with a spade exit.

Seven...Eight... Nine (BR)

Board 28. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
1NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

When Poland played USA both declarers had the chance to test their mettle in three notrump. Here is the play at Krzysztof Buras' table.

Buras (West) got good news on the opening lead when his jack of spades scored at trick one. He now needed only to set up diamonds to have nine winners. In preparing for the worst; what if a defender has the doubly guarded diamond ace? Buras led the diamond seven in an attempt to mess up his opponents' count signals and the appearance of the jack started the danger signals flashing. If you can take only two diamond tricks then you need to set up clubs; and there is no time like the present. You need to find the jack of clubs onside - and maybe a little more! So Buras led the club eight after winning trick two with the diamond king in the dummy.

(By doing this, he was not jeopardizing his contract if diamonds were 2-2. He would have reverted to diamonds if clubs had not behaved, and would have lost no more than three clubs and one diamond.)

South (Zia) put up the club ace and continued spades, and now a diamond to the king scored as North pitched a spade. Now Buras had seven winners outside clubs, so he needed to set up two club tricks or find an endplay. He played a second club and South won and shifted to a low heart. Declarer had two chances for his contract now, namely that South has been endplayed to lead from his queen of hearts, or that the jack of clubs was dropping.

Since the defenders have no transportation, he could test both chances in order by running the heart to dummy's jack. When that held he had nine tricks.

Technically, once Buras had ducked successfully in hearts he could have made an overtrick (runs the hearts and spades and exit in diamonds to endplay South to lead clubs at the death. But naturally he was happy to cash out safely for nine tricks - which could hardly be a bad score!

This was actually a flat board; Eric Rodwell also made the club play at trick three and forced South to give up the extra tricks in the ending. Could the defenders have done better after the initial spade lead? No, but the most challenging defence might be for South to win the first club and return his low diamond. He can win the next club, cash the ace of diamonds and then exit with a spade. But declarer can still prevail by cashing his spade winners and endplaying South in clubs to lead hearts - or vice versa.

Tel-Aviv Duck (PJ)

The England Seniors had not lost a match and had a clear lead at the head of Group H when they met their closest follower, Israel. The match was tight, with this board being the key to Israel's narrow win, 20-16, or 16-14 in VP...

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

	♠ 9 4		
	♥ 4 2		
	♦ A 10 9 8 7 3		
	♣ 8 6 2		
♠ A K J 6		♠ Q 8 5	
♥ Q J 10 6		♥ 8 7 5 3	
♦ K Q 6		♦ J 4	
♣ 10 7		♣ A K 9 5	
	♠ 10 7 3 2		
	♥ A K 9		
	♦ 5 2		
	♣ Q J 4 3		
West	North	East	South
Hallberg	David B.	Holland	Daniela B.
—	—	—	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

At the other table, Israel had reached three notrump. On a diamond lead and the threat that the heart trick would come too late, declarer might have been tempted into a double club finesse, but in practice declarer played on hearts and with the diamonds 6-2 and North having no entry, the game came home.

At the table where Gunnar Hallberg and John Holland faced David and Daniela Birman, a simple Stayman auction led to four hearts by West. David Birman led a trump. Daniela won with the king and switched to a diamond, the two, as they play low from a doubleton.

David B took the inference first that Daniela held the two top trumps, and secondly, that had South had a singleton diamond it would have been right for her to cash both top trumps before playing the diamond, or perhaps win with the ace first.

Thinking that through, David B duly ducked the diamond with an encouraging card. Now Daniela B won the next trump and led a second diamond to the ace and received her ruff to set the game.

Get Out of My Way! (BR)

On the following deal, there is no perfect rebid possible with the East cards. Here; the choices are to raise spades (both two spades and three spades are clearly flawed - though in a weak no-trump base a raise to two spades has some attraction) or to repeat diamonds at the two- or three-level. Again, both actions are clearly imperfect.

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

A reverse to two hearts almost forces you to game on momentum, but might make sense with, e.g., the heart king instead of the queen. As it is, though, this seems too much of a good thing. At least the three-diamond bid gets the invitational values across reasonably. Now responder needs to temporize and three hearts seems the only option.

At this point, the jump to four spades by opener seems a reasonable way to express very good trump support. Since you are never going to play three notrump, you can safely get your hand off your chest at one go. Once you do that, West can complete a fairly hit-or-miss sequence by jumping to six diamonds.

How should you play the slam on a club lead? To protect against a 4-0 trump break and preserve dummy entries, you need to lead towards the king-queen of diamonds rather than starting with the jack.

When your RHO wins the diamond ace and plays the jack of hearts, you have a new problem. You might as well put up the queen now - you won't get any value out of it if you don't. Of course your LHO covers and you win the ace and draw a second trump. Had trumps split 2-2 you would have been home free, but as it is you need to unblock spades (don't you?) before drawing the last trump.

Time to think about how to do that...any ideas?

Did you spot the point of the deal? By cashing two spades you have left the suit temporarily blocked. But to the rescue comes...Super-Unblock! The point of the deal is that when you cross to the jack of diamonds and pitch your spade queen on the king of clubs, you have unscrambled the blockage and you now have two homes for your heart losers, the spade jack and the spade ten.

Although the majority of declarers who played six diamonds made it, many were treated to a low heart lead, and had no choice but to run it to their queen. Others received a trump lead and spade shift, so also had no problems.

Déjà Vu (MW)

In the fifth match in group B of the open series, Poland played against Estonia. In that match, Polish superstar Cezary Balicki exhibited dummy play perfection.

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

The Estonian pair with the North/South cards stopped in two spades making; the Poles were more ambitious:

West	North	East	South
Laanemae	Balicki	Karpov	Zmudzinski
—	1♠	Pass	INT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	4♠	Double	All Pass

East doubled, but was not clever enough to find the ace of trumps lead which would probably* have beaten the contract - he led the heart king. Balicki played as though with open cards. He took the first trick with the ace of hearts, finessed the queen of clubs and cashed the ace. Next, he finessed the diamond queen, discarded a club on the ace of diamonds, and ruffed a diamond. Then came another club:

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

East did the best he could – he discarded the diamond king, but declarer ruffed in the dummy for his seventh trick. Thereafter could afford to lose three trump tricks

to make the contract. He led a diamond from dummy and discarded his losing club. East was down to trumps and had to ruff and lead into Balicki's trumps. After that, Balicki was left with the king-queen-ten-nine of spades left and had to score two more trumps for his contract.

* Even if you lead the ace of spades, you have to continue with either a heart or a diamond to dummy to defeat the contract, attacking the entries in dummy for declarer to shorten his trumps.

This deal reminded me of another deal Balicki played in the IOC Cup in Salt Lake City in 2002, where he also faced a 6-0 trump break. That time he had been warned by the opponent's opening one spade. He made that one too.

Okay Ron, Well Done! (MM)

A drama was played out in Group D of the Open Series when Turkey played Israel in the last qualifying match of the Round Robin at a moment with both of them close to the top of the table. In theory, both Iceland and China could get into the race and take one of their qualifying places.

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul

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

West	North	East	South
Liran	Gur	Fridlander	Yilmaz
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♠	Pass	INT
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			
West	North	East	South
Kokten	Pachtman	Aker	Ginossar
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

East was almost endplayed on the opening lead. In the closed room, Aker tried his best by leading the two of hearts, the three and four followed and declarer won with the queen. Ron Pachtman wanted to create an entry to dummy to be able to collect his ace of hearts and tried playing the king of clubs from hand. Aker now unblocked his jack and Kokten smoothly ducked when dummy played low, allowing declarer to win the trick.

After two top spades the ten of clubs followed from declarer which also stood up. Pachtman now realised that he wasn't really going to get any help from his defenders in creating an entry and so continued playing on trumps instead with the ten of spades. That led to a position in which Aker had to make another lead, when the situation was:

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

Aker was now forced to play diamonds (hearts would only have made things worse) and he had no better move than cashing the ace of diamonds. That gave declarer his tenth trick.

In the other room, Fridlander had to kick off against the same contract. He put the jack of clubs on the table which went to the three, six and declarer's king. Okay Gur now played the ace and king of trumps, discarding a diamond from dummy. A third round of trumps threw Fridlander in again, and he now exited with his last club, refusing to help declarer opening up any red suit. Liran in East simply covered dummy's card in clubs and allowed declarer to win with the ten. Gur continued with all his trumps down to the following position:

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

Declarer played the queen of hearts from hand and when it wasn't covered Gur won with the ace in dummy to continue the suit, discarding his losing club, throwing poor Fridlander in again to lead away from the ace of diamonds.

Very well done by Ron and Okay!

Ireland-USA (BM)

We witnessed some expert play by Hugh McGann on the following deal.

Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

	♠ 10 9 7 3		
	♥ K 8 6 3		
	♦ 10 8 4		
	♣ K Q		
♠ K J		♠ A 8 6 5 4 2	
♥ Q 5 4 2		♥ 10 9 7	
♦ A K J 6 3		♦ 7	
♣ 10 8		♣ A 7 4	
	♠ Q		
	♥ A J		
	♦ Q 9 5 2		
	♣ J 9 6 5 3 2		
West	North	East	South
<i>Zia</i>	<i>FitzGibbon</i>	<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Mesbur</i>
<i>McGann</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
INT	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

FitzGibbon led the king of clubs, taken by Zia with the ace. Zia played a diamond to his jack at trick two, then cashed the two high diamonds, pitching hearts from dummy. He pitched another heart on the six of diamonds. Mesbur won the diamond queen and played a club to his partner's queen. A low heart from North was ruffed in dummy. When Zia cashed the ♠A, the contract could no longer be made. He played a spade to his king, but had to concede two trump tricks to FitzGibbon to finish one down – minus 50.

McGann played along similar lines, at least at first. He won the opening club lead with dummy's ace, played a diamond to his jack and discarded hearts from dummy on his ace and king of diamonds. Instead of pitching a heart on the fourth round of diamonds, however, he ruffed a diamond low and played a club to Rodwell's queen. Rodwell played a heart to Meckstroth's ace, and McGann ruffed the heart continuation in dummy. He ruffed dummy's club with the spade jack and cashed the spade king. This was the position with three tricks to go:

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

McGann played the five of hearts, and when Rodwell put in the nine of spades, McGann undertruffed in dummy, leaving Rodwell to play from the ten-seven of spades into dummy's ace-eight. Well done! Plus 420

was good for 10 IMPs in a match won by Ireland 36-13.

Don't Mess with the Zohan - or John Schermer (BR)

The opening lead with a hand like North's in the following deal is very much open to discussion. What the experts suggest is that when in doubt if you have a sequence, you should fall back on that.

Without a sequence of honours, here, while some would lead a low club (fourth highest of longest and strongest and all that), others would insist on a heart (majors over minors) while others, including me, would recommend the spade nine.

Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

♠ 9 8 5
♥ K 7 5 2
♦ 7 4
♣ K J 8 2

♠ K J 7
♥ J 8 3
♦ Q J 10 2
♣ Q 7 5

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	Pass
INT ¹	Pass	3NT	All Pass
1. 14-16+			

The spade lead would be especially clear on a limited auction such as one notrump-two notrump-three notrump but, here too, a spade is as likely to be as right as anything else and is less likely to cost a trick.

Say you do lead the spade nine; declarer puts up the king (partner following with the three) and passes the queen of diamonds successfully. Next West repeats the diamond finesse and then leads a heart to the queen. Have you decided how you will defend? Now that you are in (this is surely not the right moment to duck) are you going to press on with spades or shift?

Given partner's far from encouraging spade spot if you ARE going to shift to clubs - which seems right - then the right play is surely the jack; if declarer has the ace and ten any club works, while if partner has the ace with the nine but not the ten you need to pin the ten in declarer's hand, and a low club shift doesn't do the trick.

The winning defence would be hard enough to find, but arguably the play at one table in the Seniors was even more dramatic. Eduardo Scanavino played three notrump on an uninformative auction against USA Seniors. John Schermer (North) led the eight of spades (promising the nine) and this went to the jack, queen, and ace. Scanavino (West) decided to continue his deceptive approach: he led a low club from hand. Here is the full deal:

♠ 9 8 5
♥ K 7 5 2
♦ 7 4
♣ K J 8 2

♠ A 10 2
♥ A Q 9 4
♦ A 8 6 3
♣ 10 3

♠ K J 7
♥ J 8 3
♦ Q J 10 2
♣ Q 7 5

♠ Q 6 4 3
♥ 10 6
♦ K 9 5
♣ A 9 6 4

Schermer was having none of this - he hopped up with the king of clubs and fired the jack of clubs through for down one and a fine example of telling the opponents, 'Don't try to screw with me!'

The Luck of the Draw (MH)

(This article is dedicated to Mary Kelly Rogers)

When you select a match to watch, your fate is in the lap of the gods. You may get one with a series of dull boards and few swings, or you may get the opposite with wild deals and IMPs flying in all directions. You are hoping for top-class play by both teams - but for some reason, that is as rare as hen's teeth. However, the third session of the match between Germany and Ireland featured some outstanding play by both sides on a terrific set of deals.

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

♠ J 7 6 5 2
♥ 8
♦ Q J 8 7 5
♣ 10 7

♠ K 8
♥ K Q 2
♦ 9 6 2
♣ A 9 5 4 3

♠ Q 10 4
♥ 10 7 4 3
♦ A K 10 4
♣ Q 8

♠ A 9 3
♥ A J 9 6 5
♦ 3
♣ K J 6 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Fitzgibbon</i>	<i>Fritsche</i>	<i>Mesbur</i>	<i>Rohowski</i>
—	Pass	1♦ ¹	1♥
Double	Pass	INT	Double
3NT	All Pass		

1. Balanced 17-20 JP (JP = HCP + no. of cards in 2 longest suits) with 2+ diamonds (about 11-13); or 11-16 with (a.) 4-4-4-1; (b.) 5+ diamonds unbalanced; (c.) 4+ diamonds/4 or 5 clubs

South led the six of hearts and declarer won with dummy's king and played the nine of diamonds. When North covered with the queen declarer took the ace and played a spade to the king. When that held he

played a spade to the ten and South won with the ace and returned a spade to declarer's queen. A heart saw South go up with the ace and exit with a heart. Declarer won perforce in dummy, played a diamond to the ten, cashed the king of diamonds and exited with a heart to endplay South, plus 400.

That was very well played and perhaps South was left to regret his revealing double.

West	North	East	South
Rehder	Hanlon	Gromöller	McGann
—	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

To defeat two spades East has to lead the four of spades (and East unblock the king) but of course he started with the ace of diamonds. He switched to spades and West took the king and returned the suit to the ten and ace. Declarer cashed the ace of hearts, ruffed a heart and ran the jack of diamonds pitching a club. He ruffed a diamond, ruffed a heart and according to the play record finished with plus 110.

The Plodders and Zia (JC)

We can all think of a few bridge players who could never be described as plodders (Gabriel Chagas, Geir Helgemo, Peter Fredin, and the German doctors, Elinescu/Wladow, to name a few). However, one bridge player epitomises panache over all others - Zia Mahmood. Witness:

Board 6. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	Hamman	Rombaut	Zia
—	Pass	Pass	INT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Cédric Lorenzini led the very-common ten of diamonds against the universal three notrumps. Declarer has eight tricks and the opponents always have at least five, except in exceptional circumstances (heart blockage and scrambled entries).

Some of the plodders (I admit to being one!) won the diamond ace and tried to sneak a spade by East. We played the king and were shortly three off, losing five

hearts and two spades. Other plodders ran their eight minor-suit winners, hoping the defenders would have discarding problems, then played a spade or a heart, hoping to score the spade king in the end game. Most of these went off as well, albeit only one trick.

The card-play geniuses with panache, like Zia, won the diamond ace and led a heart to the jack! In the France v. USA match, West, Lorenzini, could not resist shifting to the ace and another spade and Zia not only had his contract, he had made an overtrick! According to Lorenzini-Rombaut's convention card, they play no attitude signals, only count and suit preference, in that order of priority, so it is difficult to envision how Lorenzini could have got it right in this situation after Rombaut's next play of the nine of spades (or any other card, save the queen, for that matter) under the ace.

Lorenzini and the plodders are sadder but wiser men today.

Steen Revisited (BR)

*Old men forget yet all shall be forgot,
But he'll remember with advantages
What feats he did that day...*
Henry V, Act 4, Scene 3

We ran the following deal as a defensive problem – remarking that after a top club lead from East receives discouragement from West, a spade shift might be best in theory (*it seems a complete guess to us - Ed.*) and certainly works in practice.

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

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

- 15-17
- Transfer to spades

We thanked our source of this deal, Steen Møller, but we didn't realize that, like so many oldies, he had had a small senior moment. He had neglected to tell us that the play in question (not found in either room of his Senior match) had in fact been found by his partner's wife in the Women's Series! We suspect that's the last time he gets invited 'round to Dorthe Schaltz's for dinner!

Best Bid Deal Candidate (MH)

Board 11. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

♠ K 8 7 2
♥ J 5 2
♦ J 8 7 6
♣ 10 5

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Wijs</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	Pass	1♣ ¹	Pass
1♥ ²	Pass	1♠ ³	Pass
2♣ ⁴	Pass	2♦ ³	Pass
2♥ ⁵	Pass	2♠ ³	Pass
2NT ⁶	Pass	3♣ ³	Pass
3♥ ⁷	Pass	3♠ ³	Pass
4♣ ⁸	Pass	6♣ ⁹	All Pass

1. 16+ HCP
2. 4+ spades, GF
3. Relays
4. 4+ clubs
5. 4 spades/5+ clubs
6. Short hearts
7. 4=1=2=6/4=1=1=7
8. 3 controls
9. I have heard enough

Declarer won the heart lead, ruffed a heart, drew trumps, came to hand with a diamond, ruffed a heart and could establish and reach a long heart. North had pitched a diamond on the third trump so that was plus 940.

At the other table...

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Brink</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	Pass	1♥ ¹	Pass
1♠ ²	Pass	2♣ ³	Pass
2♦ ⁴	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass

1. 14+ (good 12/13), 5+ hearts; or 11-13 with 5+ hearts and 4 spades
2. 0-9, 4+ spades
3. 14-17 natural or 17+ unbalanced
4. 6-9

South led the ten of spades so that was plus 460 and 10 IMPs to the Netherlands.

Restricted Choice (MW)

It's the quarterfinal of the open event, Italy against Poland, the last board of the third segment. Put yourself in the position of Giorgio Duboin. Sitting West you have: ♠Q64 ♥A2 ♦AQJ10 ♣AK105. This is the slightly matchpoint-oriented bidding:

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Zaremba	Sementa	Zak
2NT	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♦	Pass	5NT	Pass
6♣	Pass	7♥	Pass
7NT	All Pass		

There you are in the highest possible contract. North leads the heart seven (Polish style: second/fourth):

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

On the queen from dummy, South plays the four (reverse count). How do you continue?

You see that the contract is not good. Seven spades will be made with the heart king onside after the correct play (after a black suit lead, with spades 2-1, you discard dummy's diamond on the second club honour, check if the king of diamonds falls doubleton, and then you finesse the heart queen, thus having a slightly better chance than the 50% finesse in diamonds). But how to make seven notrump?

North has led a heart from all low ones, so the Rule of Restricted Choice says that the chance that the diamond king is offside is higher than 50%. Is there a way to take 13 tricks when the diamond finesse does not work?

Duboin found it – the double squeeze. The nine-eight of diamonds can be the threat against the king in the North hand, and the transportation in clubs is comfortable. Thus Duboin cashed the queen of spades – both opponents followed. Now he cashed the heart ace – maybe the king was doubleton? Then a spade to the ace, and a diamond from dummy, to give some hope to supporters of the Polish team. The ace from hand ended those hopes, and Duboin ran the spades. Before the last spade the position was:

♠ —	♠ 2
♥ —	♥ J
♦ —	♦ 9
♣ A K 10 5	♣ 4

Now the last spade was cashed. No red king was discarded on this trick. On the ace and king of clubs the suit behaved as the squeeze worked. This was the complete deal:

Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

This play earned 13 IMPs for the Italian team. If Duboin had gone for the straightforward diamond finesse, Poland would have gained 17. The match score after this board was 90-82 to Poland.

A Bid from Heaven (DB)

While doing BBO voice commentary on the quarter-final of the World Mind Sports Games Bridge Championship between Monaco and the Netherlands, I was privileged to witness one of the best inferential bids that I can remember. Take a look yourself.

Final Set. Board 89. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Verhees	Helness	van Prooijen	Helgemo
—	Pass	1♦	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	4♠!	Double	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♥	5♠
Pass	Pass	6♥	All Pass

West's two diamonds was a transfer bid to hearts. Can you believe the four-spade bid from Tor Helness, on a four-card suit? With three low hearts in his hand, he expected his partner to hold a singleton heart. He also saw no reason why Geir Helgemo should not hold length in spades. At favourable vulnerability, four spades doubled would have been a splendid sacrifice. A trump lead would have been needed to take it two down.

The bidding was not yet over, however. Louk Verhees pulled to five clubs on the way to five hearts and Helgemo took the push to five spades. I could only

see a double from East at this point. He chose six hearts and no-one saw fit to double.

Helgemo led the ace of diamonds and switched to a spade, won with the ace. For a moment it seemed to declarer that he might be able to discard dummy's club loser on the now-good diamonds and actually make the contract. When he played the king and ace of trumps the suit broke 3-1. He took the necessary spade ruff, with his last trump, and now needed only to reach dummy with a diamond to draw the last trump. Not today! Helness ruffed the second diamond and the defenders cashed two black-suit winners for three down.

It had been a splendid board by any standard.

Brilliance Missed? (MH)

This deal - the penultimate one of the quarterfinals - caught my attention because a member of staff who was watching it said that, although the computer indicated that four spades was makable, he could not see how (and believe me this guy can play the spots off them).

Board 31. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

The popular contract was four spades on a top diamond lead (a small number attempted three notrump and one made it on the lead of the queen of hearts!). After ruffing, declarer could count on another five trump tricks and two clubs. The other two tricks required had surely to come from hearts and quite a few declarers tried an immediate jack of hearts, which usually led to defeat.

In the match between the Seniors from Denmark and the USA, Peter Schaltz drew two rounds of trumps with the ace and the jack and then played a low heart. When North put in the eight he won with the jack, drew the missing trump and played a heart to the king and ace. He could then use the king of clubs as an entry to lead towards the ten of hearts for plus 420 and 10 IMPs for Denmark.

Suppose declarer follows a different course after ruffing the diamond lead, simply drawing trumps in three rounds and playing a heart to the king and ace.

The club return is taken in dummy and a heart led to the jack, which holds the trick. Then declarer cashes two more trumps to bring about this ending:

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

If either defender has discarded a heart, declarer would be able to play a heart to establish a tenth trick, but now has to decide whether hearts were originally 3-3 or the actual situation exists, in which case the winning line is to play the ace of clubs and another, endplaying whichever defender wins and ensuring a trick for either the queen of diamonds or the ten of hearts.

Well, one small clue might be the order in which South played his hearts. In the Monaco-Netherlands match Helgemo played the two (upside down) on the first round as did Romanski (for the Polish Seniors), while Upmark false-carded with the seven (upside down) against the USA, as did Meckstroth in the other room.

On that scanty piece of evidence it looks as if it is down to a guess. Perhaps, but the odds of an initial 4-2 break are much higher and I'm not sure they have changed much. What I can tell you is that the result of several of the quarter final matches would have changed if a few declarers had found the winning line.

The Mirror Crack'd from Side to Side (MH)

The Mirror Crack'd from Side to Side is a work of detective fiction by Agatha Christie. It is set in the fictional English village of St. Mary Mead and features Miss Marple. It was dedicated by Christie: 'To Margaret Rutherford, in admiration.' - the actress played the fictional detective in a number of films.

The title of the novel comes from the poem *The Lady of Shalott* by Alfred, Lord Tennyson. It is referred to by name several times in the novel, with these lines being frequently quoted:

*Out flew the web and floated wide -
The mirror crack'd from side to side;
"The curse is come upon me," cried
The Lady of Shalott.*

Bridge players are well aware of hands that contain mirrored distribution. On this deal from round 10 of the Transnational Mixed Teams declarer failed to

overcome her problem - but it took some cunning defence to crack the mirror.

Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Brown</i>	<i>Melbourne</i>	<i>Djurovic</i>	<i>Travis</i>
INT ¹	Pass	2♣ ²	Pass
2♦ ³	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♥	All Pass		
1. 14-17			
2. 5-card Stayman			
3. At least one 4-card major			

East/West did well to stop short of the hopeless game, but their mirror distribution made even three hearts a problem.

South led the ten of spades and declarer went up with the ace to cash the top hearts. When the queen failed to appear she cashed the ace of diamonds, played a diamond to the king, and exited with a spade. North won, cashed another spade and exited with the four of clubs! When declarer failed to put in the ten South won with the nine, cashed the queen of hearts and exited with a club.

Sweden-USA Open Quarterfinal (BM)

Early in the sixth and final set of 16 boards, the Americans had a 165-148 lead, but it all went away on the next board.

Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

Continued on page 14...



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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629. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	INT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

A simple Stayman sequence saw South as the declarer in a reasonable game. West led the king of clubs. Declarer called for a low club from hand and reflexively played low from hand too. West noted East's three of clubs and shifted to the ten of diamonds. Declarer called for the ace of diamonds and led a trump from table. East rose with the ace of trumps, cashed the king of diamonds and then led a third round of diamonds. West ruffed and the contract was down one.

Declarer should have foreseen the danger of a diamond shift at trick two and won the first trick with the ace of clubs to play on trumps. Here, East would win the ace of trumps and play a club to his partner's jack for a diamond shift. Declarer can play the queen of diamonds, but here it would lose to East's king. Declarer would win the diamond continuation with

the ace and draw two more rounds of trumps. Then, after cashing the three top spades in his hand, declarer would ruff his remaining club in dummy and throw his remaining diamond on the jack of spades.

630. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
1♥	Double	3♥	4♠
All Pass			

West began with ace-king and another heart. This alerted declarer to the very real prospect that trumps were 4-1. As it was certain that West had the ace of trumps, the problem was overcoming the case where West began with four trumps. (If East has four trumps then West's ace will be singleton and declarer would be able to ruff a fourth heart in the same hand as the original ruff was taken.)

As he saw that he would need a trump substitute to run through West when he began with four trumps, declarer discarded the eight of clubs from dummy and ruffed the third round of hearts in his hand. Next declarer played the king and queen of trumps, both of which West allowed to hold.

East's discard on the second round was expected and declarer went to his fall-back plan. All he needed was for West to have begun with a 4=5=2=2 distribution; he took the ace and queen of clubs followed by the ace and queen of diamonds.

Next came the king of clubs and West had no winning option. If he ruffed high, declarer would draw trumps after winning the next trick. As ruffing low was a hopeless defence, West discarded a heart and declarer threw a diamond from dummy. Then came the card



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West was hoping not to see, jack of clubs, much to his chagrin. As ruffing would do no good and discarding would see dummy's remaining diamond disappear, West folded his cards and said, "Well played".

631. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

West began with the ace and king of clubs. As he did not want to give a trick away, West continued with the jack of clubs. As a matter of technique, declarer ruffed with the nine of trumps and then cashed the king of trumps. Next, he crossed to dummy with a heart to the ace and led the seven of trumps. After East played the ten, declarer finessed the jack of trumps.

If this had lost to the queen of trumps then declarer would still make the contract as long as the hearts were no worse than 4-2; for, thanks to his ruffing with an intermediate trump at trick one, he would be able to reach dummy with his four of trumps to dummy's seven and be able to enjoy any heart winner that was set up by ruffing a fourth round of the suit.

When the finesse won, declarer drew East's queen of trumps and then played on hearts. He made six trumps, three hearts and a diamond.

632. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

West led the queen of diamonds against this unscientific auction. Declarer counted four winners in the side suits and decided to make up the remaining eight tricks by cross-ruffing the red suits. So, he took the first trick with the ace of diamonds and led to the ace of hearts to ruff a heart with the four of trumps. Next, following the normal strategy of cashing side winners on a crossruff, declarer cashed the ace and king of clubs, in case a defender could profitably discard a club on one of the red suits. Next a diamond was ruffed in dummy with the four of trumps, for declarer's sixth trick. As declarer's remaining trumps were all high, the contract the contract was now certain.

He claimed twelve tricks by pointing out that he would crossruff the red suits. Twelve tricks made.

East, a hard task master, was not impressed. "Lead a trump and the contract fails on this layout," he offered. "Talk about result merchants," was all West could mutter.



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West	North	East	South
Zia	Nyström	Hamman	Uppmark
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	1♥	4♠	5♦
5♠	Double	All Pass	

Hamman could have made his contract by playing North for his actual holding in spades, but after ruffing the opening diamond lead, he made the normal play of cashing a high spade. The contract could not be made from there, Hamman losing two clubs and a spade for one down and minus 200.

The action at the other table resulted in a disaster for USA.

West	North	East	South
Bertheau	Rodwell	Cullin	Meckstroth
—	—	—	3♦
Pass	3NT	4♠	4NT
Double	All Pass		

Had Rodwell or Meckstroth run to five diamonds, they would likely have been minus 300. Plus 100 or minus 650 was also possible in five spades. Either way, it would have avoided the calamity that occurred.

Cullin eschewed the spade lead that would have handed Rodwell his contract. Instead, Cullin led a low heart to his partner's ace. The spade six went to the jack and king, and Cullin cashed the heart king before going into a long huddle. He could cash the king of spades to assure the defeat of the contract – or he could try for more, risking a disaster for his side.

For more, Cullin had to bet on Bertheau's holding the heart queen and another spade. If he was missing the queen, Rodwell was going to take ten tricks. If Bertheau had started with only one spade, at least the contract would be down.

After long thought, Cullin played a low heart to his partner's queen. Another spade through meant seven down, minus 1700 and 18 IMPs to Sweden, now in the lead 166-165.

Mamma Mia (MM)

Board 22. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Zmudzinski	Ahlesved	Balicki	Petersson
—	—	1♥	3♣ ¹
4♠ ²	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♥	6♠	Double	All Pass

1. Spades and diamonds
2. Exclusion Key Card Blackwood (or a Splinter Bid)

Here, Zmudzinski and Balicki weren't speaking the same language. Four spades for Zmudzinski was Exclusion Key Card Blackwood, but for Balicki it was just a splinter. From there on the bidding went out of control and the Poles took the money when Ahlesved finally sacrificed against six hearts.

West	North	East	South
Bertheau	Narkiewicz	Cullin	Buras
—	—	2♥	4♦ ¹
4♥	5♠	Pass	Pass
6♥	6♠	Pass	Pass
7♥	Double	All Pass	

1. Diamonds and spades

In the Open Room, Bertheau set a trap for Narkiewicz when he knew that the other side probably had a huge fit in spades. First he tried to buy the hand in four hearts and when they bid five spades, he gave the impression of sacrificing in six hearts. Then, after six spades, he finally bid seven hearts, which he was certain would have a play whatever partner's holding in clubs.

Mamma Mia, it was laydown when East was declarer and North couldn't give partner a ruff to beat the contract. Plus 100 to the Poles in the Closed Room wasn't much to deliver when it was time to compare the scores and the Swedes at the other table had plus 2470! Twenty IMPs to Sweden and one of the highest scores in this championship.

England–Russia Women's Final (MH)

This is a nice example of technique, all the more impressive because it came near the end of a long match and 12 days' play.

Board 28. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Khonicheva</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Gulevich</i>	<i>Stockdale</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	2♦ ¹
Pass	2♥ ²	Pass	2♠ ³
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

- 18-19 balanced, no 5-card major
- 4 spades
- 4 card-support

West led the ten of hearts. Declarer won with dummy's ace and advanced the queen of spades. When that held, she played a spade to the ten and drew the outstanding trump as West discarded the two of hearts. Now declarer cashed her top hearts, East discarding an encouraging diamond. She exited with the jack of diamonds and West put up the king and returned the seven for the eight, queen and ace. Declarer exited with a diamond, plus 620.

West	North	East	South
<i>Senior</i>	<i>Gromova</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>	<i>Ponomareva</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣ ¹
1♥	Double ²	Pass	2♣ ³
Pass	2♦ ⁴	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

- 12-14 bal (may have 5 diamonds); or 4=4=1=4, 11-15; or 16+ any
- Spades
- Any GF
- Minimum

West led the jack of hearts and the first variation in the play did not come until trick seven, when it was East who won the jack of diamonds with the queen. She switched to the six of clubs and East won with the queen and played the ten of diamonds (a thoughtful deceptive card). All declarer has to do is win this and exit with a diamond, but when she ducked – playing West for the doubleton ten of diamonds - West could exit with the king of diamonds and now it was declarer who was endplayed. One down, minus 100.

Three Step(ping-stone)s to Heaven: the Sweden-Poland Open Final (BR)

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Buras</i>	<i>Cullin</i>	<i>Narkiewicz</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
—	—	—	1♣ ¹
Pass	1♥ ²	1♠	2♣
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Double	All Pass		

- 2+ clubs if a balanced hand out of the notrump range, otherwise natural
- Spades

Three notrump doubled by Cullin would have been no fun at all on a club lead, but Narkiewicz quite reasonably started with a low diamond, won by dummy's ten. East ducked the first heart play (necessary) but won North's heart jack at trick three and shifted to the jack of spades – ducked by West. Yes, a club shift or an unlikely overtake of the spade jack by West would have worked.

Given a reprieve, Cullin made no mistake. He finessed in hearts and cashed the last heart winner, squeezing West down to:

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

In the diagrammed position, West has a card to spare; at the table he pitched a club. Cullin led a diamond to the king and ace, won the club return to cash the second club and threw West in to lead spades to give him a stepping-stone to his diamond winner.

Had West kept a club winner and pitched a spade, Narkiewicz could have won with the diamond ace and played a club. However, declarer could have finessed and all West could have taken would have been one club and one spade trick.

Best Defence in Lille? (MM)

Fredrik Nyström demonstrated that he isn't just an Olympiad Champion, but also an illusionist who creates magic. But first, before looking at what happened, let's put you in Balicki's position as declarer to try to solve the problem.

West	North	East	South
<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Zmudzinski</i>	<i>Nyström</i>	<i>Balicki</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

You are in four hearts, neither of the opponents having interfered in the auction. This is what you see when West leads the six of clubs:

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

You win the first trick with the ace of clubs; East follows with the queen, indicating the jack but not the king. You think for a while and finally play a trump to the king, West wins with the ace and plays back the four of clubs, your ten from dummy is headed by the jack from East, which you ruff. You continue by playing the jack of hearts, and you realise that you misguessed the trump suit since West follows suit and East wins the trick with the queen. East cashes the ace of diamonds and returns the nine of spades, which you win in dummy. Then what?

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

Balicki received the impression that Nyström had the singleton ace of diamonds, and instead of playing a diamond back to hand tried to cash the king of spades and ruff a spade to return to his hand and pull the defenders last remaining trumps! It was pure magic when Nyström held the singleton in spades rather than diamonds.

**14th World Youth
Team Championships
Brian Senior, Nottingham, UK**
(A full report will appear next month)

The most interesting deal from Round 7 was Board 3, on which a number of pairs got to the diamond grand slam. Altogether, 16 pairs bid to seven diamonds and 13 of them made it. But why did three fail?

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

After the popular trump lead, I have seen five different lines of play and there may well have been more. The simplest line was to win the opening lead in the East hand and take an immediate club finesse - very simple and very successful. Another declarer drew trumps, ruffed one spade, then took the club finesse.

Line three saw declarer reach an ending in which he could take either the simple club finesse or, after pitching a club on the king of hearts, the ruffing finesse. He duly went for the ruffing finesse and was one down.

In the China v Singapore Juniors match, Yinpei Shao for China won the trump lead with the jack, played a second diamond to the queen, then cashed the king of spades. He continued with a diamond to the king, cashed the ace and queen of hearts and followed up with the ace and queen of spades, throwing two clubs from hand. Then he ruffed a spade, threw the three of clubs on the king of hearts and ruffed the last heart. Down to the ace-queen of clubs facing the seven of clubs and the ten of spades, he had a complete count on the deal, so knew that North had started with four clubs to South's three. Accordingly, he played for North to have been squeezed and led a club to the ace - elegant, but down one.

Singapore's Wei Seng Tan showed how the contract should be played. He won the trump lead with the ace and cashed the king of spades. Next, he crossed to the queen of hearts, ruffed a spade and played a diamond to the jack. Had the diamonds proved to be four-one, he would have taken the queen of diamonds next, crossed to the ace of hearts and drawn the last trump, eventually falling back on the club finesse when the spades proved to be five-two.

However, when everyone followed to the second diamond, Tan could take a second spade ruff, this time with the queen, so that he would have been secure even had spades been five-two the other way around. From here it was a simple matter to cross to the ace of hearts, draw the last trump and cash out - no finesses, no squeezes, just taking two ruffs and making 13 tricks. That was worth 19 IMPs to Singapore in a match that they eventually drew.



2012 IBPA Awards

IBPA Personality of the Year Maria Teresa Lavazza



When legendary Non-Playing Captains are discussed, only two names will be mentioned, both Italian: Carl'Alberto Perroux of the Blue Team and Maria Teresa Lavazza of the eponymous Lavazza Team. Maria Teresa retired this year after the European Team Championships in Dublin – as a captain or coach, she won all

the major team titles: three Olympiads, two Bermuda Bowls and a Rosenblum; a World Transnational Teams and five European Open Teams titles also adorn the trophy case. Seven other world and European medals complete the NPC résumé. As a player, Maria Teresa Lavazza has had some success as well: wins in the European Mixed Teams and the European Champions Cup (twice), as well as three other medals in European Mixed Team Championships.

Lavazza's retirement came about as a result of the Italian Bridge Federation's avowed aim to eliminate selectors and use team trials to choose their teams. This opens the door for sponsors to play in the team, not a possibility when three pairs were selected by the Commissario Tecnico. There is no question that the open Italian bridge team will be worse off without Maria Teresa Lavazza at the helm and that the rest of the bridge world will miss her dearly. The Lavazza coffee stations had become an almost-permanent part of World and European Championships and were greatly appreciated by the attendees - Lavazza coffee has woken up a generation of bridge players, thus improving the standard of the game and providing journalists with untold numbers of brilliancies.

Apart from bridge, Maria Teresa will now have more time to spend with ADISCO, the children's leukemia charity of which she is Regional President, and with her five grandchildren.

Master Point Press Book of the Year *The Contested Auction* Roy Hughes



Canadian expert Roy Hughes has written four bridge books: *Building a Bidding System*; *Card by Card*; *Canada's Bridge Warriors: Murray & Kehela*; and *The Contested Auction* – all have been shortlisted for the Master Point Press Book of the Year Award. Hughes won the 2007 award for *Canada's Bridge Warriors*. Now he has won the 2012 award for his latest, *The Contested Auction*.

Hughes' background in mathematics and linguistics has led him to think a great deal about the theory and structure of effective bidding systems. In *The Contested Auction*, he turns to the theory and practice of competitive auctions, a critical component of the modern game. Beginning by establishing what the bidding system needs to accomplish, Hughes goes on to discuss every type of contested auction, and recommends useful methods and agreements from which the reader can select. This is an up-to-date discussion, covering many topics in detail that have at best seen cursory treatment in print up to now. Hughes discusses "different philosophies and strategies to cope with the modern vernacular, stressing the importance of clarity of principles, comfort with agreed methods, and a commitment to understanding any treatment and its consequences before adopting it."

Shortlist:

Bridge at the Edge – Boye Brogeland & David Bird

It's All in the Game – Bob Ewen & Jeff Rubens

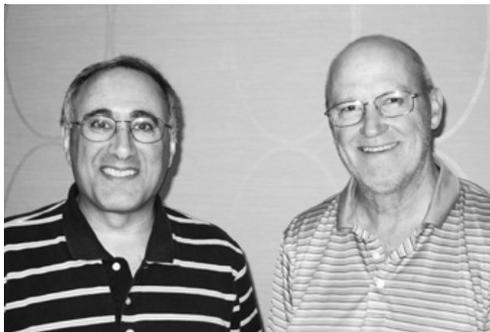
The Deadly Defence Quiz Book – Wladyslaw Izdebski,

Roman Krzemien & Ron Klinger

Defend or Declare? – Julian Pottage

The Amazing Queen – Clement Wong

John Simon
Sportsmanship Award
Jeff Ruben & Andrew Stayton
Debbie Rosenberg



The John Simon Sportsmanship Award is granted occasionally for acts of sportsmanship by bridge players that define how we all should act. This year there were two incidents at the North American Bridge Championships in Philadelphia in July that stood out.

Firstly, in the David Bruce 0-5000 Life Master Pairs, Jeff Ruben and Andrew Stayton, who had won the event, were checking their matchpoint scores against their estimates. They noticed that their score for one board greatly exceeded their estimate. Upon checking further, they discovered that the score for that board had been entered incorrectly, and furthermore, that the correct score would drop them from first to second place. They immediately reported the correction to the Tournament Directors.

Secondly, Debbie Rosenberg woke up in the middle of the night realising that her team in the Richard Freeman Mixed Board-a-Match Teams had scored a board incorrectly, winning a full point rather than the cor-

rect half a point (board-a-match in the ACBL is scored as a point for a win on the board and half a point for a draw). The margin of her team's win was less than half a point. Rosenberg also immediately reported the error to the directing staff, dropping her team out of first place into second.

While it is true that these actions are covered in the rules of the game, the behaviour of Ruben, Stayton and Rosenberg is laudatory and shows that there is sportsmanship at all levels of the game.

Alan Truscott
Memorial Award
Tim Bourke



The Alan Truscott Award is presented periodically to a person who does something for bridge that the IBPA Executive believes Alan would appreciate.

This year's recipient is Tim Bourke of Canberra, who not only produces the IBPA column service each month, but also converts the BBO.LIN files into text for we journalists. For this brilliant pro bono publico service Tim is the 2012 recipient of the Alan Truscott Award.

Richard Freeman Junior
Deal of the Year

Winner: Roger Lee
(Phillip Alder, journalist; from IBPA Bulletin 560.16)

OPATIJA 2011 I
Phillip Alder, Hobe, Sound, FL

The second World Youth Congress was held in Opatija, Croatia, from August 21 to 30. Opatija is a picturesque town in the northwest corner of Croatia, about a three-hour drive from Venice. I was editor of the daily bulletins, with able assistance from Herman De Wael (primarily page layouts), PO Sundelin (daily bridge puzzles) and Kees Tammens (articles about his Dutch charges).

If there had been a prize for the best-played deal of the tournament, this would have been the easy winner. It was played by Roger Lee of the USA team in the opening session of the Knockout Teams.

Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	<i>Wolkowitz</i>	Pass	<i>Lee</i>
Pass	2♠ ¹	Pass	3♣ ²
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Range enquiry
2. Maximum

At the other table, South took the first heart trick and early on played on diamonds, hoping they would run. But when they broke 5-1, he had to fail, going two down.

Lee realized that diamonds could wait. He won the ten-of-hearts lead with his queen and immediately ran the seven of clubs, losing to East's jack. To defeat the contract, East had then to switch to a diamond, or return his low club for West to switch to his diamond! Understandably, though, East tried a low spade. Declarer put in his jack, winning the trick. Suddenly he seemed to be up to nine tricks: two spades, two hearts and five diamonds. But Lee realized that diamonds could still wait. He led another club, dummy's queen losing to East's ace. East led the king of spades, ducked by South, and another spade to declarer's ace, dummy discarding a heart.

Diamonds could wait no longer. South took his ace, played a diamond to dummy's king, and cashed the queen and jack to put West under pressure. On the jack of diamonds, South threw a club, but what could West spare? He had to pitch his last spade. But now a club exit endplayed West to lead away from the king of hearts. Beautifully done! Are you wondering what would have happened if West had won the second club trick with his king and led back the ten of spades? Declarer would have ducked and taken the next spade to cash his ace of hearts, squeezing East in the minors. He would have had to give up his spade, but declarer

would then have led a third club to establish his ninth trick there. What marvelous symmetry.

Shortlist:

Alejandro Scanavino/Felipe Ferro (Ana Roth & Fernando Lema, 561.14)
 Frederik Skovly/Emil Buus Thomsen (Jens Otto Pedersen, 571.16)
 Liga Bekere (Herman De Wael, 571.16)

Keri Klinger Memorial Declarer Play of the Year

Winner: Terje Lichtwark
 (Knut Kjærnsrød, journalist; from IBPA Bulletin 566.12)

NORWEGIAN BRILLIANCY
 Knut Kjærnsrød, Tored, Norway

This board was played recently in one of our clubs in the far north, Harstad. Anders Kristensen, one of the opponents, reported declarer's brilliant play.

Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Bremseth</i>	<i>Lind</i>	<i>Kristensen</i>	<i>Lichtwark</i>
—	—	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	6♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Two hearts showed six hearts and 10-13 points and three hearts showed a (semi-)balanced minimum. Despite that, North decided to jump to slam. West had decided to "wait in the bushes" with his solid suit. West started with the ace of diamonds and continued with the king, ruffed in dummy. With the trumps 2-2 or 3-1 the contract is easy, but when Terje Lichtwark played a trump to his queen, West discarded a diamond. South played a club to the king and played the ten of trumps, which East had to cover. Then Terje played a club to the ace and ruffed a club. It may seem natural to play the queen of spades now, but that would not work. Instead he played a spade to the king and a

club from dummy. East discarded a spade and South his remaining diamond. Now the situation was:

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

To fulfill his brilliancy, Terje played dummy's last club and trumped with his three. The spade queen overtaken with the ace left East helpless.

Shortlist:

- Bill Jacobs (Ron Klinger, 566.6)
- Ronny Jorstad (Knut Kjærnsrød, 566.11)
- Matias Rohrberg (Roland Wald, 567.11/568.15)
- Franck Multon (Brian Senior, 570.7)
- Sven-Åke Bjerregård (Micke Melander, 570.22)
- Carla Arnolds (Mark Horton, 570.20)

Gidwani Family Trust Defence of the Year

Winner: Tezcan Sen
(Erdal Sidar, journalist; from IBPA Bulletin 560.4)

ISTANBUL OPEN PAIRS
Erdal Sidar, Istanbul

Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	INT	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

This deal comes from the four-session 2011 Istanbul Open Pairs Championship; 186 pairs took part.

West led the diamond ace, spade ace and diamond king. Declarer, Orhan Ozcelik, ruffed and played a trump; East won the ace and continued with a third diamond, but Ozcelik ruffed and cashed all his trumps (unblocking the ten of clubs). West's last three cards were a master spade, a master diamond and the jack of clubs. A club to the ace and another to the nine made the contract. Had East returned a spade instead of a diamond, retaining his diamond guard, the position would have been more complex:

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

This time, on the last trump, West can let go his last diamond; had he discarded it earlier, a club would be forced at this point. Declarer throws the spade from dummy and East feels the pressure between the minors.

At another table, after the same start, East, Tezcan Sen (European Mixed Pairs champion in San Remo and World IMP Pairs champion in Verona) ducked the heart queen. Not wishing to allow the defence a chance to eliminate the diamond menace, declarer ruffed a spade to hand and continued with a high heart, discarding a spade from dummy. Again Sen ducked. On another high heart, declarer was presented with a dilemma: dummy remained with two spades, two diamonds and three clubs. A discard in either spades or diamonds would allow East to destroy the menace in that suit, so he threw the ten of clubs. Sen could now exit with the club queen, clipping the transportation channels for any squeeze. A brilliant stroke.

Declarer, however, missed his chance. Instead of a spade ruff after the queen of hearts holds the trick, if he comes to hand with a diamond ruff, that isolates the diamond menace as the cards lie and the guard squeeze works as before. That, however, was very difficult as if diamonds had been 4-4, East could eliminate the menace in the suit when in with the heart ace.

Shortlist:

- Norberto Bocchi (Jan van Cleeff, 563.9)
- Lynn Deas (Brian Senior, 564.3)
- Joel Wooldridge (Phillip Alder, 564.14)
- Balicki Slavek (Latala, 567.11)

IBPA Best Bid Hand of the Year

Winners: Alejandro Scanavino/Felipe Ferro
(Ana Roth/Fernando Lema, journalists; from IBPA
Bulletin 561.14)

OPATIJA 2011

Ana Roth & Fernando Lema, BA
"A Big Bull in an Unknown Rodeo"
(From El Gaucho Martin Fierro)

"I am a bull in my rodeo and a big bull in an unknown rodeo; I always think of myself as very good and if you want to try me, let others sing and we will see who is less."

With the words of the great Argentine poet José Hernández, we thus describe the excellent South American performance in the semifinal of the teams against a very powerful Dutch-Romanian team.

In a match that will surely make history in Argentine-Uruguayan youth bridge, four junior masters from South America overcame a negative result and won this semifinal. The last set began with Argentina-Uruguay down 25 IMPs and produced a lot of swings.

With three boards to play, and with the South American team 7 IMPs behind, Felipe Ferro-Alejandro Scanavino bid and made a grand slam that swung the match in their favour. The remaining boards added more IMPs and the match finished 134-104 in favour of the South Americans.

The last set was not for heart patients and Board 30 was a luxury not often seen.

Board 30. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

♠ J 9 5
♥ 10 9 5
♦ K J 4
♣ J 10 6 2

♠ 8 7 2
♥ A J 8 7 3 2
♦ A 7 2
♣ 8

♠ A K Q 10 4
♥ K 4
♦ 9 3
♣ A 7 5 3

♠ 6 3
♥ Q 6
♦ Q 10 8 6 5
♣ K Q 9 4

West	North	East	South
Agica	Garcia Da Rosa	Nistor	Crusizio
—	—	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Agica began with one no trump in order to later show an invitational hand with spade support. Nistor didn't think his hand deserved a slam invitation and closed proceedings with four spades. He made all 13 tricks. The bidding in the other room was very different...

West	North	East	South
Ferro	Drijver	Scanavino	Wackwitz
—	—	1♠	Pass
3♣ ¹	Pass	3♦ ²	Pass
4♣ ³	Pass	4♥ ⁴	Pass
4NT ⁵	Pass	5♦ ⁶	Pass
5♥ ⁷	Pass	6♥ ⁸	Pass
7♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

- 3 or 4 spades and an invitational hand
- Game force
- Club shortage
- Heart control, denies diamond control
- RKCB
- 3 Key Cards
- Asks for the trump queen
- I have it and the king doubleton or king-queen third of hearts.

Once Scanavino confirmed they were going to play game, Ferro began slam exploration. First he informed partner about the club shortage, and when he saw four hearts, he knew that his partner didn't have club wastage, and that he had heart control but no diamond control. Ferro continued by asking about key cards, promising diamond control. The three-key-card answer was evidently the ace-king of spades and the ace of clubs, so he continued by asking for the queen of spades, telling his partner they had all five key cards. Scanavino confirmed the spade queen and third-round heart control (he had already promised the king). Now Ferro could count to 13 and contracted for the grand slam, not concerned about their combined 25 HP. A jewel.

The lead was a trump; declarer only had to draw trumps and play on hearts...for a well-deserved 1510.

Shortlist:

Diego Brenner/Agustin Madala (Ana Roth/Fernando Lema, 561.10)

George Jacobs (Brent Manley, 568.5)

Marion Michielsen/Laura Dekkers (Roland Wald, 568.13)

Gary & Daffyd Jones (Patrick Jourdain, 570.6)*

*The Gary & Daffyd Jones auction was initially reported incorrectly in the July IBPA Bulletin (No. 570). The correct auction is reported by Patrick Jourdain in the Correspondence section of this number. The auction has also been corrected in the online version of the July IBPA Bulletin now on the IBPA website.

NEWS & VIEWS



Change in the WBF Victory Point Scales

A Scoring Committee was set up by the WBF President in January of this year. The committee was chaired by Ernesto d'Orsi of Brazil and co-chaired by Max Bavin (UK). Other Committee members are Henry Bethe (USA), Bart Bramley (USA), Peter Buchen (Aus), and Maurizio de Sacco (IT). After deep and long analysis, the committee proposed - and the WBF Executive Committee accepted - the following:

1. The adoption of a 20-point victory point scale with the following features:
 - The scales are continuous and given to two decimal places
 - Subject to a cap, each IMP margin translates to a specific VP award
 - Each additional IMP in the winner's margin is worth no more than the previous one
 - Relative to the current WBF scales, the "blitz" margins in the new scale will be approximately equivalent to the 25-2 in the old scales. There is no reduction of VPs for the loser when the margin exceeds the blitz margin.
2. It is recommended that the new scales be used in the next World Bridge Championship (including Youth tournaments) and be available to all NBOs by the end of 2012.
3. Also, the Committee will prepare new "discrete" scales (whole numbers) to be used by NBOs if they wish to during the transition from the old to the new VP scales.
4. On the World Bridge Federation website (www.worldbridge.org), the Committee will publish the "continuous" and "discrete" scales for the most-used number of boards per match and will publish them together with instructions on how to determine VP scales for other sizes of matches. Also on the website, using the actual algorithm, users will be able to enter the number of boards and the preferred scale type to read, print or download the result.
5. Future work by the Committee will include consideration of aggregate score, the IMP scale and matchpoint scoring, although not necessarily with a view to suggest changes.

IBPA Broadcast Media Sub-Committee

Following an approach from Jade Barrett of the USA in Lille and after consulting IBPA Officers, the chairman and president support the following ideas:

1. That IBPA's current emphasis on service to bridge columnists in newspapers and magazines needs widening to give a greater service to those in the broadcast media, namely TV, radio, and internet-based

media which include moving pictures and blogs involving the public.

2. That we initiate this change by asking Jan van Cleeff, our Executive Vice-President, to launch a sub-committee consisting of himself, Jade Barrett, and at least one other with this remit:

"To prepare advice for the IBPA Executive on how to expand its services to members of the broadcast media, namely TV, radio, and the internet with moving pictures or blogs involving the public."

A Third Vulnerability

Norberto Bocchi of Italy has suggested a change in scoring with the introduction of a third vulnerability, "Super Vulnerable" or "Azure", where penalties and bonuses would be increased, to wit, plus 700 for a super-vulnerable game and 200 per undertrick.

Less provocatively and more reasonably, he also suggests the introduction of timer clocks similar to those in use in chess.

Flux in Italian Bridge?

Rumours about the makeup of future Italian teams were rife in Lille. We heard from three sources (none of them the principals!) that Duboin and Sementa are finished as a partnership and that Madala/Bocchi will play for Argentina in the future. These decisions, if true, may be reconsidered upon mature reflection - the Italian team was very disappointed at its early exit in the quarterfinals by 1 IMP at the hands of Poland. It is difficult to imagine that having Lorenzo Lauria in the team would not have made the difference. Maria Teresa Lavazza, please come back!

Lavazza Coffee

One glaring omission in the World Mind Sports Games in Lille was the lack of the free Lavazza coffee offered at previous venues/events (not to mention the lovely barristas!). With the retirement of Madame Lavazza, we may have seen the last of this much-appreciated feature.

Help Wanted in the USA

We are looking for a technically-minded sales person who is capable of selling and supporting our duplication and scoring equipment in the USA.

Please send application, or request for more information, to
per@jannersten.com.

www.jannersten.com



Correspondence

The Editor reserves the right to abridge and/or edit correspondence
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Dear Sirs (*the Scoring Committee - Ed.*),

I read with interest the announcement in the Daily Bulletin and applaud the idea of each IMP having equal values (*this is not the case - each IMP has value, but not equal value - Ed.*). My suspicion is that VPs to two decimal places will not be popular among your average players at club level or at national level. I understand that you are all experts in this field, but would it be possible to have a simpler approach with the same objective (every IMP counts)?

Why not make each IMP=1 VP. For each match, each side starts at 100 VPs. Winners add the net IMPs winning margin to this total with a cap, Losers deduct the net IMPs loss from this total. The calculation is simple and does not need to have a specific scale for each set of boards, just a note of the caps for each side.

The Winner/Loser columns in I below use the current WBF scales with different caps to reflect the present 25-0 scale. The columns in II use the current WBF scales with the caps at 25-2.

Cap	I		II	
	Winner	Loser	Winner	Loser
8-bd match:	130	49	145	55
10-bd match:	137	44	150	50
12-bd match:	140	38	155	45
16-bd match:	146	28	165	35
20-bd match:	153	20	172	28
24-bd match:	157	12	179	21

Simple example: Team A beats B by 23 Imps: Team A 123 VPs, Team B 77 VPs. This is easy to calculate, has no decimal points and no minus scores. Using the 25-2 caps means the scores will always total 200.

Trust this might be helpful to you.

Regards, Ron Klinger, Northbridge, NSW

We forwarded Ron's email to the WBF Scoring Committee members with our own comments, especially regarding the accessibility of the method. Bart Bramley, one of the committee members, replies with its view:

Hi JC,

I disagree strongly with "all IMPs count the same". While it fulfills one of our goals ("all IMPs count"), it

violates another ("IMPs near zero count more"). Simplicity is a desirable feature in a scoring system, but your suggestion goes too far.

We have used scales identical to these in USBF events for about 10 years, with no serious complaints of which I am aware. Players have a fine "feel" for how they are doing, as the 0-20 range is the same as it always was in ACBL events, except with finer precision.

The USBF scales were created by a committee consisting of Henry Bethe, Chip Martel, Jeff Rubens and myself. Does that include enough "top players" for you? While the addition of some of our younger stars would have been nice, I seriously doubt that their mathematical sense is a lot different from the math sense of the "oldies". Please note that nearly all members of both committees have a strong mathematical background.

Your idea completely removes the concept that beating the current opponent should contain value. Rather, it reduces a round-robin to one long match against a rotating cast of opponents. Piling on against weak opponents is one of the essential features of doing well.

We agree that accumulation of VPs should stop at a certain margin, the "blitz point". To recognize the existence of the blitz point is to acknowledge that there is a point of diminishing returns in a blowout win. Where we disagree is in the value of the IMPs on the way to the blitz point. Our committee deems it obvious that the value of IMPs should decrease gradually until it becomes zero, rather than abruptly changing from "full value" to "no value".

Regards, Bart Bramley, Dallas

John:

It is desirable to prevent 'dumping' matches by framing qualification rules effectively. Similarly, one should attempt to prevent burglary by buying strong locks for your front door. By expelling the eight badminton players involved in dumping, the Olympics authorities have made it clear that they deem such behaviour as unsporting. The Badminton World Federation accused the players of 'not using their best efforts to win a match' and 'conducting themselves in a manner that is clearly abusive or detrimental to the sport'. There

was even talk that badminton might be banned from future Olympics as a result. Those who hope that bridge might one day become an Olympic sport should perhaps refrain from openly advocating 'dumping', even going so far as to describe it as 'sportsmanlike'.

In the 1969 Ryder Cup, Tony Jacklin faced Jack Nicklaus in the final match and needed a two-and-a-half foot putt on the 18th green to halve the match and tie the event. Nicklaus picked up his opponent's ball, conceding the putt. 'I didn't think you'd miss it, but I didn't want to give you the chance,' he said. It was one of the world's greatest displays of sportmanship. To use the same word for deliberately dumping a match is inappropriate.

David Bird, Eastleigh, Hants., UK

Dear John,

In the July Bulletin page 6 you published the wrong auction for Gary and Daffyd Jones reaching four spades on the 4-3 fit and very different from the one actually published in the Daily Bulletin. These were the hands:

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

The correct auction was:

West	East
Gary	Dafydd
—	1♣
1♦	2♠
3♦	3♥
3♠	4♦
4♠	Pass

I acknowledge my contribution to the error for having initially missed out the three-diamond bid in writing down the auction but that omission was spotted well before the Daily Bulletin was produced and the correct auction was published. As the auction is a candidate for an IBPA Award it is important that you ensure the one published in the printed version of the Dublin Daily Bulletin is used for the adjudication and NOT the inaccurate one published in the IBPA Bulletin.

Yours, Patrick Jourdain, Cardiff

The error has been corrected in the online version of the July IBPA Bulletin. - Ed.

Dear Katie (*recognising the true power behind the throne rather than the figurehead! - Ed.*),

I am surprised by the award for the best-bid hand. On a diamond lead, seven hearts is not at all a good contract - you need hearts 3-2 with the queen onside plus trumps either 3-2 or singleton jack, about 25%. On a club lead, you need: trumps 3-2 (or singleton jack) plus hearts 3-2 (or singleton queen); or jack

fourth of trumps onside plus hearts 3-2 onside. I make this about 58%, nowhere near enough given that they might not reach six at the other table. Or is one supposed to assume that they lead a "safe" trump?

I would be interested in the views of the judging panel.

Richard Fleet, Birkhamsted, UK

Hi John,

Did you really get authors right on the European Junior Pairs in the August Bulletin? I know at least one of the hands reported there was mine. Further on, I did send a quite large file with hands to Barry Rigal. Working with the Daily Bulletin in Denmark were Jos Jacobs, Patrick Jourdain and myself. Then we got some contributions from our Danish friends.

Best regards, Micke Melander, Stockholm

Patrick also informed me that one of the deals was his. Something must have been lost in translation between Swedish, Danish, Flemish, Gaelic, Dutch and English. Seriously, the deals attributed to Herman De Wael should have been attributed to Patrick and Micke respectively. It is always a problem when deals are sent to me by a third party with no other attribution and, as was the case here, no attribution in the Daily Bulletins. Daily Bulletin editors please take note: attribute all articles, even your own - you might win an award! - Ed.

John,

I read your thoughtful editorial in Bulletin 571 with interest. However, your reference to "this day of increased mobility" begs the question. It is one thing for players who move from one country to another to be given the chance of representing the new country of residence, quite another for a wealthy sponsor to recruit top rank players and pay for them to move. Even at the top level, bridge is still fundamentally an amateur game where players are proud to represent their country, not mercenaries available for hire.

Richard Fleet, Berkhamsted, UK

Saying bridge is still fundamentally an amateur game at the top because players are proud to represent their country is akin to saying football is an amateur game because players play in the World Cup and are proud to represent their country. We think both are professional games at the top and bridge players, like football players, are indeed mercenaries for hire. It is only because FIFA has such strict rules on eligibility that there is not the mobility in football (at the national level) that there is in bridge. And while I would be happier to see HH represent Norway (as I'm certain would the Norwegians), I cannot begrudge them following the Euros to Monaco since they've done it within the existing rules. If you don't like it, as many do not, change the rules. There is still time to do that before nationality in bridge becomes meaningless. - Ed.