



BULLETIN

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Editorial

The European Champions' Cup continues to struggle to find an identity. Originally conceived as the successor to the Phillip Morris-sponsored Europa Cup and the bridge equivalent to UEFA's Champions League, with elite clubs from all over Europe competing, it has regressed into a holiday weekend for the teams involved. Qualification for the Champions' Cup is by nation, the top finishers in the previous European Team Championships being invited to send their NBO's club champions. All very fine in theory but for the fact that many nations simply do not have a club championship - other forms of competition prevail, such as a Premier League, a national knockout competition, international team trials, and so on. In those (and other) cases, the NBO nominates the team. Since the third edition, the top ten finishers (it was previously eight) in the most-recent European Championship, as well as the defending champions and the host country, have been invited.

Thus we had 12 teams competing in Eilat, Israel this fall for the 11th edition of the event. These were the top ten finishers, in order, in Dublin in the European Championship: Monaco, The Netherlands, Italy, England, Poland, Germany, Israel, Sweden, Bulgaria, and Russia. Italy had a second team as defenders and Israel a second team as hosts. Italian 'clubs' have won nine (Angelini/TC Parioli, six, and Lavazza/GS Allegra, three) of the 11 events held to date. Since they are both usually represented by national team members, the only chance of another team's winning is to send its national team as well, as happened when Germany won in 2006 and The Netherlands in 2010.

This year, we had a new trend established - a sponsor buying the national team of a country other than his own! Let's take a look at the clubs that competed, the countries they represented and the nationalities of their players (the full breakdown by nationality is on page 19). Sixty-four players competed on the 12 teams; of these, 15 were 'imports'. Admittedly, Madala (ARG/ITA), Sandqvist (SWE/ENG), Elinescu (ROM/GER) and Wladow (POL/GER) are legitimate residents and/or citizens of their adopted nations and have represented them in World Championships. But doesn't it feel wrong to have two 2011 Dutch World Champions in the Russian side, a 2012 Hungarian World Champion playing for Germany and a Spanish sponsor/player buying the entire Swedish team? And Helness/Helgemo representing their third country (Monaco, after Norway and Italy) in this event? How about Meckwell playing for Ireland or Zia-Martel for France? Do I hear a bid?

We have no problem with the players accepting Euro to play for whoever they like or the sponsors distributing those Euro to acquire the players - it's the EBL which needs to reassess the goals of this competition and either tighten the participation rules or make it a national, not a club, competition. Otherwise, the event is in danger of becoming meaningless, a minor invitational tournament.

A simple solution would be to invite the top 12 national teams from the previous European Championship (no host, no defending champion). Hold the event every other year, in the years with no European Championship, and make the Champions' Cup the EBL qualifier for the Bermuda Bowl, continuing the qualification process begun at the European Championship. That would be meaningful.

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Screen displays to go along with these instructions can be viewed in the pdf sent with the December 2012 Bulletin. Note that minor variations may occur depending on the browser and the browser version you are using. **Dues are unchanged for 2013: US\$42 and an extra US\$45 for a printed copy of the Bulletin.**

FRISCO WINNERS

Reisinger BAM Teams - Fulvio Fantoni, Geir Helgemo, Tor Helness, Franck Multon, Claudio Nunes, Pierre Zimmermann.

Senior KO Teams - Peter Boyd, Gaylor Kasle, Larry Kozlove, Steve Robinson, Fred Stewart, Kit Woolsey. **Open BAM Teams**

- Walid el-Ahmady, Mike Becker, Steve Garner, Tarek Sadek, Aubrey Strul, Howard Weinstein. **Women’s BAM Teams** -

Laura Dekkers, Joann Glasson, Marion Michielson, Sylvia Moss, Cecilia Rimstedt, Meike Wortel.

North American Swiss Teams - Dennis Bilde, Lars Blakset, Anders Hagen, Apolinary Kowalski, Reese Milner, Jacek Romanski. **Blue Ribbon Pairs** - John Diamond, Brian Platnick. **Open Pairs** -

Ziz Mahmood, Chip Martel. **Women’s Pairs** - Victoria Gromova, Tatiana Ponomoreva. **Senior**

Mixed Pairs - Kitty Cooper, Steve Cooper



**I LEFT MY HEART IN...
THE NABC IN SAN FRANCISCO
Barry Rigal, NYC
Phillip Alder, Hobe Sound, FL
Eric Rodwell, Clearwater Beach, FL
John Gowdy, Markham, ON**

Tough as Nails (BR)

On this deal from the Nail Life Master Pairs, Wafik Abdou sat East and defended against three hearts after a revealing auction.

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 9 5 ♥ 10 6 3 ♦ 2 ♣ A Q J 10 6 5 4</p> <p>♠ J 8 7 6 4 2 ♠ K Q 3 ♥ Q 7 ♥ 8 4 2 ♦ K J 7 ♦ A Q 10 5 4 ♣ 9 2 ♣ K 3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ A 10 ♥ A K J 9 5 ♦ 9 8 6 3 ♣ 8 7</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 7 4 3 ♥ Q 10 8 5 3 ♦ 10 9 5 4 2 ♣ —</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ A Q 6 ♥ A 7 6 ♦ K 8 7 ♣ 10 9 8 5</p>
---	--

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	INT ¹
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣ ²	Pass	3♥
All Pass			
1. 12-14			
2. Invitational			

West led the seven of diamonds. Abdou knew that declarer had five hearts with a likely pattern of 5-3-3-2 and the fact that his partner had not led a club was a hint that the suit was distributed 7=2=2=2 around the table. Abdou won the diamond lead and shifted to the king of spades. Declarer won and took the club finesse, and Abdou ducked his king!

Declarer now guessed well by playing the ace and king of hearts, dropping West's queen. Leaving the last trump outstanding, declarer repeated the club finesse and Abdou won, cashed his spade, then played a diamond. Declarer had to ruff in dummy and when he led a club, Abdou could ruff in. Even though declarer could overruff, he was left with two diamond losers for down one. Plus 50 was good for 24 out of 38 matchpoints.

Pedal to the Metal (PA)

Zia Mahmood and Chip Martel were lying only 30th after the first day of the Nail Life Master Open Pairs. Two big games – 67% and 60% – helped them jump over the field to win by nearly two boards (on a 90

top). Second were the young Europeans Cecilia Rimstedt from Sweden and Meike Wortel from the Netherlands. This was Board 2 of the final session, from *The New York Times* bridge column:

Dealer North. NS Vul.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 7 4 3 ♥ Q 10 8 5 3 ♦ 10 9 5 4 2 ♣ —</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ K J 9 8 5 ♥ J 9 ♦ A 3 ♣ K Q J 2</p>
--	--

West	North	East	South
—	Martel		Zia
—	Pass	1♠	Pass
Pass	Double	Redouble	INT
All Pass			

After a natural auction (East's redouble was aggressive), Zia was in one notrump. West led the three of hearts, lowest from an odd number of cards, which Zia knew was five. Declarer took East's jack with his ace and ran the ten of clubs, West discarding a diamond. To hold South to seven tricks, East had to take this trick and shift to the jack of spades (or the king), but he returned his last heart.

Declarer won with dummy's king, led a diamond to his king and played a diamond to the jack and ace. Now East led the jack of spades, but it was too late. Declarer won with his queen, played a diamond to dummy's queen, returned a spade to his ace and ran the nine of clubs. East won with his queen and cashed two spade winners, but at trick 12 had to lead away from the king-two of clubs into dummy's ace-seven. Plus 120 was worth 69.5 matchpoints out of 90. Plus 90 would have scored only 29.5 matchpoints, a difference of nearly half a board.

Problem? No Problem! (BR)

Dealer South. NS Vul.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ A 8 5 ♥ 6 4 3 2 ♦ K 5 4 2 ♣ 7 4</p> <p>♠ Q 6 ♥ A J 9 5 ♦ A J 9 3 ♣ J 10 9</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ J 10 7 4 ♥ — ♦ Q 10 8 6 ♣ K 8 6 3 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ K 9 3 2 ♥ K Q 10 8 7 ♦ 7 ♣ A Q 5</p>
--	--

West	North	East	South
—	Donn	—	Lee
Pass	3♣	Pass	1♥
All Pass			4♥

As we came back to score up our last Swiss teams match, I was grumbling that our opponents had caught a lucky break by staying out of a game that could not be made because of a bad trump break. Fortunately, I had not taken into account the resourcefulness of my teammates – Josh Donn and Roger Lee.

Donn's three clubs showed a heart raise of four or more cards with less than limit-raise values. West led a helpful ten of clubs (Rusinow). Lee won and led a diamond up. West took the ace of diamonds and exited with a diamond (yes, a passive club makes declarer's task harder, but he can survive). Lee played the king of diamonds, pitching a spade from hand, and led a heart from dummy. East's discard revealed the bad trump split, and Lee put up the king, taken by West with the ace. A second club went to Lee's ace, and South followed with a club ruff, diamond ruff, the king of spades and a spade to the ace. This was the end position:

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

Lee ruffed a diamond to hand and exited with his losing spade. West had to ruff his partner's winner and lead into the heart tenace at trick 12. Contract made!

Senior Snoozing (BR)

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

I was given this problem by West as a mea culpa. You lead the nine of clubs against four spades: three, five, ace. Declarer plays a spade to the king and follows with the jack of hearts: six, eight, queen. Over to you.

This is a textbook example of a Merrimack Coup. Declarer's decision to finesse in hearts makes it more likely than not that he has the king-doubleton. Declarer might have something like ♠AQxxxx ♥Kx ♦Jxxx ♣A. If so, you must shift to the king of diamonds right now.

If instead you exit in clubs, declarer will ruff, draw trumps and play the king of hearts, which your partner must duck. Declarer then ducks a diamond, ruffs the club return and plays a diamond to the ace and another diamond to set up his jack for his tenth trick. The full deal was something like this:

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

In fact, however, the ♦J and ♦10 were switched, so Rip Van Winkle lived to fight another day!

Take Care (BR)

When Jeff Aker, Doug Simson, Bryan Maksymetz and Larry Chao won the Compact Knockout Teams, this deal materially helped their cause.

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

West led his singleton spade to the king and Aker's (South's) ace. A diamond to the queen and ace allowed East to give his partner a spade ruff. Aker ruffed the ace-of-clubs continuation and led a heart from hand.

West correctly split his heart honours, so Aker took the ten with dummy's king, and finessed in diamonds. He could then cash the king of diamonds to pitch dummy's spade and reach this ending, East-West having won two tricks and North-South five.

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

Aker ruffed his diamond as West pitched a club, then ruffed a club to hand. Now declarer must be careful. If Aker leads his top spade, West ruffs high and returns a trump to leave South with a spade loser. Instead, Aker played his low spade. It would not have helped West to ruff high because Aker's hand would then have been high. So West discarded another club. Aker ruffed the spade in dummy, ruffed a club to hand and cashed the ace of hearts for his tenth trick.

It may seem that East can beat the contract by returning the jack of spades when in with the ace of diamonds - not so. Curiously, it takes a club lead to beat it.

One Trump Too Many (PA)

The winners of the Mitchell Open Board-a-Match Teams were Michael Becker, Aubrey Strul, Steve Garner, Howard Weinstein, Walid el-Ahmady and Tarek Sadek.

Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West	North <i>Weinstein</i>	East	South <i>Garner</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

The winners gained a win on this deal from the final session when Garner recognized an important trump reduction play.

Both Souths were in four hearts, and the play started identically. West led a low club. East took the trick and returned a club, West winning, cashing the ace of diamonds and continuing with another diamond. Each declarer played dummy's jack and ruffed East's queen. Against Tarek Sadek and Walid el-Ahmady, South now played a heart to dummy's queen and a heart to his ace and had to finish down one.

Steve Garner realized that he could pick up four hearts to the jack in the East hand as long as he reduced his trump length to the same as East's. Declarer first cashed his ace of hearts, then played a heart to dummy's queen. If everyone had followed suit, Garner would have led a spade to his ace, drawn the missing trump, and claimed. But when West discarded, declarer played the king of diamonds from the dummy, East and South both pitching spades. Now declarer ruffed a diamond, cashed his high club and led a spade to dummy's king to give this position:

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

South played dummy's high diamond and had to win the last three tricks to make his contract.

Third Hand's Signal (PA)

One of the arts of bridge is judging your opponents, not just in the bidding, but also in the play. Can you trust their signals? Can you decide whether a signal is attitude, count or suit preference...or none of the above? This deal occurred during the final session of the Nail Life Master Pairs and Smith Women's Life Master Pairs. Try it as a single-dummy problem first.

Dealer North. Both Vul.

♠ K 8 5 3
♥ 6 3 2
♦ 9 8 6 5 3
♣ J

♠ 9 7
♥ A K Q 10 8 4
♦ A Q
♣ A 7 5

West	North	East	South
—	Pass	3♠	4♥
All Pass			

This was the common auction. Almost every West led the king of clubs and East dropped the six using standard signals. How would you continue? This was the full deal:

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

At many tables, declarer won with the ace of clubs, ruffed a club in the dummy, played a trump to hand, and ruffed another club. However, East overruffed and beat the contract by shifting to a diamond or – riskier – by cashing the ace of spades and giving partner a spade ruff.

South can see five possible losers: two spades (but he knows the suit is 7-0), one diamond (but the finesse might be working) and two clubs (but he can perhaps ruff one or two in the dummy). The crux of the matter is how East signals at trick one.

First, given the singleton jack in the dummy and knowing that South will be taking the trick with his ace, most Easts will give count. Second, the king of diamonds is likely to be with West. East might have opened one spade if he'd had it. But let's play on...

South cashes the ace of hearts and ruffs a club at trick three, noting East's signal indicating an initial doubleton. If South believes this, he should plan for a squeeze-endplay by running his trumps. And when West turns up with two hearts, declarer assumes West's initial hand shape was 0=2=4=7. With one trump to go, this will probably be the position:

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

On the last heart, let's say that West throws another diamond. South now exits with his club. West cashes three club tricks, but then must lead into South's ace-queen of diamonds. What if West comes down to a singleton diamond? South cashes his ace; if the king drops, fine. If not, South continues with his queen of diamonds, endplaying East, who must then concede a trick to dummy's king of spades. It does not matter which defender holds the king of diamonds.

Only three players made four hearts. One succeeded on a diamond lead into the ace-queen and another on a defensive miscue following a declarer misplay.

I was despairing of finding someone who played it correctly. But Gila Guttmann of Boca Raton FL, playing with Gail Bell of King of Prussia PA, did everything right. The auction was as given at the beginning, West did lead the king of clubs, and Guttmann did take one club ruff, ran trumps and endplayed West for a near top. I hope Gila Guttmann makes the IBPA's short-list for the best-played deal of the year because many big-name players did not make this contract.

Lev to the Rescue (PA)

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Bocchi</i>		<i>Madala</i>	
—	Pass	Pass	1♠
3♦	4♦	5♦	6♣
Pass	7♠	Double	All Pass
West	North	East	South
	<i>Gawrys</i>		<i>Lev</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1♠
2♦	2♠ ¹	3♦	4♣
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣ ²	Pass	6♣
Pass	Pass	Double	Redouble
All Pass			
1. Four spades			
2. One key card			

In a board-a-match event, your team's only job is to outscore the opponents on each deal. Once in a blue moon, though, when you hear the two results, it isn't clear which team has gained the point.



The Golden Gate Bridge and San Francisco

This was Board 11 of the final session of the Mitchell Open BAM.

Agustin Madala felt confident in doubling seven spades, but was soon disillusioned. With the queen of clubs in the slot, declarer brought home all 13 tricks.

At the other table, when Piotr Gawrys did not cuebid four diamonds, Sam Lev used a psychic Roman Key Card Blackwood to hide his void before jumping to six spades. East unwisely doubled, and Lev redoubled. West led a low heart, the ten bringing out East's ace. Again, basically whatever Lev did was going to work and he gained an overtrick.

So, which scores higher, seven spades doubled, making or six spades redoubled and made with an overtrick? Surely you have those scores on the tips of your tongues! No? Well, seven spades doubled and made is 1770; six spades redoubled with an overtrick is 1820 – Lev had his teammates covered!

Different Strokes (ER)

Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Welland</i>	<i>E. Rodwell</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>D. Rodwell</i>
—	—	1♠	Pass
1NT ¹	Pass	2♣ ²	Pass
2♦ ³	Pass	3♣ ⁴	Pass
3♦ ⁵	Pass	3♥ ⁶	Pass
3♠ ⁷	Pass	3NT ⁸	Pass
4♣ ⁹	Pass	4♦ ¹⁰	Pass
4♥ ¹¹	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♥ ¹¹	Pass	5♠	Pass
5NT ¹¹	Pass	6♦	Pass
6♥ ¹¹	Pass	6NT	Pass
7NT	All Pass		

1. Game forcing relay
2. Diamonds
3. Relay, shape enquiry
4. Showing 5=3=4=1
5. Slam interest in spades?
6. No
7. Key cards?
8. One
9. Queen of spades?
10. No
11. Further relays

This deal, played in the first final session of the Kaplan Blue Ribbon Pairs, presents a stark contrast between the bidding styles of two different pairs. The first pair, Roy Welland and Sabine Auken, played it against my wife Donna and me.

Except for the bid of 7NT, all of Welland's bids were relays, asking for information and description of the East hand. By the end of the auction, Welland knew everything Auken had, including the jack of spades and the king of hearts but no queen, plus her actual holding in diamonds.

With clubs 3-3, the play was much quicker than the bidding. There are actually 15 tricks on the deal

At another table, Richie Coren and Bobby Levin had an auction that did not leave the opponents exhausted of Pass cards.

West	North	East	South
<i>Levin</i>		<i>Coren</i>	
—	—	1♠	Pass
7NT	All Pass		

You Might Think (JG)...

...that you can play well enough to be on the Zimmermann Team. Well, let's see if you can find the same play Claudio Nunes did with three boards to go in the Reisinger Board-a-Match Teams, which, by the way, many feel is the toughest bridge event in the world. How tough is it? Tough enough that three of the last four World Champion teams (Nickell, Diamond, Sweden) did not make it to the final. Only The Netherlands made it.

Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

The situation is that you need to win one board of the three remaining to take the championship. Here is Board 25 of the sixth and final session:

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Willenken</i>
—	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Willenken traded on the position and vulnerability to open two notrump and was soon in game. The spade spots were such that Helgemo could surrender a second spade trick to declarer and beat three notrump with two club tricks and three spade tricks; plus 50 to Monaco.

West	North	East	South
<i>Zia</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Martel</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1♣ ¹
1♠	Pass ²	2♦	Pass
Pass	Double ³	All Pass	

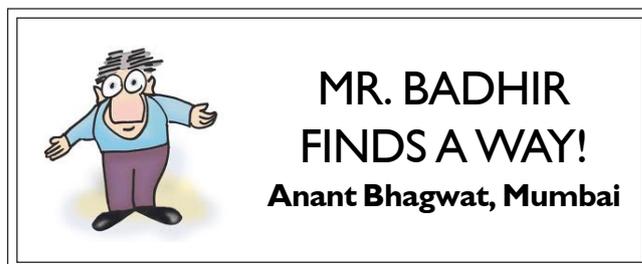
1. 14+ natural or 15+ balanced, FIR
2. 0-6 HCP
3. 4-6, short diamonds

Nunes also traded on the vulnerability, but to pass two diamonds doubled. When he led the ace of diamonds, he could see five defensive tricks - where would the sixth come from? Should he play for two spade tricks, two heart tricks or two club tricks? Can you guess which card Nunes led at trick two?

Realising there was no rush to decide which side suit to play, Nunes continued with the diamond six to dummy's queen! Even looking at all four hands, this was not a play that had even occurred to me. However, look at the beauty of it - this puts declarer in the dummy to reveal something of his outside strength and coincidentally, partner's; and it also retains trump control, allowing you to be on lead after the second high diamond.

Yes, you may play the ace, king and a third diamond to receive a signal from partner, but when declarer wins the third diamond and immediately leads the club queen, you have to decide whether to win it or not to shut out dummy's clubs with no count signal yet from partner. Had declarer held one spade, four hearts and two clubs, you'd need to duck one club to ensure getting your third heart trick.

On the actual deal, declarer won the diamond queen and played a club from dummy: seven, six (high=odd number), queen, ace. Nunes cashed the king of diamonds and received the two of clubs from partner (suit preference). It was now a simple matter to cash the three major-suit winners for one off, plus 200, a win on the board and the title of 2013 Reisinger champions.



Bridge is a stimulating game. The level of competition is not relevant for tests of skill to occur. Even a practice game can throw up a stunning hand...as here:

Dealer South. EW Vul.

♠ K 2
 ♥ A Q 4 3 2
 ♦ J 5
 ♣ K Q 5 2

♠ Q 6 4
 ♥ J 5
 ♦ K Q 10 9 2
 ♣ 9 4 3

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♥	1♠	INT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

The bidding was typical of rubber bridge, but the play is the interesting part. West led the ace of spades and continued with the spade three, dummy's king winning. South could see the hopelessness of his task. With three aces missing, it would be a tough task to score nine tricks. Even if he could establish diamonds for four tricks, he would have no entry to cash them.

Still, he soldiered on with the diamond jack and when that was ducked, continued with the diamond five from dummy. East ducked the second diamond as well, but won the third diamond with the ace (West discarding a heart). East shifted to a low club, won by West with the ace; West continued with a low club. Take it over from here.

Winning this trick in dummy, our actual South played a small heart from dummy. When East discarded a spade, he was stunned into silence. Declarer could win two heart tricks, but had to concede one off. Could you have done better?

The contract can be made with an amazing play. It requires keen table presence. When East won his diamond ace, why did he not continue spades? Obviously, he did not have a further entry to cash his spades. This marked the heart king and club ace in West's hand. South therefore needed to enlist the opponents' help in making the contract. He needed to force them to provide him an with entry to his hand. How could he have done it?

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

There were two ways for South to succeed. Going back to the trick when West won the club ace, one way was for South to unblock the king from dummy! West has to continue clubs, lest he give South an entry to his hand. South wins the club queen and exits with a club from dummy. If East wins the club jack, he'd have to play a spade or diamond to give South the much-needed entry. East could also have unblocked, playing the club jack under the queen to avoid having to play a spade.

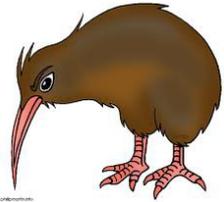
This brilliant play makes no difference to South. He continues with a club from dummy as planned. In that case, West has to win with the club ten and he is end-played. With only hearts left, he'd have had to back a small heart, which South can run to his jack.

If West can see this end-play coming, he can also unblock in clubs. But that would also have had a fatal effect: South would have secured an entry with the nine of clubs and again would make his contract.

The second way is a little more mundane. South does not unblock clubs, but wins the second club and ducks the third if the defence allows it. If they do not, the nine of clubs is the entry to hand, as before.

Of course, South did not play like this; neither did he explain the winning line of play. Why not, you may ask? The answer is that this line occurred to me after about 12 hours. You see, I was South!

27th NZ
NATIONAL
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The Kingsgate Hotel, Te Rapa, Hamilton, was again the venue for the National Bridge Congress. It began with the inter-provincial championships, won by Auckland. Next came the New Zealand Pairs, won by Liam Milne

and Michael Whibley, two young players who learned their bridge in New Zealand, but who now live in Sydney. Finally came the New Zealand Teams and a variety of events for seniors, intermediates and juniors.

My team of Daniel Skipper, Jane Skipper, Tim Schumacher and Steve Boughey were happy to finish fifteenth in a strong field of 110, and so qualify for the final knockout stages. This deal helped:

Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

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

1. 5+/5+ in hearts and diamonds

My partner's two-club call allowed East easy entry into the auction and paved the way for the profitable sacrifice of five diamonds doubled, which would have been defeated by three tricks for plus 500 our way. Hence North chanced bidding on.

West led a low diamond, taken by dummy's ace. If East held the heart ace, South would lose only one trick in hearts and one in diamonds, but was this probable? West likely had the ace or queen of hearts for his bidding and would probably have led one from the queen, but would be reluctant to do so from the ace. I decided that the ace was with West and played accordingly.

After the diamond ace, I drew trumps and played three rounds of clubs, ruffing the third, crossed back to dummy with a trump, then ruffed the fourth club. East was put on play with the ten of diamonds and had to lead a heart. I ducked and when the queen was favourably located, secured 11 tricks.

Later we ran into Milner and Whibley, playing with Alan Grant and Anthony Ker. They beat us in a match that was close for a while and made it to the final where they in turn lost to the champions, who were also last year's winners: Ashley Bach/Michael Cornell, Peter Newell/Martin Reid and GeO Tislevoll/Michael Ware, all international players.



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

641. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

West began the defence with two top hearts. Declarer ruffed the second round and played the ace and queen of trumps only to see East discard. As he could not afford to any more trumps, declarer ran the queen of diamonds. Luckily for declarer, East took this with the king and East switched to the queen of clubs. This bright development saw declarer win the king of clubs, draw trumps and claim ten tricks.

West suggested, rather firmly, that a heart continuation would have defeated the contract. "That's not so," said North. "As diamonds are 3-3, declarer can ruff the heart continuation and cash his top clubs followed by two diamond winners, ending in dummy. Then he ruffs dummy's last heart with his remaining trump. Declarer will then have taken two top trumps, three heart ruffs, two diamonds and the two top clubs – a total of nine tricks. Dummy's king of trumps will be the tenth trick. All your suggested defence does is to force declarer to play for a successful dummy reversal!"

642. Dealer South. Both Vul.

North's leap to four clubs (see top of next column) promised a six-card spade suit and club shortage along with some slam interest. South cue bid his ace of diamonds and, lacking a heart control, North signed off in four spades. However, when South cue bid his ace of hearts, North knew what to do.

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

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

West led the queen of clubs to dummy's ace. Declarer drew trumps and led a diamond to the ace to ruff his last club in dummy, thereby eliminating that suit. Next, he returned to hand with the king of diamonds and ruffed a diamond. Unluckily, the suit broke 4-2. Declarer now tried a heart to his queen because if that card held he would have made an overtrick. When West won the trick with the king of hearts he was now end-played. A heart return would have been into the ace-ten tenace while a third round of clubs would have conceded a ruff-and-discard, seeing one of dummy's hearts disappear. West's third option, a fourth round of diamonds, would have seen declarer ruff it and cross to hand with the ace of hearts to discard dummy's last heart on the established diamond.

643. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

South judged that he was too strong to open either one heart or two notrump but he was not strong enough to open two clubs and to rebid a game-forcing two hearts. Instead he chose the sequence that promised a balanced hand of 23 or 24 points.

West led the queen of spades and East played an encouraging card. Declarer won the king of spades and crossed to dummy with a diamond to lead the jack of hearts. East rose with the ace of trumps and exited with the ten of diamonds. Thanks to East's withholding the ace of spades at trick one, declarer could no longer make his contract. Even if he cashed the ace and king of clubs before playing a low trump to the ten and queen, East would have got off play with a low spade and received a minor-suit ruff.

"You could afford to lose one spade and two hearts," said our intractable dummy. "If trumps were no worse than 3-1 and there is no defensive ruff, then just about any approach works. Instead, you should have been concerned about a 4-0 trump break. The best line at trick two is to lead a low trump towards dummy. Here, West shows out and dummy's jack is taken by East's queen. No doubt East would then cash the ace of spades and switch to a club. You would take that with the ace and play a low trump to dummy's ten. East would take this with the ace and play another club, which you would win. Next you would cross to dummy with the queen of diamonds to finesse the eight of trumps. Your king would draw the last trump and you would have the rest of the tricks and your contract. Notice too, that you would have made the game also if West held the four outstanding trumps – as long as he could not get a ruff as he would make only make the ace and queen of trumps to go with the defence's spade trick. Even simpler, a spade exit by you at trick two would have severed defensive transportation lines."

644. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

As South promised a six-card suit for his rebid of two hearts, North had an easy raise to game. West cashed ace and king of spades before continuing with the queen of spades. This struck East as quite an odd play. What was West's plan for the defence? East noted that the defence had three tricks with his ace of trumps. What card could West hold that would produce a fourth trick? Simply by looking at the dummy, he could see that the only possibilities were the ace of clubs or a trump trick. It was just about possible for West to hold the ace of clubs but East felt that was unlikely. Given that he had played a third round of spades, it was far more probable that West held the jack-third of trumps. So East ruffed the queen of spades with the ace of trumps and West's jack of hearts was promoted into the fourth defensive trick.

If East had discarded instead, declarer would have crossed to dummy in diamonds to lead a trump toward his hand and would have made his game.



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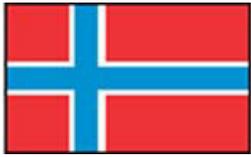
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CLASSIC SOLUTIONS
Knut Kjærnsrød,
Tored, Norway

During the first weekend of the Norwegian League Championships in November, the players encountered a few boards that called for classic lines of play. The first one would have fit perfectly into the famous Swede Eric Jannersten's book, "The Only Chance".

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

With no one vulnerable, at most tables the bidding went:

West	North	East	South
—	—	1♦	Pass
1♥	1♠	Double ¹	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

1. 3-card support for hearts

North started with the ace and king of clubs and very often shifted to a spade. How would you evaluate your chances? There's not much to place a substantial bet on, but there is only one legitimate possibility. Trumps must divide 2-2, and North must hold a singleton diamond honour. So you play the king and queen of hearts, two more rounds of spades and a low diamond. North/South held:

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

Norwegian players obviously possess the necessary degree of knowledge, because 30 declarers out of 47 landed the contract safely.

The next board shows a slam that needed some luck, and Per Bryde Sundseth took advantage of a favourable lead.

We can all agree that Mr. Sundseth's reverse was a little on the edge, but he took his support for spades into positive consideration. However, on the third round, he was concerned that four spades would deny red-suit controls, thus bid four diamonds.

Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

On a heart lead the contract is of course doomed, but South led a passive trump, and Per grasped his chance. He drew trumps in two rounds and played five rounds of spades, discarding his singleton heart and a diamond. Dummy's heart was ruffed and then he played his penultimate trump to dummy and led a diamond to his eight. South won with the ten and was endplayed. Not surprisingly, less than a handful landed the slam in clubs.

The final board contains a classic hoax performed by Anders Christensen in an international match against Swedish top-class players Johan Sylvan and Fredrick Wrang. The board has been presented in the Norwegian paper Dagbladet by Boye Brogeland.

Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

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

1. 5 hearts and 4 spades
2. Cue bid

Anders started with the ace of clubs and a club to East's queen. East returned a diamond which Sylvan

won with the ten to play a heart. Without the slightest hesitation, Anders played his king, and South paused to ponder. If the king were a true card, he could smother East's trumps. He continued with diamonds from the top, but discovered the trap when Anders trumped the third diamond and pushed through a spade. End of story!

(Students of history will be reminded of the deal from the 1975 Bermuda Bowl in which Eddie Kantar and Benito Garozzo on his left held that precise trump holding with Giorgio Belladonna the declarer. The stakes were rather higher: Belladonna/Garozzo had reached seven clubs in the final and the title was hanging in the balance. Kantar did not falsecard with the king of clubs and Belladonna finessed and made his grand slam. Had Kantar played the king of clubs on the first round of trumps, and had Belladonna fallen for the ruse, the Americans would have won the Bermuda Bowl instead of the Italians. - Ed.)



The 15th International Bridge Festival in Madeira showed that it is possible to overcome Europe's financial woes. All you need is the right mixture of November sunshine, excellent organisation, gourmet food in the nearby restaurants and a great package price of 540 Euro. It covers seven nights B&B at the five-star CS Madeira Resort, where all the rooms overlook the sparkling ocean, entry for the Pairs and Teams, two dinners, airport transfers and an island tour. This year the event had record entries of 142 pairs and 62 teams.

Austria's Martin Schifko produced a wonderful defence (to a less than wonderful contract) on this deal from the Teams:

Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Schifko	Hausler	Wernle	Gromöller
—	1♥	Pass	1♠!
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♣
All Pass			

1. Could be a 3-card suit

In the top-table match, Portugal's Carlos Luiz and Nuno Paz bid and made six clubs. Here, the winners of the Pairs ended in the unlikely contract of four spades. Schifko cashed the ace of diamonds and switched to a heart. Michael Gromöller won with dummy's ace and played a trump to the ten. Giving the matter no apparent thought, Schifko allowed this card to win!

Gromöller continued with the king and ace of trumps, no doubt raising at least one eyebrow when East showed out. He could not avoid the subsequent loss of a trump and two hearts - one down. As you see, all would have been easy if West had won the first round of trumps with the queen. Declarer could then have ruffed the next heart, drawn trumps and enjoyed the club suit.

Think back to the moment when declarer played a third round of trumps to the ace. Had he suspected any trickery from West, he could have guaranteed the contract by finessing the jack of spades. If this had lost to the bare queen, as expected, the heart suit would have been safe from attack with East on lead. This doesn't detract at all from the brilliance of Schifko's duck. Well defended, indeed!

The next Festival will be on November 6-12, 2013. See www.bridge-madeira.com.



Final. Session I. Board 16. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Gaviard</i>	<i>Nunes</i>	<i>de Tessières</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>
—	—	Pass	1♥ ¹
Pass	3♥ ²	Double	3♠ ³
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠ ³
Pass	6♥ ⁴	All Pass	

1. Natural, forcing
2. Weak
3. Cue bids
4. 1 key card

After their victory for Monaco in the Cavendish Teams, Fulvio Fantoni and Claudio Nunes finished a somewhat disappointing eleventh in the Cavendish Pairs. Fantoni, however, signed for the best-played hand of the tournament.

West led the queen of clubs. East's double at the three level, vulnerable, with a passed hand, had not eluded declarer. Fantoni correctly placed him with a void in hearts, the black kings and probably both diamond honours. Even double dummy, it's not easy to see how the contract should be played. After a long pause, Fantoni made the spectacular play of a low heart to the seven in dummy. As expected, East showed out (discarding the two of diamonds). Declarer continued with the ten of clubs, discarding a diamond when East played low. West won the jack of clubs and continued with a heart to the ten in dummy.

Now came the nine of clubs, covered by the king (ducking would not have made a difference) and ruffed with the queen of hearts. The rest was a piece of cake: ace of hearts, heart to the king, two established clubs for another diamond and a spade discard and a claim on the spade finesse (East had already been squeezed but that did not matter). A brilliant plus 980.

The first round heart finesse seems unnecessary, but if declarer starts with the ace and then the five of hearts, West can ruin his plans by inserting the jack, killing a vital entry to dummy. Not unsurprisingly Fantoni was the only player in the star-studded field to make the six-heart contract. The gain of 62 cross-IMPs was reduced by a time penalty of 9 cross-IMPs, but I'm sure that didn't bother Fantoni at all.



The Hinden team (Frances Hinden, Graham Osborne, Jeffrey Allerton, Chris Jagger) won the English Premier League after a tight finish with Ewart and Allfrey. Going

into the last round, Hinden and Allfrey were 5 VP behind Ewart, but Hinden won the head-to-head encounter with Allfrey 23-7 and consequently leap-frogged Ewart, who had been leading the tournament from its beginning in September.

Allfrey (Alexander Allfrey, Andrew Robson, Tony Forrester, David Gold, Peter Crouch, Derek Patterson) could only manage an 18-12 win against Cope, enough for second place, but not for the gold medal.

The winning team will be offered England representation in the Camrose Trophy, either in January in Northern Ireland or in March in the Republic of Ireland. Allfrey will be offered the weekend Hinden does not select. Last year it was the other way round when Allfrey won the Premier League with Hinden in second place.

On the featured deal, early in the match between Hinden and Mossop, Graham Osborne demonstrated that he is an excellent card-reader. He played the contracy as if he could see through the cards.

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Hinden</i>	<i>Townsend</i>	<i>Osborne</i>
—	1♠	Pass	1NT
4♦	Pass	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

At the other table, the normal four-heart contract was reached and made as it was at this table. However, there it was made after a couple of errors by both the declarer and the defenders.

In the open room, however, Osborne did not give the defence a chance.

David Bakhshi (West) led the king of diamonds, ruffed by Tom Townsend (East) after dummy's ace had been played. East correctly exited with a trump to the jack, queen and ace, and Osborne proceeded with another two rounds of hearts, extracting all the outstanding trumps. He then cashed the ace of spades and played another to the eight and Townsend's jack.

This was the position with seven cards remaining:

♠ Q 10 9
 ♥ —
 ♦ 9
 ♣ A 10 6

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

♠ —
 ♥ 9 6 3
 ♦ 10
 ♣ J 4 2

Townsend switched to the king of clubs, but declarer was equal to the task when he unblocked the jack from his hand and ducked in dummy. East was endplayed. The pretty unblock meant that dummy had two entries, one to set up the spades and another one to enjoy the spades for a diamond pitch. Ten tricks.

The contract can also be made if declarer continues with the queen or ten of spades at trick three, but that was not entirely clear. And it is not clear sailing even if he does so, especially if East does not cover.

However, in that case, declarer draws the trumps, cashes the spade ace, and leads a club to the ten. East wins and now tries the spade king but declarer discards his losing diamond or the jack of clubs!

No matter what, Graham Osborne found a spectacular line to earn his team a flat board.

Earlier in the event...

Sometimes a declarer has to be flexible and change his line from plan A to B when something unexpected happens. Suppose you are South in a match in the English Premier League and have arrived in the rather good contract of four hearts with these cards:

Dealer East. Both Vul.

♠ K 5 4
 ♥ J 10 9 3
 ♦ A Q 5
 ♣ K J 6

♠ 8 6 3
 ♥ A Q 5 4
 ♦ K 7 4 2
 ♣ A 5

West	North	East	South
<i>Small</i>	<i>Simpson</i>	<i>King</i>	<i>Price</i>
—	—	Pass	1♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

West leads a low spade to the ten in East, and a low trump comes back. How would you now play the contract?

I am sure we can agree that you don't want West to get in again to lead another spade through dummy's king. Is there anything you can do if the king of hearts really is offside?

Maybe there is. Rise with the ace and take a club finesse, hoping that West has the queen. Then you can get rid of one of your remaining low spades and still make the contract.

This looks like the best shot, does it not? That was what David Price thought too, so he switched from plan A (the trump finesse) to plan B (the club finesse).

One minute later he realised that he had been hoodwinked and had probably lost 13 IMPs. This was the full layout:

♠ K 5 4
 ♥ J 10 9 3
 ♦ A Q 5
 ♣ K J 6

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

♠ A J 10 7
 ♥ K 7
 ♦ J 8 6
 ♣ Q 9 3 2

♠ 8 6 3
 ♥ A Q 5 4
 ♦ K 7 4 2
 ♣ A 5

The deal appeared in the match between Mossop and Ewart, and Phil King was our hero in the East seat. A smooth seven of hearts at trick two was more than Price could stomach. Surely no-one would lead away from the king of trumps with that dummy on view, so letting it run seemed out of the question.

It's not difficult to envisage the continuation if you do. West wins with the king and plays another spade. Now the defence has taken four tricks before you get in.

"No way that is going to happen," Price said to himself and adopted plan B.

He went up with the ace of hearts, cashed the ace of clubs and took a club finesse. King was happy to cash the ace of spades and later the king of hearts for one down in a 'cold' contract. A deceptive defence indeed! The 700 spectators on BBO were very amused, Price less so.

At the other table, the lead was a diamond, and there it did not take long for declarer to wrap up eleven tricks. He won with the ace in dummy and finessed in hearts. With diamonds 3-3 he could later discard one of his losing spades. Thirteen IMPs to Ewart, but Mossop won the match 19-11.



The 11th European Champions' Cup

Bridge 15-18 November 2012, Eilat.



Jos Jacobs, Maarn, The Netherlands
Ram Soffer, Tel-Aviv, Israel

Gruppo Sportivo Allegra from Turin, Italy retained the European Champions' Cup after a one-sided win in the final against their compatriots, the Angelini Bridge Team from Rome. Each Italian team had finished second in the group stage and had defeated the other section's group winner, Monaco Fédération Monégasque and Bridge Club Real from Russia. Monaco F.M. won the bronze medal after a close playoff match.

The teams:

- G.S. Allegra** (Torino): Norberto Bocchi, Giorgio Duboin, Guido Ferraro, Agustin Madala, Antonio Sementa
- Angelini B.T.** (Roma): Leonardo Cima, Valerio Giubilo, Lorenzo Lauria, Federico Primavera, Alfredo Versace
- Monaco F.M.** (Monte Carlo): Fulvio Fantoni, Geir Helgemo, Tor Helness, Franck Multon, Claudio Nunes, Pierre Zimmermann
- B.C. Real** (Moscow): Sjoert Brink, Bas Drijver, Alexander Dubinin, Evgueni Gladysch, Andrei Gromov, Mikhail Krasnosselski

The scores:

Final: G.S. Allegra 159 - Angelini B.T. 81
Playoff: Monaco F.M. 81 - B.C. Real 63
Semifinals: G.S. Allegra 144 - Monaco F.M. 93
 Angelini B.T. 94 - B.C. Real 81

Angelini v. Burghausen I

Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Schroeder	Cima	Marsal	Giubilo
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

On this board, three notrump by South was a popular contract and was made on a spade lead most of the time. Only one pair managed to defeat it after the same auction as diagrammed above.

Schroeder led the jack of diamonds, trying to give nothing away. Declarer called for dummy's queen and East contributed the six. Dummy's nine of hearts came next and East went up with his ace, West contributing the eight, a spade suggestion. So Marsal obligingly returned the six of spades (second/fourth through declarer). Giubilo inserted the eight and West's jack won the trick. Schroeder continued with the king of spades, which declarer won with dummy's ace. When the queen came down, Schroeder knew that Marsal held the ten of spades.

When declarer next led the king of clubs from dummy, Schroeder won the ace, and returned his last diamond to await developments. Marsal would either come to a club trick or score his king of diamonds if he held it after all. Very well defended.

G.S. Allegra v. Radkov Bridge Club

Italian teams are always among the favourites in major championships. The Italian champions G.S. Allegra include two pairs from their national team: Bocchi-Madala and Sementa-Duboin. They were paired against the Bulgarian champions Radkov in the first round. The very first board already posed a tough problem for both declarers.

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Skorchev	Bocchi	Trendafilov	Madala
—	1♠	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Sementa	Andonov	Duboin	Radev
—	1♠	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

East led the nine of diamonds. How would you play as North?

The opening lead is likely to be a singleton, since with a diamond doubleton East might well lead another suit. The average player is likely to choose the least sophisticated line, winning with the king of diamonds in dummy and running the jack of spades, later trying to guess hearts. This line fails when you lose the spade finesse and the defence can engineer a ruff and two heart tricks.

Another idea is playing for 4-3 clubs and ruffing the third (or even the fourth) round of the suit or, alternatively, discarding two hearts on the clubs. However, if East does indeed have a diamond singleton, West is likely to be short in clubs. In this case, declarer may suffer a defensive cross-ruff and could go down even when all three major-suit cards are onside.

Finally, one could cover the nine of diamonds with the ten and then play the ace and another spade depending on not whether West has covered the ten of diamonds. If he has covered the ten of diamonds, he can be strip-squeezed in the red suits; if he has not covered, a spade finesse and a third-round club ruff see declarer home. But which line is best?

In the Closed Room, Andonov (North) won the first trick in hand (nine, ten, jack, ace of diamonds) and tried the ace-king-queen of clubs. West ruffed, gave East a diamond ruff, then overruffed dummy on the next club. The ace-queen of hearts later meant two off.

In the Open Room, Bocchi (North) tried to avoid defensive ruffs. He also won the ace of diamonds (West playing the queen) and continued with the ace and queen of spades. West won the king and continued with a third spade. A club ruff was no longer possible. Bocchi next cashed the king of diamonds and ruffed a diamond to hand, played the three top clubs and led a heart to the king - down one.

It would have been better (more successful, anyway) to play the high clubs before the king of diamonds and a diamond ruff. After West fails to follow to the third club, declarer plays the two remaining trumps. In the four-card ending, West is endplayed with two more round of diamonds. Of course, the success of this line depends on West having the ace of hearts after it was already known that he has the missing points in diamonds and spades. Perhaps Bocchi was right to play East for the ace of hearts, but it ended in one down, although Allegra still gained 2 IMPs.

Het Witte Huis v. Bridge Club Real

Board 28. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Krasnosselsky		Paulissen	Gladysch
Jansma			
1♦	3♠	Double	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

As the hearts are 3-3 and the spades are known to be 7-1, making three notrump or four hearts should not be too difficult as it is South who holds both the ace of hearts and three diamonds. This means that North should never get the lead again to cash winning spades against either contract. At the table, life is not so simple, as we shall see.

North led a top spade and continued the suit, declarer winning the second round. He next played the jack of hearts and, when that held, played a diamond to the queen and king. South exited in clubs, declarer winning dummy's king and continuing with the king of hearts. South won with the ace and exited with his last heart to dummy's queen.

Declarer then had to make up his mind about the minors. If South were to hold all three of the remaining diamonds, he could be endplayed in that suit at this point, being forced to return either a diamond into the tenace or a club to declarer's hand, presenting declarer with his ninth trick one way or the other. So, after long deliberation, declarer exited with a low diamond, which led to North being on lead with only winners left...a spectacular down five, plus 250 to the real Dutch.

West	North	East	South
Verhees	Drijver	van Prooijen	Brink
Pass	3♠	4♥	All Pass

In the Closed Room, van Prooijen declared four hearts. After winning the spade lead, he led the jack of hearts. South won and returned the nine of clubs. Van Prooijen won that with the king, drew trumps and exited with the queen of diamonds. He won the diamond return and conceded a trick to South's ten of diamonds but this way, he was never in trouble. So, plus 420 and 12 IMPs to Het Witte Huis.

NEWS & VIEWS



Maureen Hiron

IBPA member Hiron was one of five shortlisted finalists for the 5th Annual TAGIE (Toy & Game Inventor) Award in the category of “Excellence in Game Design”.

From the TAGIE website: “From games Mistress to Games Mistress – P.E. teacher Maureen Hiron began inventing games after the school fell on her head! CONTINUO – her first - sells in 50+ countries. She’s now 70, with some 70 games published. City of London financiers backed her to take over a major UK games company, but tragedy struck again when she was diagnosed with cancer and couldn’t proceed. With backing from a British national newspaper, Maureen spearheaded the Royal Marsden Hospital’s appeal, raised £25,000,000, and was voted Londoner of the Year. She also composes music – and her first soon-to-be-released album features Sheyla Bonnick of Boney M.”

George Retek

After 33 years on the ACBL Board of Directors representing District I (eastern Canada), Retek has stepped down, to be replaced by Leo Weniger whose term begins in January. The ACBL board meetings in San Francisco were to be Retek’s last, but a serious family matter kept him at home. It was the first board meeting Retek had ever missed.

ACBL President

Donald Mamula of Mill Creek WA was elected 2013 ACBL President by the Board of Directors at its meeting prior to the Fall NABC in San Francisco. Mamula represents District 19 (Alaska, Washington State, British Columbia) and recently won his third term as District Director.

Senior Alert!

Senior players beware - a perusal of the rosters for the Baze Senior Knockout Teams in San Francisco listed one Jeff Meckstroth as a member of the Gupta Team. WBF Seniors have five years’ grace - while the ACBL age limit for Senior participation is 55 years of age, it is 60 in the WBF.

The First 50 Years of the World Bridge Federation

An anecdotal history of the WBF compiled by the living former WBF Presidents, this 232-page volume contains known and heretofore unknown stories and

photographs from the first half-century of WBF existence (1958-2008). The book is available through Jannersten Förlag.

European Universities Championship

Opatija, Croatia, an attractive maritime resort on the Adriatic Sea, is to host the 3rd edition of the European Universities Bridge Championship, from 30 September to 6 October 2013. The competition is open to teams representing European universities.

Erik Kirchhoff

Erik Kirchhoff, expert player and coach of open and Junior Dutch teams, died Nov. 24 of a heart attack while on vacation in Saba, Dutch Antilles. He was 60. Over a period of four decades Kirchhoff was one of the most influential bridge players in the Netherlands. He represented his country on many occasions, winning bronze medals at European and World Championships. He was one of the founding editors of Bridge Magazine IMP.

England in the Bowl

After their strong fourth-place finish in the European Championship and disappointing also-ran showing in Lille, England has selected David Bakhshi-Tom Townsend (subs in Dublin), David Gold-Tony Forrester and Andrew Robson-Alexander Allfrey as their open team for Bali. Odd men out are Derek Patterson-Peter Crouch who were in the teams in Dublin and Lille.

2013 Cavendish

Next year’s Cavendish Invitational Teams and Pairs will again be held in Monaco, according to Jean-Charles Allavena, president of the Monégasque Bridge Federation.

CACBF Open in Panama

For the first time, the Caribbean and Central American Bridge Federation will stage an Open International Festival similar to what the EBL, the PABF and the Sudamericano now do every other year. The CACBF tournament is scheduled for May 17-26, 2013.

The open tournament will run concurrently with the 27th CACBF Zonal Championships in Panama City, Panama. The tournament will feature a pairs tournament from May 17 through May 20 and the CACBF team trials and the open transnational teams May 21-25. For more information, visit www.bridgepanama.com.

ACBL Cell Phone Ban Ends

The ACBL has announced that effective Jan. 1, 2013, players will be allowed to bring their cell phones into the playing area, but the devices must be off and must not be visible. Violations will result in penalties (1st

offence) and disqualification (2nd offence). This is a departure from the previous (unenforceable) policy of a complete ban on electronic devices in the playing area.



Correspondence

The Editor reserves the right to abridge and/or edit correspondence
Email: ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca

Dear John,

The entry date for the 1st European Online University Team Championships has been extended to 21st December, 2012 and the event will now start on 1st January, 2013. To date there have not been as many entries as expected, and we really hope that IBPA members can contact their Universities and students and encourage them to register as soon as possible. The World Online University Team Championships

have proved very popular and we would like to see the European event just as successful.

The details can be found on my website at www.ecatsbridge.com.

Please help us by publicising this event as much as possible so that we get the information to students in your country and thus give them the opportunity to enter this excellent event.

Best regards, Anna Gudge, WBF/EBL Liaison



Happy Holidays to All IBPA Members and Your Loved Ones !!



The 2012 European Champions' Cup - Players by Nation

NBO

Monaco
The Netherlands
Italy
England
Poland
Germany
Israel
Sweden
Bulgaria
Russia
Italy
Israel

Club

Monaco FM
Het Witte Huis
Angelini Team
Hinden (Premier League)
CONSUS Kalisz
Burghausen I
Israel Blue
BK Lavec - Smile
Radkov BC
BC Real
GS Allegra (Defenders)
Israel White (Hosts)

Players

1 French, 1 Swiss, 2 Italian, 2 Norwegian
4 Dutch
5 Italian
3 English, 1 Swedish
6 Polish
3 German, 1 Polish, 1 Romanian, 1 Hungarian
6 Israeli
4 Swedish, 1 Spanish
6 Bulgarian
3 Russian, 2 Dutch, 1 Ukrainian
4 Italian, 1 Argentine
5 Israeli

World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
2012			
Dec 5-9	Asean Open Club Championships	Sanur, Bali, Indonesia	www.gabsi.or.id
Dec 16-22	Winter Nationals	Kolkata, India	www.bfi.net.in
Dec 17 & 19	WBF Simultaneous Pairs	Clubs	www.ecatsbridge.com
Dec 21-23	Winter Cup	Bucharest, Romania	vlad_bl@yahoo.com
Dec 21-23	Channel Trophy	England	www.ebu.co.uk
2013			
Jan 4-6	Camrose Home Internationals I	County Down, N. Ireland	www.ebu.co.uk
Jan 14-23	72 nd International Bridge Tournament	St. Moritz, Switzerland	www.bridge-stmoritz.com
Jan 15-27	Summer Festival of Bridge	Canberra, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Jan 24-27	Iceland Express Bridge Festival	Reykjavik, Iceland	www.bridge.is
Jan 26-Feb 1	54 th Bermuda Regional	Southampton, Bermuda	www.bermudaregional.com
Jan 30-Feb 3	Bangkok Bridge Festival Championships	Bangkok, Thailand	www.thailandbridgeleague.com
Feb 1-3	IV International Bridge Open	Barcelona, Spain	www.bridge.cat
Feb 9-15	47 th Israel Bridge Festival	Tel-Aviv, Israel	www.ibf-festival.org
Feb 21-24	Copenhagen Invitational	Copenhagen, Denmark	www2.bridge.dk/DK.aspx?ID=6536
Feb 23-Mar 2	Gold Coast Congress	Surfer's Paradise, Australia	www.qldbridge.com/gcc
Feb 27-Mar 3	International Festival	Cannes, France	www.festivalsdusoleil.com
Mar 1-3	Zurich Open	Zurich, Switzerland	schoellkopf@inp.ch
Mar 1-3	Camrose Home Internationals II	Republic of Ireland	www.ebu.co.uk
Mar 5-10	Mexican Regional	S. M. de Allende, Mexico	www.acbl.org
Mar 14-24	Spring NABC	St. Louis, MO	www.acbl.org
Mar 17-22	White House Junior International Teams	Amsterdam, Netherlands	keestammens@gmail.com
Mar 18 & 20	WBF Simultaneous Pairs	Clubs	www.ecatsbridge.com
Mar 26-31	118 th Canadian Nationals	Toronto, ON	www.unit166.ca
Apr 16-21	18 th NEC Festival	Yokohama, Japan	www.jcbl.or.jp
Apr 18-21	14 th Hotel Senator Bridge Meeting	Starachowice, Poland	www.h-s.pl/brydz-meeting
Apr 22-26	Yeh Brothers Cup	Yokohama, Japan	pat_hwang2002@yahoo.com.tw
Apr 26-May 5	Lambourne Jersey Festival	Jersey, Channel Islands	www.ebu.co.uk
Apr 27-29	55 th International Mixed Pairs	Warsaw, Poland	www.pzbs.pl;latala@pzbs.pl
Apr 30-May 3	26 th International Teams Championship	Warsaw, Poland	www.pzbs.pl;latala@pzbs.pl
May 1-4	56 th International Open Pairs	Warsaw, Poland	www.pzbs.pl;latala@pzbs.pl
May 3-16	International Festival	Juan-les-Pins, France	www.festivalsdusoleil.com
May 8-10	International German Teams Trophy	Bad Godesberg, Germany	www.bridge-verband.de
May 17-26	27 th CACBF & 1st Int'l Open Festival	Playa Blanca, Panama	www.cacbf.com
May 24-26	34 th Oder River Blue Ribbon Neeting	Wroclaw, Poland	www.dzbs.com.pl
May 25-Jun 1	LXII South American Championships	Angra dos Reis, Brazil	www.confisudbridge.org
May 30-Jun 2	53 rd Poznan Bridge Congress	Poznan, Poland	www.kongresbrydz.wlkp.pl
Jun 6-9	Midsummer Bridge Tournament	Helsinki, Finland	www.bridge.fi
Jun 7-8	WorldWide Bridge Contest	Clubs Everywhere	www.ecatsbridge.com
Jun 9-16	15 th German Bridge Festival	Wyk / Fohr, Germany	www.bridge-verband.de
Jun 15-29	Open European Championships	Ostend, Belgium	www.eurobridge.org
Jul 5-14	56 th Slawa Bridge Congress	Slawa, Poland	www.kongres-slawa.pl
Jul 15-28	Deauville Bridge Festival	Deauville, France	www.deauville-bridge.fr
Jul 17-30	19 th Maccabi Games	Jerusalem, Israel	www.maccabiah.com
Jul 19-27	53 rd Baltic Bridge Congress	Sopot, Poland	www.bridge.gda.pl/mkb
Jun 28-Jul 10	International Festival of Bridge	Biarritz, France	www.biarritz-bridge.com
Aug 1-11	Summer NABC	Atlanta, GA	www.acbl.org
Aug 9-18	Summer Meeting	Brighton, England	www.ebu.co.uk
Aug 9-18	23 rd Solidarity Bridge Festival	Slupsk, Poland	www.bridgefestival.hg.pl
Aug 19 & 21	WBF Simultaneous Pairs	Clubs	www.ecatsbridge.com
Aug 23 Sep 1	41 st Grand Prix of Warsaw	Warsaw, Poland	www.warsbrydz.pl
Sep 16-29	41st World Team Championships	Bali, Indonesia	www.worldbridge.org
Sep 20-29	Guernsey Congress	Guernsey, Channel Islands	www.ebu.co.uk
Sep 23-28	9th Transnational Teams	Bali, Indonesia	www.worldbridge.org
Sep 28-Oct 5	30 th New Zealand National Congress	Hamilton, New Zealand	www.nzcba.co.nz
Oct 9-15	EBU Overseas Congress	Lake Garda Italy	www.ebu.co.uk
Oct 17-19	25 th International Teams Tournament	Monte Carlo, Monaco	www.cavendishmonaco.com
Oct 21 & 23	WBF Simultaneous Pairs	Clubs	www.ecatsbridge.com
Oct 21-25	Cavendish Invitational	Monte Carlo, Monaco	www.cavendishmonaco.com
Nov 28-Dec 8	Fall NABC	Phoenix, AZ	www.acbl.org
Dec 16 & 18	WBF Simultaneous Pairs	Clubs	www.ecatsbridge.com