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JAIME ORTIZ-PATIÑO 1930-2013



The bridge and golf worlds mourn the loss of one of the giants of both games. Jimmy Ortiz-Patiño died in hospital in Marbella, Spain on January 3. Patiño was president of the World Bridge Federation from 1976 to 1986 and is credited with returning the game to its previous lustre as an honourable pastime. Jimmy was responsible for some of the most important developments in world bridge: introducing the use of screens and bidding boxes; establishing the World Youth Team Championships; bringing China into the WBF; and successfully managing the delicate political situations between the Muslim countries and Israel and of South Africa during apartheid. He was subsequently awarded President Emeritus status by the WBF.

In golf, Patiño was the founder of Valderrama, home to many top European and world tournaments, and in 1997 engineered the first Ryder Cup to be held in continental Europe. Patiño was awarded the United States Golf Association's Piper & Oakley Award as an advocate of turfgrass research in 1999. Angel Gallardo, the vice-chair of the European PGA Tour, called Patiño "the soul of golf in Europe". Patiño was the foremost collector of golf and bridge memorabilia in the world.

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2ND SPORTACCORD WORLD MIND GAMES

Mark Horton, Bath, UK

The second of four consecutive annual WMG to be held in Beijing consisted of the by-now familiar five sports (bridge, chess, draughts, go and xiangqi). The bridge event comprised invited teams from China, the USA, Sweden, and The Netherlands (Men's) and China, the USA, Great Britain, and France (Women's). Each team had six players and they played teams, pairs and an individual. The teams event was a double round robin of 16-board matches over two days, then a 48-board final and playoff.

Here are a few of the more interesting deals...

Match 2. SWE v USA. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Nyström</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Cheek</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♥ ¹	Pass
1♠ ²	Pass	2♠ ³	Pass
2NT ⁴	Pass	3NT ⁵	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Transfer, forcing, but could be very weak
2. Balanced weak notrump with 2/3 spades
3. Puppet to 2NT, game forcing
4. Forced
5. 4=3=3=3

North led the eight of diamonds. Declarer won in hand with the jack and played a spade to the eight and nine. South switched to the jack of clubs and declarer won in dummy and cashed another top club. Assured of four club tricks, declarer played a third round of the suit to come to hand (South discarding a spade) and then played a heart to the queen and king. After South won with the king of hearts, he exited with the ten of

hearts. Declarer won with the ace and cashed the last club, throwing a heart from dummy. In the five-card ending, South had to discard again – this time he threw the jack of hearts.

Nyström knew exactly what was going on – he took the nine of hearts (South throwing a diamond), played a spade to the queen and ace and returned a spade. South won with the king and had to lead away from the king of diamonds to surrender the tenth trick; plus 430.

West	North	East	South
<i>Wooldridge</i>	<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Hurd</i>	<i>Wrang</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

There was a slight variation on opening lead as the three of diamonds went to the nine and jack. Declarer played a club to the king and a spade to the ten and queen. Back came a diamond, covered by the queen and king, and when declarer ducked, South returned the six of diamonds. Declarer won and tried a heart to the queen. South won with the king and cashed the ten of diamonds. When declarer pitched a heart from both hands South exited with a heart. Declarer won and played a spade to the jack and king, South cashing a heart for two down, minus 100 and 11 IMPs for Sweden.

On the fourth round of diamonds, declarer does better to pitch a spade from hand and heart from dummy. Then he can win the heart switch with the ace and test the clubs. When they prove to be good for four tricks declarer must decide between the spade finesse or playing for South to have been squeezed in the majors.

Match 3. USA v. NED. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>de Wijs</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Cheek</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣ ¹	Pass	2♥ ²	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		
1. 16+ HCP			
2. Diamond one-suiter			

Neither East nor West got across the nature of his hand. North led the three of clubs and declarer took South's queen with the king and played a spade to the queen and king. South switched to a diamond for the jack, queen and ace, and declarer ducked a spade to North's jack. South won the next trick with the ten of diamonds and returned the suit; North cashed out for one down, minus 100.

West	North	East	South
<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Katz</i>	<i>Brink</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣ ¹	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
1. Drury			

North led the king of diamonds and Weinstein won with dummy's ace, ruffed a diamond, cashed the top clubs, ruffed a club and ruffed a diamond. A heart to the king, a heart back to the ace and a club, pitching dummy's heart when North produced the jack, set up a potential heart ruff in dummy. North stopped that by playing the queen of diamonds (perhaps, though, the jack of spades would have been better?), enabling South to pitch his fourth heart, but declarer ruffed and exited with the jack of hearts to endplay South who, down to all trumps, flamboyantly ruffed with the king of spades. That gave the USA 13 IMPs.

Dealer South. Both Vul

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

Weinstein heeded the wisdom of not balancing over one spade without hearts. Katz led the king of diamonds

and switched to the four of hearts. West took the ace, and returned the seven of diamonds, ruffed by the three and overruffed by the six. West ruffed the return of the nine of hearts and played the jack of diamonds, East ruffing as declarer discarded the king of hearts. West ruffed the next heart with the ten of spades and declarer overruffed with the queen and exited with a spade. He could score only one more trick with the king of clubs, down five, minus 500.

West	North	East	South
<i>de Wijs</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Cheek</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♦*	Pass	1NT*	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♣*	Pass
3♠*	Pass	4♣*	Pass
4♠*	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♦*	Pass	Pass	Pass

The Dutchmen's Tarzan Precision was a little more accurate on this deal, reaching the excellent five diamonds. The system uses a lot of relays - here, one notrump initiated a game-forcing sequence, enabling East to discover West's shape and strength.

North led the two of hearts and declarer won with the ace, crossed to the king of diamonds, ruffed a heart and cashed the ace of diamonds, getting the bad news. He turned his attention to spades, advancing the ten and running it when North did not cover. A second spade went to the jack, South ruffing and switching to the two of clubs. This was the critical moment. When declarer put up the queen North was able to cover and when South came in with the queen of diamonds he could cash the jack of clubs for one down and 12 IMPs.

Match 4. CHN v NE. Dealer North. NS Vul.

		♠ A J 10	
		♥ A Q 10 8 7 5	
		♦ Q 6	
		♣ K 6	
	♠ 4		♠ K 9 8 7 3 2
	♥ K 9 3		♥ —
	♦ A K 10 9 7 4		♦ J 5 3 2
	♣ A J 5		♣ Q 7 2
		♠ Q 6 5	
		♥ J 6 4 2	
		♦ 8	
		♣ 10 9 8 4 3	
West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>van Prooijen</i>	<i>Shi M.</i>
—	1♣ ¹	2♠	Pass
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	
1. Precision			

East led the two of clubs. West won with the ace and switched to the four of spades. Declarer won with his ace, cashed the ace of hearts and the king of clubs and

played the ten of hearts. West ducked and declarer had to lose a trick in each suit, minus 100. It looks normal to treat the East hand as a one-suiter once North has started with a Precision Club, but I wonder what the computer simulations would say? After all, if East/West find their diamond fit, they are cold for game (indeed, slam unless North leads the ace of hearts and defends accurately thereafter).

West	North	East	South
<i>Shi Z.</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Ju</i>	<i>Brink</i>
—	1♥	2♠	3♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

The first two tricks were the same, but at trick three declarer exited with the queen of diamonds. East had to win, but now declarer could win the club return, ruff a diamond and advance the jack of hearts to pick up West's trumps. That avoidance play and the careful defence at the other table earned the Netherlands 13 IMPs.

Match 5. USA v. FRA. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Allouche</i>	<i>Levitina</i>	<i>Reess</i>	<i>Sanborn</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

In the other room France had come to rest in four spades (after one spade-one notrump-three spades-four spades) off one, so if Kerri Sanborn could find a route to ten tricks it would be a significant gain for the USA.

West led the five of diamonds and declarer won perforce with dummy's king. She cashed dummy's top spades, discarding a club, and played a third spade, ruffing as East discarded a diamond. Declarer cashed the ace of diamonds and then ran the nine of clubs to East's jack.

East returned a club, so declarer ruffed, then trumped a diamond with the eight of hearts. East overruffed with the nine and played another club (a trump does not help). Declarer ruffed, ruffed a diamond with the king of hearts and played a spade. East was helpless - checkmate; 11 IMPs to the USA.

FINAL. FRA v. USA. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Sokolow</i>	<i>Reess</i>	<i>Molson</i>	<i>Allouche</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♦	1♠	2♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

North led the ten of spades and South won with the king and continued the suit. On the second spade, North took the ace and played a third round, South discarding the six of clubs (normal signals). Declarer cashed the ace and king of diamonds and South parted with the two of clubs. Declarer cashed the ace of clubs and ran the jack to South's queen. The club return left declarer a trick short, minus 100.

West	North	East	South
<i>Neve</i>	<i>Levitina</i>	<i>d'Ovidio</i>	<i>Sanborn</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1NT	2♠	3♦ ¹	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Transfer

Same start, but here North ducked the second spade. Declarer cashed the top diamonds, played a heart to the king, a club to the jack, cashed the ace of clubs and played a heart to the ace and a heart. Not only was South endplayed, but the fact that North had ducked the second spade meant declarer emerged with an overtrick. Bien joué, as they might say in Paris. It represented a well deserved 12 IMPs for France.

Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Deas	Reess	Eythorsdottir	Allouche
—	—	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

East led the jack of clubs. It looks easy to make 3NT (or more) thanks to the position in hearts and spades, but appearances are sometimes deceptive. Declarer won the first trick with the ace of clubs and played the three of diamonds (the ten might be the better card to play) to the six, queen and two. Then came the king and queen of spades, West taking the second round, cashing the king of clubs and switching to the nine of hearts. Imagining the diamond king was onside, declarer put up the ace and played the ten of diamonds to the jack. West pounced with the king and returned a diamond to dummy's ace. When she came in with the king of hearts she could cash the eight of diamonds. A very fine effort by Lynn Deas.



West	North	East	South
Willard	Levitina	Cronier	Sanborn
—	—	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass

Here, East led the queen of clubs and declarer ducked that and the next club, discarding a diamond from dummy. When West switched to a spade and East followed with the eight declarer overtook the ten with dummy's king and played on spades, West winning the third round as declarer discarded a heart and a club. On West's spade exit declarer won in dummy, played a heart to the queen and a diamond to the jack and king. She could claim the rest, plus 400 and 10 IMPs to the USA.

Pairs 2 of 4. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bertheau	van Prooijen	Cullin	Verhees
—	Pass	1NT ¹	Pass
2♣ ²	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♦ ³	Pass	3NT	Pass
6NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. 14+-17
2. Non-forcing Stayman
3. Balanced slam try

The Swedes were the only pair to bid six notrump here. Cullin won the queen of diamonds lead and played two rounds of spades. When South discarded a diamond, declarer played a heart to the three, jack and queen. Upon winning with the queen of hearts, South returned a heart to the king and ace. Declarer cashed the ten of hearts, pitching a spade, played a club to the ace, cashed a spade and played a diamond to the ace. That squeezed South in hearts and clubs for the twelfth trick and was worth 10 matchpoints out of 10 for East/West.

North could have made life a little harder for declarer by rising with the king of hearts on the first round of the suit, but the slam can still be made. Declarer wins and plays the jack of hearts, ignoring the chance of king-queen doubleton in North. (A club to hand for a second heart play would cause entry problems later.) South must duck. Now declarer has not rectified the count, but if he reads the position correctly, he goes to dummy with a club and cashes a spade. That forces South to part with his last diamond and now declarer plays a diamond to hand and that squeezes South without the count. If he pitches a heart declarer simply gives up a heart and has the rest.

The Winners

Teams (Men)

The Netherlands:
 Bauke MULLER/Simon de WIJS
 Ricco van PROOIJEN/Louk VERHEES
 Sjoert BRINK/Bas DRIJVER

Teams (Women)

France:
 Cathérine d'OVIDIO/Joanna NEVE
 Danièle ALLOUCHE/Vanessa REESS,
 Bénédicte CRONIER/Sylvie WILLARD

Pairs (Men)

The Netherlands:
 Simon de WIJS/Bauke MULLER

Pairs (Women)

China: SUN Ming/WANG Hongli

Individuals (Men)

The Netherlands: Bas DRIJVER

Individuals (Women)

China: WANG Wenfei

The New York Times

"All the news that's fit to print"

THE GOLD CUP

Phillip Alder, Hobe Sound, FL

The premier event on the British bridge calendar is the Gold Cup. The semifinals and final, played at the West Midlands Bridge Club in Solihull, England on the December 8th-9th weekend, featured two close matches.

The first was the semifinal battle between the top seeds: Alexander Allfrey, Andy Robson, Peter Crouch, Derek Patterson, Tony Forrester and David Gold; and Simon Cope, Andrew Murphy, Sally Brock, Barry Myers, Nicola Smith and Chris Dixon.

Board 56. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

♠ 8 3
 ♥ 9 2
 ♦ A 8 6 5 3 2
 ♣ 9 5 3

♠ 7 6 4
 ♥ Q 8 4
 ♦ Q 7 4
 ♣ A K 4 2

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

♠ A K J
 ♥ A J 10 7 6
 ♦ K J 10
 ♣ Q J

West	North	East	South
Forrester	Dixon	Gold	Smith
Cope	Robson	Murphy	Allfrey
—	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West led the ... what?

The match was played in eight eight-board sets. With 16 deals to be played, Cope led by 52 International Match Points. Allfrey won the penultimate session by 29 IMPs to 8, aided by the diagrammed deal.

The auction was identical at both tables, but the opening leads were not. Forrester (West) led the club ace. Note that with four to the ace-king, leading the ace is normal; but with five to the ace-king, one should usually lead fourth-highest. The idea is that with five cards, if the suit is 5-3-2-3 around the table, either you take the first five tricks, if partner has the queen; or you keep communication with partner, if declarer has a stopper. But if you have only four cards, partner is more likely to have three cards, so you can afford one high round to see the lay of the land and to try to

avoid losing a trick to a doubleton queen in an opponent's hand - as in this deal.

The defenders took the first four tricks in clubs, Smith (South) discarding her diamond ten to unblock the suit. However, when Gold (East) shifted to a low heart, South won with her ace, cashed the diamond king and continued with the diamond jack, which West of course did not cover. Declarer had to overtake with dummy's ace, hoping for a 2-2 split, and now went down three, losing four clubs, one diamond and two hearts.

At the other table Cope (West) led the spade six, second-highest from a weak suit.. Allfrey (South) took East's queen with his ace and led the diamond jack, which West did not cover. Declarer ran the jack, cashed his diamond king, overtook the diamond ten with dummy's ace and claimed ten tricks: three spades, one heart and six diamonds. Plus 150 and plus 430 gave the Allfrey team 11 IMPs on the board

In hindsight, it is clear that it would have been right to cover the diamond jack, which would have blocked the suit; or, if declarer had ducked in the dummy, would have allowed the defenders immediately to cash four club tricks to defeat the contract. But at the table, when trying to play in tempo, it was not so easy.

With eight of the 64 boards to be played, the Cope team was leading by 31 International Match Points.

On Board 57, Allfrey and Robson bid a thin six spades missed by Smith and Dixon. Allfrey found one of the winning lines to gain 11 IMPs. Two deals later Forrester and Gold bid to six spades, a slam missed by Brock and Myers, for another 11 IMPs. The diagrammed deal was the penultimate board, with Cope's lead down to 7 IMPs.

Board 63. Dealer West. EW Vul.

♠ A Q
 ♥ K 10 5
 ♦ 9 7 6
 ♣ K 9 8 4 2

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

♠ 10 9 8 5 2
 ♥ J 6 2
 ♦ 8
 ♣ A Q J 5

♠ K J 7 6 3
 ♥ 8 7
 ♦ A K Q 3 2
 ♣ 7

West	North	East	South
Robson	Myers	Allfrey	Brock
2♦	Double	2♥	3♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Double	4♥	Pass	4♠
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

West led the diamond five.

In the other room Gold (South) was in four spades after an uncontested auction. Following a misdefence, he escaped for down one, minus 50.

In the given auction Robson (West), correctly assessing that his team was still behind in the match, opened two diamonds, indicating a weak two-bid in either major, despite the unfavorable vulnerability. Myers (North) doubled to show either a balanced 12 to 14 points or any big hand.

After Allfrey (East) responded two hearts (to play if partner's suit was hearts; otherwise for correction to two spades), Brock (South) cue-bid three hearts. North, with a heart stopper, converted to three no-trump. When South passed, West doubled for penalty, a call that would not have occurred to most players. He knew the suits were breaking badly and was still trying to turn around the match.

If West's double had been passed out, the contract would surely have gone down one, declarer having four spades, one heart and three diamonds, and Allfrey would have gained 2 IMPs. When North ran, the final contract was four spades doubled. Robson, no doubt feeling happier, led a low diamond. South won with her ace, played a heart to dummy's king and cashed the spade ace. Now she had to play a diamond to escape for down one, but instead overtook the spade queen with her king.

Declarer, in trouble, continued with the diamond king, but East ruffed and returned a heart. West won with his queen and shifted to the club three. East won with the jack and led back a trump. South, believing West had started with six hearts, won with her jack and exited with a trump, thinking she was endplaying East to concede a trick to dummy's club king. East, though, produced the heart jack. Declarer ruffed and cashed the diamond queen, but the defense won the last two tricks with a diamond and the club ace for down three.

Minus 50 and plus 500 gave Allfrey 10 IMPs on the board and the lead by three. The last board was flat and the top seeds had squeezed through.

Note that if four spades doubled had gone down only two, the swing would have been 6 IMPs and Cope would have won by one. Or if the contract had been three no-trump doubled, Cope would have won by five. It was that close.

The final of the Gold Cup, Britain's premier bridge event, in Solihull, England, was between the top seeds, Alexander Allfrey, Andy Robson, Peter Crouch, Derek Patterson, Tony Forrester and David Gold, who had come back from the dead in the semifinal; and Janet de Botton, Nick Sandqvist, David Burn, Thor Erik Hoftaniska and Artur Malinowski, who easily won their semifinal.

After 40 of the 64 boards, the de Botton team enjoyed a small lead. But Allfrey's team took the next set by 39 International Match Points to 3, then held on to win by 169 IMPs to 156.

Board 41. Dealer South EW Vul.

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

West led the club seven.

At the other table four hearts was declared by North, following a one spade-two heart start to the auction. Forrester (East) led the club deuce, low from an odd number of cards. Hoftaniska (North) won with his eight and played a trump to South's ten, Gold (West) ducking smoothly. In general, if you are in an eight-card fit and trumps are breaking 4-1, you usually do best to play on the side suits, perhaps after one round of trumps. But you will not know the trumps are dividing badly until you play a second round. It is a Catch-22.

To make the contract now, declarer had to shift gears, either playing three rounds of spades or attacking diamonds. But when North led a second round of trumps to his king he was in trouble. After declarer played a third trump, West won with his ace and shifted to the diamond eight. East took the trick with his queen and gave his partner a club ruff. Another diamond lead resulted in two more tricks in that suit for the defenders and down two.

In the given auction Robson (North) responded two diamonds to show five-plus hearts and eight-plus points. (Two hearts would have indicated a good spade raise.) The two-heart rebid by Allfrey (South) was non-forcing with two- or three-card support. Two spades was an artificial game-invitation. And four hearts announced a maximum minimum (!) opening bid with three-card heart support.

De Botton (West) led her singleton club. Allfrey (South) took the trick with his jack, led the diamond

(continued on page 10...)



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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645. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

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

As five diamonds fails by only one trick, West might have done better to bid three diamonds at his second turn. However, as he took the conservative course of passing over two spades, West led the king of diamonds against an adventurous four spades.

After ruffing, declarer paused to take stock. Clearly spades needed to be 3-2. Also, with only six winners, either the hearts or the clubs needed to be developed. Declarer saw that the main problem was entries. If he drew trumps and played on hearts, then West would duck the first round of hearts, leaving him stranded in dummy with only one trump remaining. There were similar problems in developing clubs: he could play a club at trick two, but West would presumably take his ace of clubs and exit with a low diamond, which would leave declarer the task of guessing the club suit.

It was after these ruminations that declarer placed the two of hearts on the table. West played low and East ruffed. After ruffing East's low diamond exit, declarer ruffed a low heart with the king of spades and then drew two rounds of trumps. (If West had begun with three trumps, South could not make four spades whenever West also had started with four or more diamonds.)

All that remained was to drive out the king of hearts, ruff the return and play hearts from the top. Declarer

took five tricks in trumps, a heart ruff and four heart tricks.

646. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

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

West led the queen of diamonds. Declarer ruffed the second round of diamonds and drew trumps in four rounds. After West threw hearts on the third and fourth round of trumps, declarer countered by discarding the king and queen of clubs from dummy. Next, declarer led the jack of clubs and West took this with the ace to play a third round of diamonds. Declarer ruffed and cashed the ten of clubs followed by the nine of clubs. As West still had the eight of clubs, the defenders had the balance of the tricks for a two-trick set.

“You were on the right track in discarding clubs on the trumps,” said North. “But you should have played a low club at trick two. Presumably, West would have withheld the ace. After the queen of clubs has held, you would have been able to draw trumps because you'd have kept dummy's sole trump as an entry to hand. On the third or fourth round of trumps you would discard dummy's king of clubs. Then, after trumps had been drawn, you would still have one trump remaining in your hand. So, after you knocked out the ace of clubs and ruffed the return you'd cash any remaining club tops and eventually take a trick with the seven of clubs. You would make six tricks in trumps and four in clubs.”

647. Dealer North. E-W Vul.

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

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

This deal was played in a recent teams match and both declarers received the lead of the queen of hearts. The first declarer won the heart lead and played the ace-king of trumps, East discarding a heart on the second round. When declarer continued with a diamond to the king and ace, East underled his the king of hearts. West took the trick with the nine of hearts and drew dummy's last trump with his queen. As declarer was unable to reach the dummy to enjoy its club honours, he was left with a diamond loser and finished one trick short.

The second declarer also won the heart lead but drew just one round of trumps before playing a diamond to the king and ace. East was on the ball as he returned the ten of diamonds for West to ruff. A heart to the king a second diamond ruff defeated the contract.

"You should have made four spades," said one of the first declarer's teammates. "After winning with the ace of hearts at trick one, you should draw just one round of trumps and then get off play with a heart, to cut the link between the defensive hands. No matter what the defenders do next, you will be able to arrange a diamond ruff in the dummy while holding your trump losers to one."

648. Dealer South. E-W Vul.

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

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

West led the ace of diamonds and, after dummy went down, declarer paused to consider his options. Obviously, there were twelve easy tricks if the clubs were 3-2. There would not be a problem if clubs were 4-1 and the trumps were 2-2 for, after drawing trumps, he would be able to ruff a club and make a long club as a trick. Declarer saw that difficulties would arise if clubs were 4-1 and the player with the singleton had three trumps. He saw that little could be done if West had that layout but there was still a chance it were East who began with the tricky black-suit layout.

Declarer's first move was to ruff the diamond lead with the ace of trumps and cash the ace of clubs. Next he crossed to dummy by leading the seven of trumps to the eight. On a club from dummy, East was caught in a dilemma. If he ruffed, the club suit would be good; declarer would then be able to draw trumps, run his club winners, throwing a heart from table, and make his twelfth trick by ruffing a heart in dummy.

At the table, East discarded a heart on the second round of clubs and declarer won the trick with the king of clubs. Then he returned to dummy with the ten of trumps and led dummy's last club. Again East decided to discard and the queen of clubs won the trick. After ruffing the five of clubs in dummy, declarer then ruffed a diamond back to hand, drew trumps and claimed twelve tricks – six trumps, a heart, four clubs and a club ruff.



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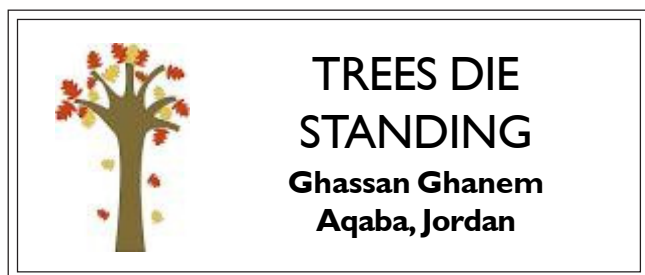
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jack and rose with dummy's king. Sandqvist (East) won with his ace and tried to cash the diamond queen. (Nothing else was better.) South ruffed, overtook his heart ten with dummy's king, ruffed the last diamond in his hand and led a low club. When West discarded (as good as anything), declarer won with dummy's king and played the heart queen. After West won and led the spade jack, South took his ace, cashed the spade king, ruffed a spade in the dummy and tried to cross to his hand with a club. West ruffed, but dummy took the last two tricks with its trumps.

That was nicely played by Allfrey. Plus 100 and plus 420 gave the Allfrey team 11 IMPs en route to victory.

This was Forrester's 11th Gold Cup win, which ties him with Boris Schapiro for the most wins. And who would bet against Forrester's setting a new mark next year?



1. Nicosia Grand Coup

Sotos Christofides of Cyprus has represented his country at almost every international bridge event over the last four decades. Moreover, he also represented Cyprus internationally as a tennis player for more than two decades, and he worked as a teacher, trainer, coach and commentator in both fields. His business has been always in the sports field, supported by his beloved and beautiful wife Mary, his son and his daughter.

In the early eighties, I was facing him in the Open Pairs of the Cyprus International Bridge Festival in Nicosia. He was partnering Georges Fayad of Lebanon and I found myself defending a small slam against him as declarer. This was the deal:

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

West	North	East	South
<i>G. Ghanem</i>	<i>Fayad</i>	<i>M. Ghanem</i>	<i>Christofides</i>
—	—	—	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♥ Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

I was looking at two trump winners in my hand (or so I thought!) and greedily doubled. I led the club jack, and in view of my double, Sotos won in hand, eliminated all of the side suits and played a low heart towards dummy, a classic trump endplay. He made his contract, impressing the spectators. I was the first to congratulate him, rather sheepishly.

2. Squeeze, Drop, Finesse?

Some years ago, the European Bridge League (EBL) initiated the Small Federations Championship. For these purposes, the definition of a small federation is one that has fewer than 500 members. Lithuania, the home of one of the small federations, organised the second trophy in Vilnius in September 2009.

Eleven countries participated, Belarus, Cyprus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine. To avoid the boring bye situation, the host country was allowed to field another team under special terms that would have avoided a final match played by both teams of Lithuania,

In the third round robin, Cyprus was facing Slovakia; Sotos Christofides was sitting North for Cyprus.

Board 23. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Hinc</i>	<i>Christofides</i>	<i>Lohay</i>	<i>Georgiades</i>
—	—	—	1♥
2♦	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

East led a diamond to his partner's queen, and back came the club king and another club to East's queen, followed by a second diamond. Sotos won with the diamond ace, collected all of the trumps and played a heart to dummy's ace. Declarer ruffed dummy's last club and was at the crossroads: to finesse the heart jack or try to squeeze West? Declarer cashed his final

trump, keeping the last two hearts in dummy, and now it was a matter of dropping or finessing. Sotos reviewed the bidding: would West have overcalled two diamonds on such a shabby suit without the heart queen? He decided not and dropped the heart queen to earn his team a considerable swing.

When Sotos Christofides passed away in November, he was still enjoying playing the game, 'til his last hour. Like authentic trees, he died standing. Sotos Christofides, we will all remember you.



The Bombay Gymkhana in south Mumbai organized a beautiful pairs tournament in November. The format was Swiss Pairs, which is a rarity in India. There were 82 pairs and 23 rounds were played. The tournament was conducted very smoothly and produced some scintillating play. The following deal, declared by Ajit Chakradeo, a former international, was one of the more-interesting.

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

Ajit was North. The bidding was simple: he opened one notrump, East passed, and South closed the proceedings with three no trumps. East led the four of hearts. Ajit put up the king from dummy, which won the trick, West unblocking the jack of hearts. Now Ajit took a pause to plan the further play.

A low card from ace-to-four cannot be called a dynamic lead, so Ajit suspected that East had five cards in hearts. This meant if West got in, a heart return would scuttle the contract. If the diamond king were with East the finesse was unnecessary. The contract cannot be defeated in that case. So thinking, Ajit played a low diamond from dummy. West was caught napping. He may have reasoned that the diamond king would not run away as it was a

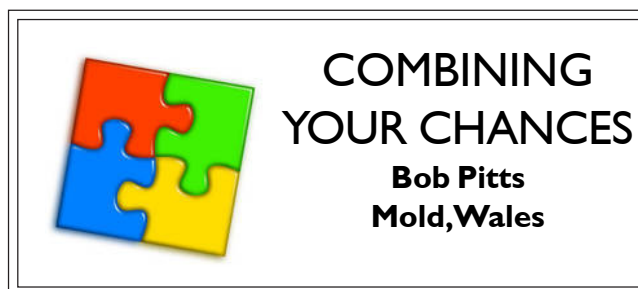
stopper in declarer's long suit and declarer may have had queen-nine-low in diamonds and thus misguess. West must also have reasoned that if declarer held queen-jack-low in diamonds, his normal play was to finesse. Anyway he ducked.

Ajit won the trick with queen of diamonds. Now he had a genuine chance of making nine tricks - if the club jack and ten were doubleton or if the clubs were 3-3. With this in mind, Ajit cashed the ace and king of clubs. No luck! Now Ajit went for the jugular. He cashed the queen of clubs, East showing out, then played a diamond to the ace. North then exited from dummy with the nine of hearts. West covered with the ten, Ajit put up the queen and East's ace won. East cashed the eight and six of hearts, to arrive at this position.

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

When East then cashed the three of hearts, West was caught in the throes of a guard squeeze. He had to keep the king of diamonds and the ten of clubs to guard against North's threats; thus he had to come down to a singleton spade. On this last heart, dummy discarded the ten of diamonds and declarer threw away the now-useless club. East perforce returned a spade: West had to play the queen. Ajit won and finessed the spade ten at trick 12 to land an almost impossible contract.

Both East and North misstepped as well: if East did not cash the last heart and instead exited with a spade in the diagrammed ending, West could have played the six and defeated the contract. Declarer could have prevented this chance by keeping all three of his spades and playing for split spade honours. Did I say only one wrong step?



On this deal, from a national knockout event, South played carefully to combine his chances in his ambitious six-spade contract.

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

♠ J 6 3
 ♥ 8 2
 ♦ K 6 5 4 3
 ♣ A 10 4

♠ 9
 ♥ J 9 6 4
 ♦ J 9 8 7
 ♣ Q 8 7 5

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

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

1. GF spade raise
2. Shortage

An opening lead of a low club would probably have been a success, but West could not bring himself to

try that. After the ace of clubs lead, West continued with another club. As the cards lay, declarer could have ruffed both of his club losers in the dummy, but he did not know that. As the contract was cold if trumps were 2-2, declarer began by playing a spade to the ace and continued with the queen. East discarded a diamond (South was known to be void in the suit from the auction) and threw another diamond when a further spade was played to dummy's king.

Declarer realised that if the hearts were not going to provide four tricks, it might be possible to apply pressure to a defender holding the long heart and either the club queen or diamond king. Thus he ruffed a diamond at trick six and continued with the heart king and a heart to the ace. The heart jack did not appear, so a further diamond was ruffed in the closed hand and declarer's low club was ruffed in dummy. In the three-card ending, dummy had the heart ten and the ace, queen of diamonds, whilst declarer held the club jack plus the queen and seven of hearts, so when the diamond ace was cashed, East had to concede.



SENIOR HIGHJINKS

John Carruthers, Kingsville, ON

The 2012 Baze Senior Knockout Teams in San Francisco was a pretty tough event. The winners were Gaylor Kasle-Larry Kozlove, Peter Boyd-Steve Robinson and Fred Stewart-Kit Woolsey. The latter four have been teammates since their days in Washington, DC in the 1970s (originally with Ed Manfield until his death in 1999) and won the 1986 Rosenblum in Miami. Larry Kozlove is making a return to bridge after decades of retirement; his partner Gaylor Kasle has been a top player since the 1970s.

In the final, the Kasle team defeated Gupta, comprising Bob Hamman-Jeff Meckstroth (in his first senior event), Bart Bramley-Lew Stansby and Vinita Gupta-Billy Miller, a formidable collection.

This year, the event was characterized by slam decisions (good and bad) and huge penalties. The event was broadcast on BBO from the quarterfinals onward. Here are some of the more entertaining, if not technically complex, deals...

QF. Dumbovich v Van Cleeff

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ A Q J 9 4
 ♥ A 4
 ♦ J 10 6
 ♣ A 9 8

♠ 10 8
 ♥ Q J 10 8 5
 ♦ 5 3
 ♣ Q J 7 5

♠ 7 5 3 2
 ♥ 9 6 3
 ♦ A 9 8 2
 ♣ 10 6

♠ K 6
 ♥ K 7 2
 ♦ K Q 7 4
 ♣ K 4 3 2

West	North	East	South
Kovacs	Van Cleeff	Dumbovich	Drake
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣ ¹	Pass	2NT ²
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Checkback
2. Maximum, no 4-card heart suit, no 3-card spade support

West	North	East	South
<i>Collins</i>	<i>Graves</i>	<i>Kendrick</i>	<i>Schwartz</i>
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	5NT	Pass	6NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

This deal is worthy of Challenge the Champs. It is incredibly difficult to bid a slam with 16 balanced opposite 14 balanced and no primary fit. Both auctions were essentially natural but for the two-club checkback. The Graves-Schwartz auction featured two key bids, the old-fashioned jump shift and the removal of three notrump to four clubs, Schwartz appreciating the value of his spade king and maximum values.

SF. DeMartino v Kasle & Dumbovich v Gupta

Were the East/West pairs here the victims of poor luck, or should they have done something different?

Board 52. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>DeMartino</i>	<i>Robinson</i>	<i>Stiefel</i>	<i>Boyd</i>
1♣	Pass	1♦	1♥
2♣	4♥	5♣	5♥
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Woolsey</i>	<i>Sutherlin</i>	<i>Stewart</i>	<i>Morse</i>
1♣	Pass	1♦	1♥
2♣	4♥	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Bramley</i>	<i>Baldursson</i>	<i>Stansby</i>	<i>Jonsson</i>
1♣	Pass	1♦	1♥
2♣	4♥	5♣	5♥
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Kovacs</i>	<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Dumbovich</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
1♣	Pass	1♦	1♥
2♣	4♥	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Stiefel and Stansby, with so much offence, opted for five clubs at their second turn, allowing Boyd and Jonsson to recognize that Robinson and Baldursson would have no clubs. They'd have redoubled if they'd thought East/West would sit for it. Plus 850.

Stewart and Dumbovich doubled to show a good hand with four spades. Minus 990.

Gupta had dominated Dumbovich in the second half to win going away. The DeMartino and Kasle match was a different story. Before the previous deal, Kasle had led by 12 and those 4 IMPs had reduced its lead to 8. DeMartino chipped away and was behind by 4 IMPs with four boards to play when...

SF. DeMartino v Kasle.

Board 61. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

How to escape when in trouble has not received much attention in the literature of bridge. Conventional runouts from one notrump have their proponents, but what about the following situation? Is it purely imagination and luck?

West	North	East	South
<i>DeMartino</i>	<i>Robinson</i>	<i>Stiefel</i>	<i>Boyd</i>
Pass	1♠	Double	Redouble
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
Pass	Double	Redouble	Pass
2♣	Double	2♦	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Opposite a passed hand, the East hand is very marginal for a takeout double with essentially a weak notrump, albeit with four hearts. Marginal or not, I suspect all of us would be tempted and most would fall from grace. Stiefel eventually managed to show four of each red suit, which news did not exactly thrill DeMartino.

The defence was brutal: spade to the ten and ace, heart to the ace, heart ruff, club to the ten and jack, heart ruff, club ace, club to the king, heart ruff, spade king. The defence had taken eight tricks and South remained with three natural trump tricks! Minus 1700, down six. Declarer made his ace and a long trump, no more.

West	North	East	South
Woolsey	Sutherland	Stewart	Morse
Pass	1♠	Double	Redouble
Pass	Pass	1NT	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Stewart escaped into one notrump, as Stiefel had done, but then stuck it out. This worked brilliantly when Morse led his own suit rather than Sutherland's. On the heart lead, Stewart returned the suit and made three tricks there and the ace of spades., minus 800. That was a triumph of sorts, winning 14 IMPs and taking the lead in the match by 18 IMPs, never to be headed.

Immediately following that fiasco was this...

Board 62. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
DeMartino	Robinson	Stiefel	Boyd
—	—	1♥	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

It looks as though both North and South could have done more to get to the very good slam. Plus 480.

West	North	East	South
Woolsey	Sutherland	Stewart	Morse
—	—	1♥	1♠
3♥	Double	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Woolsey knew the opponents were prepared for a heart lead, so put the ten of diamonds on the table. This went to the queen and ace, and Morse crossed to the ace of spades. He then had to decide on the best continuation. Three approaches were possible: (a.) Play the ace-king of clubs and ruff a third club high. Assuming the top two clubs live, draw trumps - if the ten falls, you are home with six spades, four clubs and two (or three or four) diamonds. If the ten of spades does not fall, lead a diamond to the king, hoping for the suit to be 3-2 and cash a high club to throw your heart.

(b.) Play the ace-king-queen of clubs immediately to throw a heart. This is successful on 3-3 clubs or when the person who ruffs cannot give his partner a diamond ruff.

(c.) Lead the jack of hearts from the dummy. This gains when there is no diamond ruff about or, as here, when the person who wins the heart is the one short in diamonds.

The success or failure of any of the given lines depends on how you assess the probability of a diamond ruff. Perhaps it is even more likely that West has a singleton rather than East. If that were the case, line (c.) does not look attractive.

If there is a diamond ruff, letting the opponents in at all is fraught with danger. We can see that (a.) and (c.) are the successful lines today, but alas for the DeMartino team, Morse chose line (b.) and was soon down when West ruffed the third club and gave East a diamond ruff to defeat the contract. That was 11 IMPs more to Kasle and put the match out of reach with only two little boards to come, on both of which Kasle won part score swings.

In a match in which Kasle had been behind 1 IMP with five boards to play, they won the match by 38 IMPs!

Final. Kasle v Gupta

The slams started immediately. Bidding them was another matter entirely...

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Miller	Robinson	Gupta	Boyd
—	1♣	Pass	1♥!
2♣	2♦	2♥	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	
1. Spades			

West	North	East	South
Kozlove	Hamman	Kasle	Meckstroth
—	1♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Boyd's auction seems inadequate entirely, while Hamman and Meckstroth seems to have been on different wavelengths. Hamman asked about trump quality and Meckstroth felt there was an attitude component as well. It was a missed opportunity for both sides.

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Kozlove	Hamman	Kasle	Meckstroth
1♠	Pass	2♦	2♠ ¹
4♣	5♥	5♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Hearts and clubs; longer hearts in context

With his quacky, no-shape hand, Robinson made a simple raise, allowing the opponents room to explore. Since they reached the optimum spot and North/South were booked for -800 had they bid on, this all seemed normal par bridge.

Hamman and Meckstroth looked very much like a practiced partnership here. Hamman shrewdly noted that the opponents probably had an undisclosed spade fit, so volunteered 800 at the five level. As Hamman suspected he would be, Kasle, who had not yet shown support, was a bit fixed and decided to show his support at the five level.

Hamman led the queen of hearts and Meckstroth gave him the ten. A diamond ruff followed, with the queen of trumps to come. Down one and 12 IMPs to Gupta. The first two tricks had taken about six seconds total.

More was to come three boards later (see top of next column)...

Robinson might have supported clubs somewhere along the way. Boyd, for his part, felt he could have helped by bidding 5NT, pick a slam, over five spades.

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

1. Spades
2. 3-card spade support

Gupta led the king of diamonds; Robinson won and led the jack of spades, king, ace, five, then ruffed a diamond, led a club to the king and ruffed his last diamond. A heart ruff back to hand, the top spades, then the clubs to force out West's master nine of spades while declarer still had the eight meant plus 1430.

Suppose West had not covered the jack of spades? Declarer would not have been able to ruff two diamonds and get back to hand safely while extracting the trumps. As it happened, any other lead but a diamond would also have led to the defeat of the contract.

West	North	East	South
Kozlove	Hamman	Kasle	Meckstroth
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♠	2♥	Double ¹
3♥	4♠	5♥	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 3-card spade support

Meckstroth led the ace of diamonds, crossed to Hamman with a spade, received a diamond ruff, crossed on a club and received another ruff for plus 800. That result did not look so good with six clubs cold for North/South and seven makeable. Indeed they lost 12 IMPs.

Many more swings were to come - the final score was Kasle 134 - Gupta 131. It was a match that either team could have won by 40 IMPs, making for entertaining bridge for the BBO audience. Indeed, the whole event had been a very entertaining.



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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.